

[REDACTED]

11 April 1981

EL SALVADOR: Increasing Violence and Terrorism

Growing abuses by security forces and increased rightwing terrorism could bring about another government crisis. [REDACTED]

The executions in San Salvador on Tuesday of some two dozen suspected leftists, apparently by Treasury Police, will rekindle frictions between Christian Democrats and the officer corps over the long-delayed transfer of the police director, Colonel Moran. Although some Christian Democrats seem certain to demand that the high command fulfill earlier pledges to remove Moran, he may prove difficult to dislodge. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the police attack this week was actually against a leftist hideout and that several of those killed were terrorists. The security forces, however, apparently used the opportunity to dispose of other suspected leftists. [REDACTED]

The human rights violations by security forces and the escalation of rightwing terrorism throughout the country reflect the growing confidence of the military that it is gaining the upper hand over guerrilla forces. Ultrarightists are, in turn, encouraged to eliminate those liberals and moderate leftists seeking to change the status quo. [REDACTED]

The high command has transferred several of the most extreme rightist officers, but also is acquiescing in actions that will encourage extreme rightwing activities. It has, for example, recently issued an official declaration threatening foreign journalists who report unfavorably and published a list of "traitors" that includes a number of civilian progressives. [REDACTED]

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Approved for Release

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