

[REDACTED]

20 December 1989

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS

1. WISH TO PLAY THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE AND POINT OUT WHAT MAY BE AN UNPOPULAR PERSPECTIVE IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS. THUS FAR THE INVESTIGATION, AND POPULAR BELIEF, CONTENDS THAT THE KILLINGS MUST HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES, BECAUSE THE ARMED FORCES CONTROLLED THE AREA AROUND THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA), AND THEREFORE NO INSURGENTS COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE AREA OR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS.

2. [REDACTED] REPORTING, AND SOME OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER, CLEARLY POINT OUT THAT THE FMLN INSURGENTS WERE IN THE IMMEDIATE OR ADJACENT AREAS OF THE UCA BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS, 13-16 NOV 89. WHILE ONE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTREME RIGHTIST OR SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES INVOLVEMENT, IT SEEMS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF INSURGENT RESPONSIBILITY MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED. INSURGENTS FIRED ON ESAF ELEMENTS FROM INSIDE THE UCA COMPLEX 13 NOV. STATION REPORTING PLACES INSURGENT UNITS IN THE AREAS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY, CIUDAD MERLIOT, AND PLANS TO ATTACK THE DNI IN THIS SAME TIME FRAME.

A. LT. ESPINOSA (ATLACATL BIRI) REGARDING THE 13 NOV UCA SEARCH, REPORTED HIS UNIT WAS FIRED ON AT APPROXIMATELY 2230 HOURS BY GUERRILLAS INSIDE THE UCA COMPLEX.

[REDACTED]

B. THE FMLN <sup>PLANS</sup> PLANS TO INFILTRATE AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF COMBATANTS INTO <sup>the</sup> SANTA TECLA <sup>AREA</sup> TO USE THESE LOCATIONS AS STAGING AREAS FOR ATTACKS ON MILITARY UNITS IN THE CAPITAL. ... THESE IEP FORCES <sup>HOPE</sup> TO AVOID ARMY UNITS BY COMING INTO THE CITY FROM SANTA TECLA AND JABALI. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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C. PRIVATE CITIZENS TELEPHONING SALVADORAN ESAF ELEMENTS IN SAN SALVADOR REPORTED THAT IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON INSURGENTS WERE GROUPING NORTH OF THE ROAD FROM SAN SALVADOR TO SANTA TECLA AT FINCA ESPINO AND CIUDAD MERLIOT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D. THE FMLN INTENDS TO OPEN A NEW "SOUTHERN FRONT" DURING 14 NOV TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON UNITS IN THE CITY AND TO PERMIT RESUPPLY. THE NEW OFFENSIVE WILL BEGIN IN THE ZARAGOZA AND SANTA TECLA AREAS SW OF SAN SALVADOR BEFORE 15 NOV 89.

[REDACTED]

E. ESAF ANALYSTS ARE CONCERNED THE INSURGENTS MAY FORM A NEW FRONT TO THE SOUTH OF THE CITY. THEY BELIEVE THE ESAF GENERAL STAFF HQS, THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE (DNI) OF INTELLIGENCE AND ILOPANGO AIR BASE MAY BE THE INSURGENTS PRIMARY TARGETS. ON THE NIGHT OF 13 NOV THE DNI WAS STRUCK BY GUNFIRE FROM THE NORTH, WEST AND SOUTH. ESAF ANALYSTS BELIEVE THIS ACTION MAY HAVE BEEN A PROBE IN PREPARATION FOR AN ASSAULT. [REDACTED]

F. [REDACTED] INFORMATION [REDACTED] ON 13 NOV 89 ABOUT FMLN PLANS TO ATTACK THE DNI HQS AND EMC WAS ACCURATE. [REDACTED] INFORMATION ON THE THE TIME, DATE AND INSURGENT ROUTE OF APPROACH TO THE TARGETS WAS ACCURATE.

[REDACTED] THE ESAF POSITIONED TROOPS IN THE AREA, PREVENTING THE INSURGENTS FROM INFLECTING CASUALTIES AND DAMAGING THE INSTALLATIONS. [REDACTED]

G. INSURGENTS FROM ZARAGOZA AND AN UNIDENTIFIED AREA NEAR THE SAN SALVADOR VOLCANO ARE PLANNING TO MOVE INTO THE SANTA TECLA AREA ON 15 NOV 89 TO ATTACK UNSPECIFIED TARGETS IN SANTA TECLA, AND POSSIBLY TO ATTACK THE DNI. THESE INSURGENTS HAVE 25 NATIONAL POLICE UNIFORMS WHICH SOME OF THE INSURGENTS WILL WEAR TO MOVE INTO SANTA TECLA TOWARD THEIR OBJECTIVES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID HE WAS TOLD BY HIS INSURGENT SOURCE THAT THE FMLN UNIT WITH NATIONAL POLICE UNIFORMS DID NOT DEPLOY FROM THE ZARAGOZA AREA.)