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COUNTRY: (U) PHILIPPINES (RP).

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131043Z

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SUBJECT:

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

UPDATE ON ABU SAYYAF

GROUP (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20000913.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,Sec. 1.4(c)

<TEXT>

SUMMARY: ~~(S/NF)~~ [REDACTED] UPDATE

[REDACTED] ON THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG) AND ASG ACTIVITIES IN SULU. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INFORMATION ON ASG LEADERS, LOCATIONS, SIZE OF FORCES, AND [REDACTED] ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.

(b)(1),Sec. 1.4
(b),Sec. 1.4
(c),Sec. 1.4(d)

(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),Sec. 1.4(b),Sec. 1.4(c),Sec. 1.4(d)

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UPDATE ON THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG)
(AS OF 13 SEP 2000)

INTRODUCTION

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T (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE CURRENT SITUATION IN JOLO,
S , INVOLVING THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP (ASG).

A. PANDANAN KIDNAPPING

FOUR ARMED MEN ON 101930 SEP KIDNAPPED FOREIGNERS AT PASIL DIVING RESORT, PANDANAN ISLAND, SEMPURNAH, MALAYSIA, AND CARTED AWAY STEREO COMPONENTS, TV AND VHS. THE THREE VICTIMS IDENTIFIED AS MOHAMAD NUR SOLAIMAN, MANAGER OF THE DIVING RESORT; JOSEPH DIOQUINO, DIVING INSTRUCTOR; AND KEN WEE CHIONG, CONTRACTOR OF THE DIVING RESORT -- WERE SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT TO PATIBULAN, NEW PANAMAO, SULU. THE PERPETRATORS WERE UNDER A CERTAIN LANDASAN OMAR, EX-COUNCILOR OF NEW PANAMAO, SULU. THEY WERE ARMED WITH M16 ARMALITE RIFLES AND FIRED THEIR

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WEAPONS TO CREATE PANIC TO THE GUEST AND STAFF OF THE RESORT. ACCORDINGLY, THE SAID ARMED MEN WERE ASG MEMBERS AFFILIATED WITH THE GROUP OF ABU SABAYA, A CLAIM WHICH THE LATTER READILY DENIED.

P THE SCHILLING CASE

A DAY AFTER THE RELEASE OF A MALE SOUTH AFRICAN CAPTIVE, THE GROUP OF ASG SPOKESMAN ALDAM TILAO AKA ABU SABAYA KIDNAPPED AMERICAN NATIONAL JEFFREY EDWARD CRAIG SCHILLING ON 28 AUG 00 IN PATIKUL, SULU. INITIALLY, SABAYA RULED OUT ANY RANSOM PAYMENT, THREATENING TO BEHEAD SCHILLING UNLESS THE US GOVERNMENT RELEASE RAMZI AHMED YOUSSEF, SHIEK OMAR ABDEL RAHMAN AND ABU HAIDER FROM US PRISONS. HE ALSO DEMANDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM LIBYA, IRAQ, NORTH KOREA AND CHINA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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C 1 SEP, HOWEVER, SABAYA DEMANDED A USD 10M PAYOFF, THE
1 USION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND BUSINESSMAN LEPENG WEE IN
THE TALKS, AND REQUESTED FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR THE
VICTIM. THEN ON 04 SEP, SABAYA DEMANDED THE INCLUSION OF

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PRESIDENT ESTRADA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW DR. RAUL DE GUZMAN OR
BUSINESSMAN EDUARDO COJUANGCO IN THE NEGOTIATING TEAM. ON
THE REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED NEGOTIATOR SULU
VICE GOVERNOR MUNIB ESTINO, RECENT INFORMATION REVEAL
THAT THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF SABAYA, BUT
WAS ONLY A PRONOUNCEMENT BY THE FOLLOWERS OF SULU
GOVERNOR ABDUSAKUR TAN.

