SUMMARY: CONSENSUS AMONG AFP - NPA KILLED COL. ROWE. THE KILLING OF AN AMERICAN SHOULD NOT BE A SURPRISE.

OFFICER, SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS INFORMED IN 1981 THAT A CPP POLICY CHANGE ON ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICANS HAD OCCURRED. "WE ALL KNEW THEN THAT IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME, AND YOU SHOULD HAVE TOO."

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FOUR PHILIPPINE MARINE (PM) OFFICERS, THEY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE KILLING OF COL ROWE: HOWEVER, ALL WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE KILLING SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE, AND THAT IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME. THESE MARINE OFFICERS BELIEVES THAT THE KILLINGS OF SELECT AMERICANS IN MANILA WILL CONTINUE AND THAT THE U.S MILITARY ATTACHES ARE LOGICAL TARGETS. THE KILLINGS WILL SERVE TO SHOW THAT THE NPA ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF THE U.S. BASES AND CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION.

4. THOUGHTS RAN MUCH THE SAME. SAT IN ON AN UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN A PC LTC, CAPT AND 1LT. THE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN GOING ON BEFORE THE INCIDENT, AND IT CENTERED ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE ROWE UNIDENT.

5. IN VIEW OF THE INCIDENT, THE PHILIPPINE NAVY HAS ASSIGNED EXTRA OVERT AND COVERT SECURITY TEAM TO COVER A VISITING U.S. NAVY VESSEL WHICH ARRIVED IN MANILA ON 890471. THIS WAS DONE ON PN INITIATIVE AND WITHOUT THE REQUEST OF ANY HEADQUARTERS.

6. EMERGENCE OF THE ROWE KILLING HAS SPARKED A FLURRY OF WOULD-BE SCENARIOS IN THE MANILA COMMUNITY. EMPHASIZES THAT THESE ARE SCENARIOS WHICH MAY HOLD ONLY LIMITED CONTACT WITH REALITY, BUT IN A SOCIETY LIKE THE PHILIPPINES, NOTHING CAN BE DISCOUNTED. A. ON THE EVENING OF 890412, MILITARY OFFICERS ARE HIT IN THE PHILIPPINES. WHAT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS IS THE DEATH OF WIVES AND CHILDREN. B. THAT IT IS OKAY IF U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS ARE HIT IN THE PHILIPPINES.
LIKELY NEXT ESCALATION WOULD BE FOR THE NPA TO FIRE A COUPLE MORTAR ROUNDS INTO CLARK OR SUBIC. THAT WOULD SHOW THE (AQUINO) ADMINISTRATION CAN'T PROTECT THE BASES AND IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE VIETNAM.

The overwhelming consensus among AFP officers was that the NPA was responsible for the killing. On the afternoon of 890422, subsequent to the aforementioned discussions, the NPA reportedly issued a formal statement to local wire services claiming responsibility for the attack on Col. Rowe. In response to this obvious increased threat to Americans/U.S. facilities, the AFP leadership is actively pursuing methods and actions by which security for U.S. personnel can be enhanced.

The AFP has decided to take the Rowe incident very seriously. Chief of Staff (En Villa) told U.S. representatives that this is a whole new ball game. As such, the AFP is going to devote substantial security forces to the protection of U.S. assets.

In the Philippines if someone as serious as a bank vice president can think of a way to undermine U.S. resolve, the NPA can do so also. However, it must be emphasized that there has been no, repeat no, apparent intelligence information that would indicate that attacks on American civilians or dependents is contemplated. In fact, the NPA has generally observed a reverence for women and children, that is traditional in Philippine society.

The possibility of mortar attacks on Clark and Subic have been mentioned by other sources. The NPA probably does not have the capability to mount any large scale mortar attacks, but PC officers have mentioned NPA training with mortar occurring in central Luzon, and the NPA has been known to use mortars in isolated attacks against the AFP.

WARNING: REPORT CLASSIFIED

RECEIVED IN FOREIGN HANDS

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

CLASSIFIED