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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 39-20
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E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PINS, GT
SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: "DEATH SQUAD" STRIKES

EXCISE

1. THE CLANDESTINE "DEATH SQUAD" (ESCUADRON DE MUERTE) HAS RESUMED ITS ACTIVITIES WITH THE SHOOTING OF SIX ALLEGED CRIMINALS FEBRUARY 1-2. NOTES AFFIXED TO FOUR BODIES FOUND IN ESCUINTLA, ONE IN CHIMALTENANGO AND ANOTHER IN THE CAPITAL STATED THAT THE "DEATH SQUAD" HAD EXECUTED THE VICTIMS BECAUSE THEY WERE GUILTY OF EXTORTION OR ROBBERY. AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL FOLLOWING A SEVENTH SLAYING, OF A SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS STUDENT, IDENTIFIED THAT ACTION AS ALSO BY THE "DEATH SQUAD." THE CLANDESTINE GROUP HAD CIRCULATED A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 1 ANNOUNCING THAT IN VIEW OF THE "INCAPACITY" OF THE POLICE AND COURTS TO CONTROL THE WAVE OF CRIMES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE "DEATH SQUAD" WOULD "MERCILESSLY" ACT AGAINST ALL CRIMINALS AND DELIQUENTS. THE POLICE PREDICTABLY DECLARED THEY WOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE "DEATH SQUAD" FOR ITS UNAUTHORIZED METING OUT OF JUSTICE.

2. THE RECENT ASSASSINATIONS ARE THE FIRST ESCUADRON ACTIVITY SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973 WHEN THE "SQUAD" SENT A

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Authority NND 911807
By hjt NASA Date 12/29/84

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THREATENING LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
LEGAL ADVISER WARNING HIM HE WOULD BE SHOT IF HE DID NOT
CEASE SUPPORTING A STRIKE BY MEAT DISTRIBUTORS. IN JUNE
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CLANDESTINELY DISTRIBUTED
ESCUADRON LEAFLETS AT SAN CARLOS
UNIVERSITY PROMISING TO ELEMIMATE STUDENTS LINKED WITH
THE GUERRILLAS.

3. EARLIER MULTIPLE EXECUTIONS OF COMMON CRIMINALS,
SUCH AS THE KNIFING OF TEN INDIVIDUALS OCTOBER 13, 1972,
WERE CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF THE "AVENGING VULTURE"
(BUIRE JUSTICIERO), WHICH GOVERNMENT SOURCES TOLD
US WAS A "SMOKE-SCREEN" FOR POLICE EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITIES.
THE CURRENT "DEATH SQUAD" KILLINGS HAVE ALL THE SIGNS OF
ANOTHER POLICE OPERATION AGAINST NON-POLITICAL
DELIQUENTS.]

4. IN AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED INCIDENT AT MID-MORNING
FEBRUARY 3, EXPLOSIONS IN THE BESEMENT OF THE MAYA
EXCELSIOR HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN GUATEMALA CITY INJURED THREE
PERSONS, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN TOURIST, AND CAUSED AN
ESTIMATED \$20,000 DAMAGE. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS HAS
SPECULATED THAT TERRORIST SABOTAGE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED,
POLICE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THAT GAS TANKS IN THE CELLAR OF
THE HOTEL WERE RESPONSIBLE. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THE
EXPLOSION WAS POLITICALLY MUTIVATED.
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