AS OF 12 SEP, SCHILLING WAS MONITORED BEING GUARDED BY
ABOUT 70 COMBINED ASG ARMED PERSONNEL UNDER RADULLAN
SAHIRON AND ABU SABAYA IN BARRANGAY TANUM, PATIKUL, SULU.
HE WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM UPPER BARRANGAY TANUM,
PATIKUL TO BARRANGAY TIMPOOK, PANAMAO, SULU OR CLOSER TO
JOLO TOWN PROPER AT VIC KILOMETER MARKER 6 GOING TO
PATIKUL, SULU BY THE COMBINED GROUPS OF ASG LEADERS
RADULLAH SAHIRON AND ABU SABAYA, IF THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS
WILL ATTEMPT TO LAUNCH RESCUE OPERATION.

MOREOVER, AL-SHIEK ALBANI REQUESTED FOR ONE BASE RADIO
WITH A ROUND ANTENNA/CABLE; FOUR PIECES OF ICOM 02N
RADIOS; FOUR PIECES ALCATEL OR ANY BRAND OF CELLULAR
PHONES; THREE PIECES OF PARA ORDNANCE CAL. 45 PISTOL; AND
TWO MOTORCYCLES. ALBANI AND A CERTAIN SALIPADA DATU
HUSSEIN III ARE APPARENTLY THE CONTACT PERSONS UTILIZED
BY SABAYA FOR VIDEO AND PHOTO COVERAGE.

IN A LETTER DATED 03 SEP (b)(1),1.4 (c)
SCHILLING REQUESTED FOR ARABIC BOOKS, WHICH MAY BE
OBTAINED FROM THE SEMINARY IN IRAN AND OTHER PERSONAL
THINGS, SUCH AS DEODORANT, SOAP AND NOODLES. HE ALSO
WANTED SOME NEWS ON HIS WIFE, AS HE DOES NOT TRUST THE

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INFORMATION BEING PASSED TO HIM BY THE ABU SAYYAF.

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M WHILE, MOTHER OF JEFFREY SCHILLING ISSUED A PRESS
S EMENT ON 01 SEP CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF
HIS SON AND DENYING THAT HE IS A CIA AGENT. MRS.
SCHILLING DESCRIBED HER SON AS A DEVOUT MUSLIM AND IS A
MEMBER OF AN ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM STUDENTS IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN BERKELEY WHERE HE FINISHED
NEAR EAST STUDIES. HE WENT TO THE PHILIPPINES TO LEARN
ABOUT FILIPINO MUSLIM CULTURE, AND WAS SET TO RETURN TO
THE UNITED STATES ON 02 SEP.

OTHER INFORMATION ALSO REVEAL THAT SCHILLING ASKED HIS
FRIENDS TO HELP HIM RAISE USD 2,500 DOWRY FOR HIS WIFE,
AND HAS BEEN PLANNING TO PURSUE HIGHER STUDIES IN IRAN.

THE SCHILLING CASE HAS PROVIDED THE ASG AN OPPORTUNITY TO
DRAG THE US GOVERNMENT INTO THE HOSTAGE SITUATION. THE
ASG LIKEWISE TRIES TO GAIN THE APPROVAL AND AMERICANS
TAKING EFFORTS TO RELEASE ITS CITIZEN, THE ASG IS
UNWITTINGLY HELPING DISLodge THE LIBYAN ROLE IN THE
RANSOM PAYMENT.

MEANWHILE, IN AN INTERVIEW AIRED OVER RMN-DXRZ IN
ZAMBOANGA CITY ON 10 SEP 00, SCHILLING APPEALED TO THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SEEK LIBYA'S HELP FOR HIS
RELEASE. HE IS ALSO REQUESTING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT
TO SPARE HIS TWO-MONTH PREGNANT WIFE, IVY OSANI, FROM
BEING USED, AS WITNESS AGAINST THE ASG LEADERS AND DURING
THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE FURTHER CLAIMED THAT HIS WIFE IS A
FORMER ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ASG AND IS OPPOSED TO THE
POLICIES OF THE US CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) THUS

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COULD NEVER BE WORKING WITH THE CIA. IT MUST BE NOTED
THAT IVY OSANI IS UNDER THE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OF THE RP
GOVERNMENT AND SCHILLING FEARS THAT SHE WILL BE CONVINCED
TO TESTIFY AGAINST THE ASG LEADERS.

