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**DTG**

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**FROM**

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

**CONTROLS**

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03

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MEXICO 000391

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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2022/05/22

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

**BODY**

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, CJAN, SNAR, ECON, MX

SUBJECT: (U) GENERALS **ARRESTED** FOR SUSPECTED LINKS TO  
NARCOTRAFFICKING

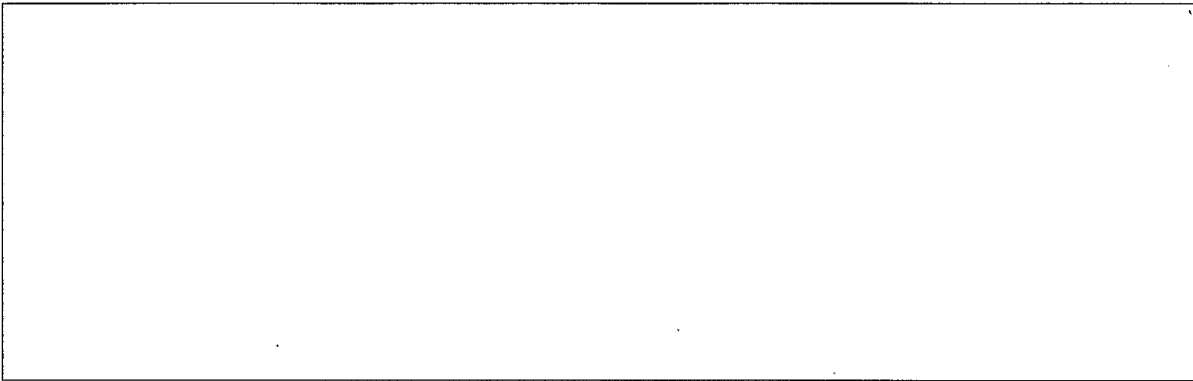
REF: A) 12 MEXICO 1532; B) 12 MEXICO 1856;

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**SUMMARY**

1. (S/NF) FOUR HIGH-RANKING MEXICAN ARMY (SEDENA) OFFICERS, THREE OF THEM RETIRED AND ONLY ONE ON ACTIVE DUTY, HAVE BEEN **DETAINED** IN THE LAST WEEK FOR SUSPECTED TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME, SPECIFICALLY THE BELTRAN LEYVA ORGANIZATION (BLO)(REF A). ALL HAVE YET TO BE FORMALLY CHARGED.

1.4(D)  
B1



END SUMMARY.

WHO ARE THEY?

2. (SBU) THE DETENTIONS BEGAN ON MAY 15, WHEN RETIRED DIVISION GENERAL (THREE-STAR) **TOMAS ANGELES DAUAHARE** AND ACTIVE DUTY BRIGADIER GENERAL (ONE-STAR) **ROBERTO DAWE GONZALEZ** WERE **DETAINED** BY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer

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THE MEXICAN ARMY (SEDENA) ON WARRANTS ISSUED BY THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATION FOR ORGANIZED CRIME (SIEDO), WITHOUT SPECIFIC CHARGES BEING MADE PUBLIC. ON MAY 17, RETIRED THREE-STAR GENERAL **RICARDO ESCORCIA VARGAS** WAS ALSO **DETAINED** AND DELIVERED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR MILITARY JUSTICE TO THE FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE THREE WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE SUSPECTED TIES TO THE TCO BELTRAN LEYVA ORGANIZATION (BLO). ANGELES SPECIFICALLY IS SUSPECTED OF COLLABORATING WITH AND SELLING ARMS TO BLO. ON MAY 18, RETIRED LIEUTENANT COLONEL **SILVIO ISIDRO DE JESUS HERNANDEZ SOTO** ALSO APPEARED BEFORE THE FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BE INVESTIGATED FOR LINKS TO ORGANIZED CRIME. ON MAY 17, GENERALS ANGELES AND DAWE WERE TRANSFERRED FROM A MILITARY DETENTION UNIT TO THE FEDERAL CENTRAL OF INVESTIGATIONS, WHERE THEY EACH STARTED A PRE-TRIAL DETENTION (ARRAIGO) OF FORTY DAYS, WHICH CAN BE EXTENDED IF NECESSARY ANOTHER 40 DAYS. NONE OF THE MEN HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED, AND DETAILS EVEN ABOUT WHAT CHARGES MAY BE FORTHCOMING ARE SKETCHY.

3. (U) GENERAL ANGELES WAS THE UNDER SECRETARY OF SEDENA FROM 2006 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 2008. AT THE TIME OF HIS **ARREST**, DAWE WAS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE 20TH MILITARY DISTRICT IN COLIMA. PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY IN 2010, ESCORCIA COMMANDED AN ARMY BASE IN CUERNAVACA, MORELOS, A STATE THAT USED TO BE CONSIDERED BELTRAN LEYVA TERRITORY. **HERNANDEZ SOTO** WAS PART OF THE SECURITY TEAM OF THEN (AND NOW) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR (AMLO) OF THE LEFTIST COALITION. UNTIL 2011, HE WAS SUB-SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY IN A ZONE ENCOMPASSING THE CITIES OF VERACRUZ AND BOCA DEL RIO IN THE STATE OF VERACRUZ.

