

1 February 1982

El Salvador Massacre

The White House Sit Room called this morning to ask about an AP report of a massacre in El Salvador.

Told Sit Room:

1. Wouldn't surprise us if this happened and pretty much as described here. Military obviously mad over losing 1/3 of its Air Force.
2. Since victims people in teens and twenties, army will be able to defend its claim that they were guerrillas.
3. Will get a lot of attention there, because in San Salvador and not boondocks, and here, because of continuing testimony on Hill.

The San Antonio Abad incident is strikingly similar to the Soyopango "Massacre" of Spring 1981, in which some two dozen bodies were found in a working-class suburb on the opposite end of the city from San Antonio Abad. Both suburbs are among those most suspected of harboring guerrilla cells, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after the incident last year verified that the killings were in conjunction with police raids on guerrilla meetings in private homes. The number of bodies proved to be partly attributable to guerrillas and sympathizers shot on the scene, although several were dumped by security forces from previous government operations in other neighborhoods. San Antonio sounds like another one of these "mixed" instances.

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