C. SIPADAN CASE

THE GROUP OF COMMANDER ROBOT AND MUJIB SUSUKAN WAS LAST
REPORTED AT BARRANGAY TIIS, BANDANG, TALIPAO, SULU.

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C FRY: (U) PHILIPPINES (RP).

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] UPDATE ON ABU SAYYAF
GROUP (U)

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THE NEGOTIATION FOR THE RELEASE OF THE TWO JEAN-JACQUES LE GERREC, 46 AND ROLAND MADURA, 49 HAD COME TO A STAND-STILL. THE GROUP'S PRIORITY AT THE MOMENT IS TO GRIEVE FOR THEIR THREE DEAD COMRADES AND THEN RETALIATE AGAINST THE GROUP OF ASG LEADERS NANDI UDDIH AND A CERTAIN COMMANDER PATTI (LNU), WHO AMBUSHED THEM ON 09 SEP 00. BOTH GROUPS HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATING IN BARRANGY KULASI, MAIMBUNG, SULU AFTER THE AMBUSH.

DURING THE AMBUSH ON THE GROUP OF COMMANDER ROBOT AND MUJIB SUSUKAN, SECRETARY ROBERTO AVENTAJADO IMploRED THE

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MILITARY NOT TO REACT SO AS NOT TO COMPLICATE THE INTERNAL CONFLICT AMONG THE ASG FACTIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD NOT CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO WORK OUT FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING FRENCH JOURNALISTS.

MEANWHILE, THE FAMILY OF ROLAND ULLAH HAS MANIFESTED ITS GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY OF DEALING WITH FOREIGN HOSTAGES AND THE APPARENT NEGLECT ON HIS RELEASE. ULLAH WAS ABDUCTED THRICE BY THREE DIFFERENT ASG FACTIONS AND RELEASED TWICE. AT PRESENT, HE IS UNDER THE CUSTODY OF THE GROUP UNDER COMMANDER ROBOT.

D. JMC (JESUS MIRACLE CRUSADERS)

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTED ON THE JMC GROUP HEADED BY BRO WILDE ALMEDA. THEY ARE STILL WITH THE GROUP OF COMMANDER ROBOT AND MUJIB SUSUKAN AT BARRANGAY TIIS, BANDANG, TALIPAO, SULU,

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E. RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND STATUS OF HOSTAGES

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1 FAR, GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS FACILITATED THE RELEASE OF TWENTY OUT OF THE 21 SIPADAN HOSTAGES AND FIVE OTHER VICTIMS. OUT OF THE RELEASES, THE ASG REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ABOUT P553.3M OR \$12.75M AS RANSOM.

CURRENTLY, THE ASG IS STILL HOLDING 16 VICTIMS CAPTIVE. THEY INCLUDE ONE MALE FILIPINO SIPADAN HOSTAGE, 12 JMC

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MEMBERS, TWO FRENCH MALE JOURNALISTS, AND ONE AMERICAN. SCHILLING IS PRESENTLY HELD IN SITIO KAUPITAN, UPPER BARRANGAY TANUM, PATIKUL WHILE THE 12 JMC MEMBERS, ONE FILIPINO SIPADAN HOSTAGE AND TWO FRENCH JOURNALISTS ARE HELD IN KUTA POH-POH, SITIO TIIS KUTONG, BARRANGAY BANDANG, TALIPAO.

NOTABLY, ON 02 SEP THE THREE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS KIDNAPPED LAST 01 AUG WHILE HAULING SAND IN BARANGAY KAUNAYAN, PATIKUL, HAD ESCAPED FROM THEIR ABDUCTORS.

ON THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF ELEVEN JAPANESE AND TAIWANESE FISHERMEN LAST MONTH, THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CIRMED.