4. (U) GENERAL ANGELES SERVED AS A GUEST SPEAKER IN A FORUM ORGANIZED BY THE PRI'S THINK TANK, THE COLOSIO FOUNDATION, ON MAY 9 ON THE TOPIC OF SECURITY AND JUSTICE. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ENRIQUE PENA NIETO ATTENDED THE EVENT, BUT HAS PUBLICLY DENIED THAT ANGELES IS CONNECTED TO HIS CAMPAIGN IN ANY WAY.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: "JENNIFER" AND OPERATION CLEANUP  
/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 \*\*\*\*\*/  
NARCOTRAFFICKING

5. (U) NEWS REPORTS NAME THE SOURCE OF ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS AS ROBERTO LOPEZ NAJERA, AN ACAPULCO ATTORNEY WHO WAS THE IMPETUS FOR THE GOM'S 2008 "OPERATION CLEANUP" (LIMPIEZA), WHICH SENT TO PRISON THE SENIOR ANTI-DRUG OFFICIALS, BEGINNING WITH THE THEN-HEAD OF

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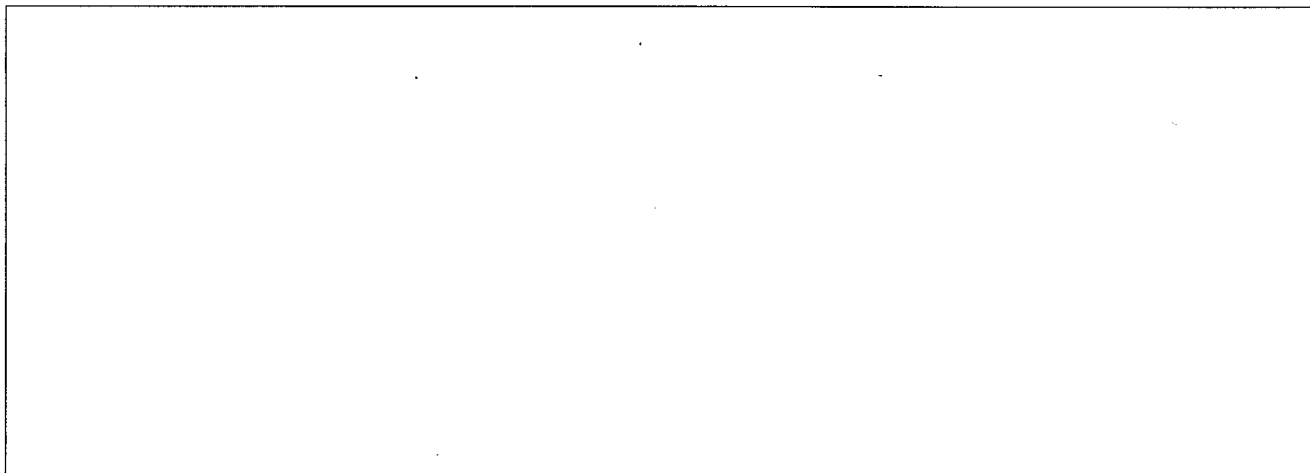
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SIEDO, NOE RAMIREZ MANDUJANO. LOPEZ WAS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE BLO, DELIVERING BRIBE MONEY TO GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS THAT OFFERED PROTECTION AND INFORMATION TO THE CRIMINAL GANG. HE REPORTED RECEIVING MONEY FROM FORMER BLO HITMAN EDGAR VALDEZ VILLARREAL, "LA BARBIE" (ARRESTED IN 2010) TO BE DELIVERED TO GENERAL ANGELES. LOPEZ LATER TURNED HIMSELF IN AFTER HIS BROTHER WAS MURDERED BY BLO, AND HE WAS AFRAID OF THE SAME FATE. LOPEZ WAS ASSIGNED THE ALIAS OF "JENNIFER" BY SIEDO, AND BECAME A FRUITFUL GOVERNMENT INFORMANT ON BLO'S PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS.

WHY NOW, AND WITH A DEFUNCT CARTEL?

