

UNCLASSIFIED Pb1, 1.5(d1+(g))

PTQ3916

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR B Date: 9/11/97
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations 1.5(d1)(g)
 DENY IN PART

EXCISE

FOIA Exemptions 1 TS authority to
PA Exemptions 1 CLASSIFY as S or C Sec.
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C
CONFIDENTIAL PTQ3916

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ACTION DS-00

EXCISE

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | COR-01 | ACDA-10 | ACDE-00 | AID-00 | AMAD-01 | ARA-01 |
| | A-00 | CA-02 | CCO-00 | CG-00 | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CTME-00 |
| | OASY-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | DOTE-00 | SRPP-00 | EB-00 | FAAE-00 |
| | FBIE-00 | H-01 | IMMC-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | INSE-00 | LAB-01 |
| | L-01 | ADS-00 | MMP-00 | M-00 | NRCE-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
| | OCS-03 | OIS-01 | OMB-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 |
| | CIO-00 | SCT-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |
| | USSS-00 | ASDS-01 | PMB-00 | DSCC-00 | DRL-09 | G-00 | /034W |

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R 291538Z JAN 97 CCY TEXT ADX-947002 WSC-9288
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7473

~~SECTION 01 OF 02 PANAMA 000378~~

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ((CORRECT CAPTIONS))

NOFORN

DEPT FOR DS/OP/ARA; DS/DSS/ITA; ARA/CEN;

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/28/2006
TAGS: ASEC PTER PREL AMGT
SUBJECT: GENERAL THREAT REVIEW

CLASSIFIED BY: P. GAFFNEY, RSO, PANAMA. REASON: 1.5 (C).

REF: (A) STATE 5324; (B) PANAMA 279; (C) STATE 251238

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1. (C/NF) PREDICATED BY REF (A), EMBASSY EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE (EAC) MET ON JANUARY 25, 1997. THE EAC WAS CHAIRED BY THE DCM AND ATTENDED BY THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER, POLITICAL OFFICER, REGIONAL STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OFFICER, CONSUL GENERAL, DEEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICER, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR [] AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICER. []

2. (U) RSO REFERRED TO REF (A) AND SOLICITED COMMENTS FROM THE EAC ON RECENT FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE (FBIS) REPORTING CONCERNING THE PRESENCE IN PANAMA OF MEMBERS OF THE TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRTA) AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE 29 NOVEMBER NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MLN-29). ONE REPORT CONTAINED A STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL, WHICH INDICATED HE HAD STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PERU BASED MRTA HAVE SECRETLY USED PANAMA TO CONTACT OTHER MRTA MEMBERS.

3. (U) OTHER NEWS REPORTS CLAIMED A CLANDESTINE MOVEMENT CALLED MLN-29 HAD TIES TO THE MRTA AND HAS A MEMBERSHIP CONSISTING OF STUDENTS, LABOR AND CHURCH LEADERS. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATED A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SOURCE HAS REVEALED THAT THE MRTA HAS FIVE UNITS OPERATING IN PANAMA, MAINLY DEDICATED TO THE AREA OF []

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 00378 01 OF 02 291745Z LOGISTICS AND RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS. THE UNNAMED SOURCE INDICATED THE MRTA MEMBERS IN PANAMA SERVE BASICALLY AS A LIAISON TO SUPPLY WEAPONS AND MANAGE THE FUNDS THAT SUSTAIN ITS GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. SOURCE INDICATED TO THE PRESS THERE ARE NO REPORTS THAT MRTA IS TRAINING ITS UNITS IN PANAMA AND THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS WOULD EASILY DETECT SUCH AN ACTIVITY IF IT

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SHOULD OCCUR. RECENT SEIZURES OF SHIPMENTS OF AK-47 RIFLES, AMMUNITION AND GRENADES WERE GOING TO MRTA AND OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN GUERRILLA GROUPS.

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ACTION DS-00

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| INFO | LOG-00 | COR-01 | ACDA-10 | ACDE-00 | AID-00 | AMAD-01 | ARA-01 |
| | A-00 | CA-02 | CCO-00 | CG-00 | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CTME-00 |
| | OASY-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | DOTE-00 | SRPP-00 | EB-00 | FAAE-00 |
| | FBIE-00 | H-01 | IMMC-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | INSE-00 | LAB-01 |
| | L-01 | ADS-00 | MMP-00 | M-00 | NRCE-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
| | OCS-03 | OIS-01 | OMB-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 |
| | CIO-00 | SCT-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |
| | USSS-00 | ASDS-01 | PMB-00 | DSCC-00 | DRL-09 | G-00 | /034W |

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ((CORRECTED CAPTIONS))

NOFORN

DEPT FOR DS/OP/ARA; DS/DSS/ITA; ARA/CEN;

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/28/2006

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8. (C/NF) THE EAC DISCUSSED THE WARDEN SYSTEM.
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9. (C/NF) FINALLY, THE EAC REVIEWED THE EVENTS DURING THE ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION JUST CAUSE IN DECEMBER AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY MARTYRS. THIS YEAR FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF JUST CAUSE, THERE WERE SEVERAL MARCHES

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HUGHES