MEANWHILE, THE INFIGHTING BETWEEN ASG GROUPS CONTINUED TO DEVELOP AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF RANSOM MONEY. ON 090900H SEP 00, THE GROUP OF COL FACUNO AKA DRAGON AND DRAGONITO ESCORTED BY THE MEN OF ROBOT WERE AMBUSHED BY THE GROUP OF AKA RANDY, A FORMER FOLLOWER OF ROBOT AT BARRANGAY DALIKS, TALIPAO (6-7 KILOMETERS FROM TAGBAK, INDANAN). THE AMBUSH RESULTED TO THE DEATH OF ONE AND WOUNDING OF FIVE ESCORTS.

F. ASG COMPOSITION/DISPOSITION

THE CURRENT ASG COMPOSITION/DISPOSITION OF FORCES IN SULU ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE GROUP OF ABU SABAYA AND RADULLAN SAHIRON REMAINS IN THEIR NEW LOCATION AT SITIO KAUPITAN, UPPER BARRANGAY

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TANUM, IN PATIKUL. THE GROUP WITH ESTIMATED 120 FOLLOWERS IS EQUIPPED WITH FIVE CREW-SERVED WEAPONS, TWO RECOILLESS RIFLES, ONE B-40 ROCKET AND FIVE MORTARS AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF M-14, M-16, AND CARBINE RIFLES. ON 071300H SEP

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00 SAID GROUPS WERE SEEN FORTIFYING THEIR DEFENSE POSITIONS, AFTER LEARNING THAT THE MILITARY WOULD LAUNCH MASSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE AREA.

MEANWHILE, THE GROUPS OF COMMANDER ROBOT, HAJIB UMMAL SAHIBUL, NADZMI SABBULA AKA GLOBAL AND DR ABU UMBAH JUMDAIL AKA DOCTOR PULA WITH AROUND 150 FOLLOWERS ARE AT BARRANGAY BANDANG, TALIPAO GRID COORDINATES [51NTG] 855612. THE GROUP IS ARMED WITH THREE RECOILLESS RIFLES, SEVEN MORTARS, TEN GRENADE LAUNCHERS, FOUR MACHINEGUNS AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF M14, M16, ULTIMAX AND CARBINE RIFLES. RECENTLY, THE GROUP PROCURED UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF GALIL RIFLES AND UZI MACHINE PISTOLS.

THE GROUP OF MUJIB SUSUKAN AND ESTIMATED 40 ARMED FOLLOWERS REMAINED AT BARRANGAY MABAHAY, TALIPAO

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ATTENDING SOME FAMILY PROBLEM
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CONCERNING THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER JAWAWI SUSUKAN WHO DIED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT LAST 06 SEP 00 IN SULU. THE TERRORISTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH TWO GRENADE LAUNCHERS AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF M14, M16 AND CARBINE RIFLES.

MOREOVER, THE ASG HAS REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED FOUR ENCAMPMENTS LOCATED IN MOUNT GASSAM, BARANGAY NANGKA TUNGGOL, PATIKUL, WHERE SABAYA IS REPORTEDLY BASED; IN

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F ANGAY BANGDAY, PANAMAO MANNED BY THE GROUP OF MOBIN
A RAJAK; AND, IN BARRANGAYS BATO HATEH AND TAU-BATO,
BOTH IN MAIMBUNG.

THE ASG HAS INTENSIFIED RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES WHEREIN,
MOST OF THE NEW-RECRUITS CAME FROM THE ISLAND
MUNICIPALITIES OF SIASI AND PATA AND OTHER ADJACENT
ISLANDS OF SULU. AS OF THIS REPORT, THE ASG HAS DEPLOYED
NINETY NEW RECRUITS WITH UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF ARMAMENTS
IN SIX BARANGAYS OF TALIPAO AND MAIMBUNG.