6. (SBU) MANY IN THE PRESS ARE ASKING WHY THIS CASE IS COMING TO LIGHT NOW, ESPECIALLY IN THE RUN-UP TO THE JULY 1 ELECTION, WITH ALLEGED ACTS THAT APPARENTLY OCCURRED YEARS AGO, AND LINKED TO A CARTEL WHOSE STRENGTH HAS BEEN BROKEN (ARTURO BELTRAN LEYVA WAS KILLED ON DECEMBER 16, 2009, AFTER WHICH BLO SPLINTERED AND THREE OF ITS FOUR NEW LEADERS WERE ARRESTED). WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS ONLY SIX WEEKS AWAY, EVERY MAJOR GOM MOVE IS IMMEDIATELY SUSPECTED OF BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. SOME PRESS SOURCES ARE SPECULATING THAT THE ARREST OF ANGELES, AT LEAST, STEMS FROM A LONG-TIME POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN ANGELES ON ONE SIDE, AND SEDENA GENERAL GALVAN GALVAN AND PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETARIAT (SSP) HEAD GENARO GARCIA LUNA ON THE OTHER. FIGURING INTO THIS MIX, GOES THIS THEORY, WAS THE FACT THAT ANGELES HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY (INCLUDING AT THE MAY 9 COLOSIO FOUNDATION FORUM) CRITICAL OF THE SECURITY STRATEGY PURSUED BY THE CALDERON ADMINISTRATION THAT PUT THE ARMED FORCES INTO THE FIGHT STARTING IN 2006.

NEAR-TERM DEVELOPMENTS

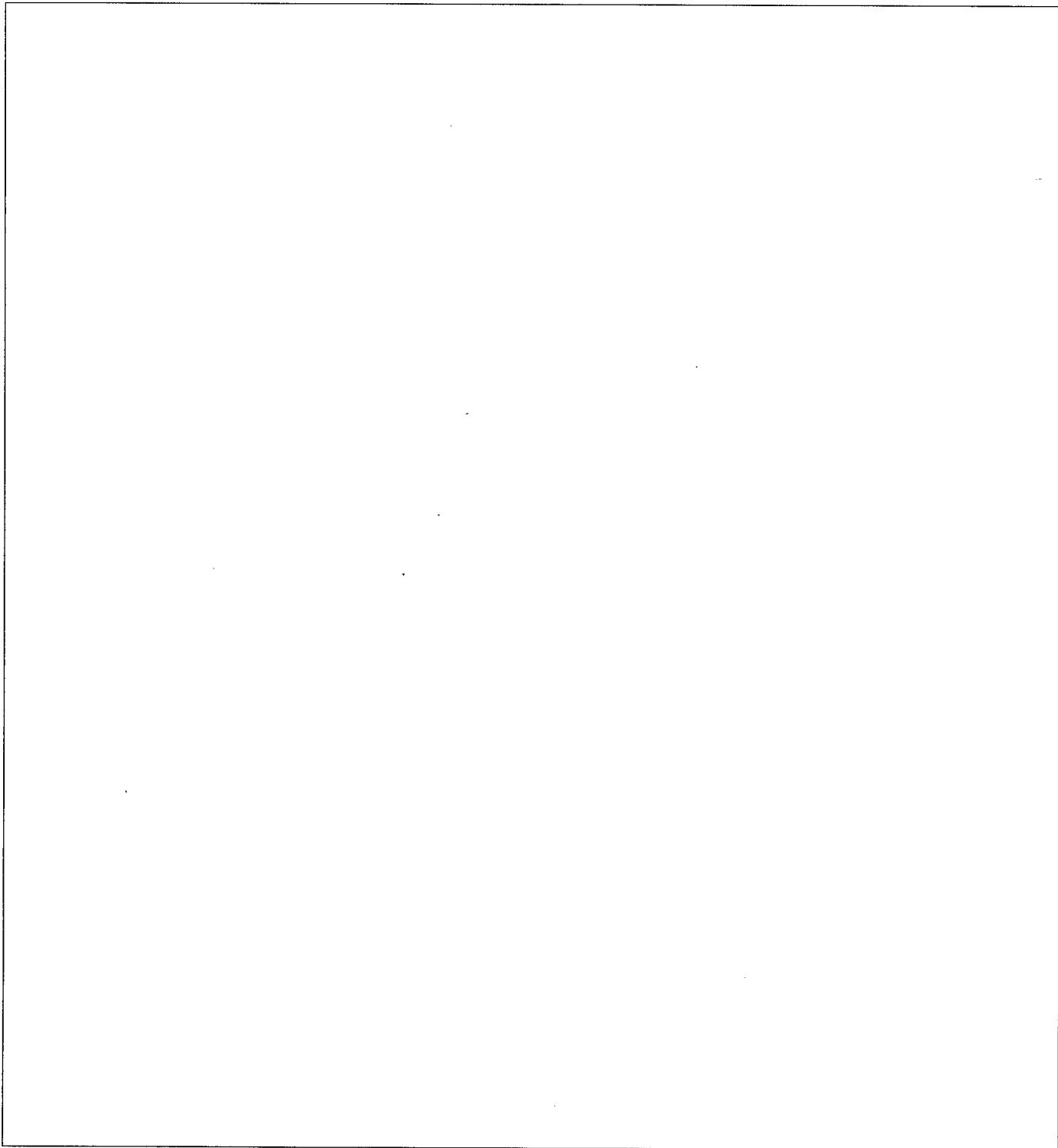


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