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28 October 1980

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: DEC 2001

SUBJECT: DCI Comments on DOD memorandum of 8 October 1980,
Subject: Countering the Insurgency in El Salvador

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We agree with DOD that additional security assistance is needed in response to the insurgency threat in El Salvador and fully support the first two measures proposed: (a) "specialized training in border patrol, intelligence collection, and special operations to help develop capabilities for disrupting the flow of arms and improve basic counterinsurgency techniques"; and (b) replacement of ordnance and other equipment lost or expended in hostile action" and the "dispatch of an ordnance survey team to El Salvador".

We also endorse the extension of the small-scale technical assistance team concept to such areas as public health, roadbuilding and agriculture. We acknowledge that the assignment of U.S. MTTs to El Salvador is politically sensitive and will constitute a target for leftist propaganda worldwide. The DOD proposal incorporates our previous suggestions for reducing the visibility of these teams.

EO 12958 6.1(c)>10<25Yrs

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We support programs to carry out activities authorized in the Presidential Findings on El Salvador and Honduras. With regard to the DOD specific covert action proposals, we have the following comments:

--Programs supporting the interdiction of arms supply to and within El Salvador and the region as a whole. A training program for Salvadoran security forces is underway and DOD has trained Hondurans in border surveillance, helicopter maintenance and use of helicopters in counterinsurgency operations. Our proposal for improvements in airport security, customs and immigration inspection, identification of false documentation, executive protection and bomb disposal has been accepted by Honduran authorities and training will begin late this year or early in 1981. Since Guatemala's classification as a human rights violator prevents the U.S. from supplying either the training or the equipment needed for such operations, the application of a region-wide arms interdiction program will be difficult. We would, however, welcome any assistance which DOD can provide in this area. EO 12958 1.6(d)(1)>10<25Yrs (C)



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This Agency welcomes increased DOD participation in operations designed to strengthen the JRG in El Salvador and to help turn the tide of rising Cuban-supported insurgency in Central America.

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