RECRUITING
MEMBERS
FIREARMS

G. ASG PLANS/COURSES OF ACTION

IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK FROM GOVERNMENT
FORCES, THE ASG HAS REPORTEDLY PURCHASED A SPEEDBOAT,
HIGH-POWERED FIREARMS, RIFLE GRENADES AND ASSORTED
AMMUNITION. ON 06 AUG, THE ASG PURCHASED ONE SPEEDBOAT
WORTH PLM OR \$22,000, POWERED WITH TWO 75 OUTBOARD
ENGINES THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE 50 PASSENGERS.

MOREOVER, EFFORTS TO PROCURE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
CONTINUE, TARGETING PRIVATE ARMED GROUPS, GUNRUNNERS AND
RELATIVES WHO ARE ACTIVE MILITARY AFP/PNP PERSONNEL. THE

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ASG INTENDS TO PAY A PRICE HIGHER THAN THE ACTUAL COST OF
THE FIREARMS.

INTENSIFIED RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY LAUNCHED
IN SULU AND BASILAN TARGETING YOUNG AND ABLE BODIED
MUSLIMS WITH THE PROMISE OF SALARY RANGING FROM PESOS
10,000 AND PESOS 30,000 AND ONE FIREARM EACH. THE ASG
ALSO UTILIZES THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY AND SULU
STATE COLLEGE AS THEIR RECRUITMENT GROUNDS.

RECENTLY, SEVEN ASG COMMANDERS WERE ORDERED TO ORGANIZE
AND TRAIN A SUICIDE SQUAD COMPOSED OF TEN MEMBERS EACH.
AN ESTIMATED 350 ASG MEMBERS WILL BE DEPLOYED TO THE
DIFFERENT STRATEGIC PLACES IN BARRANGAYS BOMBON, TIMPOOK,
IGASAN, PANSOL AND LANGKUANAN, ALL IN PATIKUL. THE
IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS OF BARRANGAY BANDANG, TALIPAO HAVE
REPORTEDLY BEEN PLANTED WITH ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND
ANTI-TANK EXPLOSIVES, WITH TWENTY COMBAT POSITIONS
ESTABLISHED ALONG SAMAK HIGHWAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ASG

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T ORISTS UNDER SAHIRON AND SABAYA ARE ESTABLISHING
F IIFIED BUNKERS IN THEIR ENCAMPMENTS IN PATIKUL.

Pages 742, 743 and 744 are redacted in full IAW b1 and b3 FOIA exemptions. Pages not included.

FURTHERMORE, SOME ASG LEADERS AGREED TO FIGHT THE GOVERNMENT FORCES BEFORE ESCAPING POSSIBLY TOWARDS SABAH, AND/OR THE SLOPE OF MOUNT TALIPAO. ALTERNATIVE WITHDRAWAL ROUTES ARE BARRANGAY SUNGKAL, TALIPAO, AND THE SLOPE OF MOUNT DAHO AND MOUNT TONGGOL, BOTH IN PATIKUL.

IN A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN RADILLAN SAHIRON. KHADAFFY+++++++
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C NJANI AND ABOUT 200 OF THEIR FOLLOWERS, THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE PLAN TO TRANSFER THE NEWLY-KIDNAPPED VICTIMS TO THE FORMER ASG CAMP IN PUNOH MOHADJI IN BARRANGAY UPPER MAHAYAHAY, MALUSO, BASILAN IF THE GOVERNMENT CONDUCT AN OPERATION TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES. THE ASG'S OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO TRANSFER ALL THEIR HOSTAGES EITHER IN BARRANGAY LIMPAPA IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, OR IN THE HINTERLANDS OF SIBUCO OR SIRAWAI IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.

IN ANOTHER MEETING IN BARRANGAY BANDANG, TALIPAO, NADZMI SABTULA AKA GLOBAL, GALIB ANDANG AKA ROBOT AND MUJID SUSUKAN DISCUSSED THE PLAN TO ESCAPE FROM JOLO THEN JOIN THE GROUP OF NICC CHAIRMAN MELHAM ALAM IN THE ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA.

H. ASSESSMENT

THE ASG WILL MOST LIKELY HOLD ON TO THEIR REMAINING HOSTAGES AS A DETERRENCE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS SITUATION.

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act