COUNTRY: (U) PHILIPPINES (RP).

SUBJECT: (U) PHILIPPINES (RP). RPA CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS (U)

/*\********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *************/

SECRET
(b)(1): Sec. 1.4(o)

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WARNING: [U] THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

(0)(3): 10 USC 424

DOJ: (U) 910925.

(b)(1):Sec. 1.4(c)

CONCERNING THE CAPABILITY OF THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLE’S ARMY (NPA) TO EMPTY IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IED'S).

(b)(1):Sec. 1.4(c)

INFORMATION RECENTLY OBTAINED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) INDICATES THAT THE NPA IS DEVELOPING THE CAPABILITY TO REMOTELY DETONATE ONE OR MORE IED'S USING ICOM HAND-HELD RADIO TRANSCEIVERS. ICOM IS THE BRAND NAME OF A COMMERCIALLY PRODUCED JAPANESE HAND-HELD RADIO. THE NPA IS ALSO TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO USE A RADIO REPEATER SO THAT SEVERAL WIDELY SEPARATED IED'S COULD BE DETONATED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE REPEATER WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BELONG TO THE NPA, BUT COULD BELONG TO AN UNWITTING OWNER.

1. REGARDING THE NPA DEVELOPING CAPABILITY TO REMOTELY DETONATE BOMBS USING HAND-HELD RADIO. NPA MAY BE PLANNING A MAJOR OPERATION IN MANILA. THE THREAT TO AMERICANS WILL INCREASE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BASES TREATY REJECTION.

2. THE ONLY TECHNICAL PROBLEM REMAINING IN DEVELOPING THIS CAPABILITY IS THAT OF RANDOM INTERFERENCE OR UNRELATED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS PREMATURELY DETONATING THE IED'S. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM THE NPA IS EXPERIMENTING WITH USING A CODE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSMITTED BY ONE ICOM TRANSCEIVER TO TRIGGER THE DEVICE. A SINGLE CODE, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY HASN'T PROVIDED ENOUGH SECURITY, AND THE NPA IS CURRENTLY TESTING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING A SEQUENCE OF TWO OR THREE SEPARATE CODE GROUPS TO TRIGGER THE IED'S.

3. REGARDING NPA INTENTIONS IN MANILA, THE NPA IS PLANNING SOMETHING "VERY BIG". THE REASON THAT SO FEW SPARROW UNIT ASSASSINATIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN 1991 WHEN COMPARED TO 1990 IS THAT THE NPA DOESN'T WANT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO ITS PERSONNEL AND POSSIBLY COMPROMISE THIS MORE IMPORTANT OPERATION.

(b)(1):Sec. 1.4(c)

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NOW THAT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY LEAVE SUBIC BAY NAVAL FACILITY, DESPITE THE REJECTION BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE OF THE BASES TREATY, THE NPA MAY TARGET AN AMERICAN TO SHOW ITS...
DISPLEASURE.

COMMENTS: 1. AT LEAST SINCE THE FRUSTRATED ATTEMPT TO MINE THE RANGECORE AT CLARK AB IN 1989, INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED POINTING TO THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA) DEVELOPING A SOPHISTICATED CAPABILITY TO DEPLOY IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IED'S).

2. SUCH A SOPHISTICATED CAPABILITY HAS BEEN, OR IS CLOSE TO BEING, REALIZED. THIS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY RAISE THE THREAT POSED BY THE NPA TO BOTH PHILIPPINE AND AMERICAN PERSONNEL.

ADMIN

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