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[REDACTED] 192023Z MAR 83 [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: EXISTENCE OF RIGHTIST DEATH SQUAD WITHIN THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL POLICE; LOCATION OF CLANDESTINE PRISON USED BY THE DEATH SQUAD.

DOI: DECEMBER 1979-18 MARCH 1983

[REDACTED]

192023Z MAR 83

SECURITY SERVICES

TEXT: 1. ACCORDING TO MEMBERS OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL [REDACTED] A RIGHTIST DEATH SQUAD HAS EXISTED [REDACTED] SINCE DECEMBER 1979 AND HAS ENGAGED IN NUMEROUS POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS, INCLUDING THE MARCH 1981 MURDER OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO ((ROMERO)). [REDACTED] GROUP IS HEADED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARISTEDES ((MARQUEZ)), CHIEF OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. IT MAINTAINS A CLANDESTINE PRISON IN THE CITY OF LA LIBERTAD, LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT. THE PRISON IS USED FOR DETENTION, INTERROGATION, AND EXECUTION OF SUSPECTED LEFTISTS AND LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS. IT IS SUPERVISED BY CAPTAIN RAFAEL ((LOPEZ)) DAVILA WHO IS CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND MARQUEZ' DEPUTY. AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE PRISON WERE THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPERS OF WEALTHY SALVADORAN, JEREZ DE ((GARCIA-PRIETO)). AT LEAST EIGHTEEN INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN THE PRISON WHICH CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF BUILDINGS IN A GUARDED COMPOUND LOCATED AT KILOMETER 38 ON THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY, LA LIBERTAD.

2. THE DEATH SQUAD HAS DRAWN MOST OF ITS MEMBERS FROM THREE SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE: THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION (SIC), THE SPECIAL POLITICAL INVESTIGATION SECTION (SIE), AND THE NARCOTICS CONTROL SECTION. WHEN THE DEATH SQUAD WAS FORMED, IT WAS HEADED BY CAPTAIN AMILCAR

((MOLINA)) PANAMENO. MOLINA'S GROUP PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, IN WHICH A .223 CALIBRE RIFLE WAS USED. THE ROMERO ASSASSINATION SQUAD CONSISTED OF DETECTIVE SIGIFREDO ((PEREZ)) LINARES, INSPECTOR MISAEL ((RIVAS)) ROMERO, JOSE LUIS ((ALAS)) ROMERO, LUIS ((RODRIGUEZ)), AND FNU ((SANTIN)). MOLINA HIMSELF LATER WAS ASSASSINATED BY ANOTHER DEATH SQUAD LED BY MAJOR MARIO DENIS ((MORAN)), A NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER. MOLINA WAS SUSPECTED OF SYMPATHIZING WITH THE LEFT. ALAS, ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASSASSINATION, NOW RESIDES ILLEGALLY IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.

3. FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF MOLINA, COMMAND OF THE DEATH SQUAD PASSED TO INSPECTOR RIVAS WHO CONTINUED THE POLICY OF ASSASSINATING SUSPECTED LEFTISTS, INCLUDING SALVADORAN JOURNALIST ROBERTO ((SUAREZ)) SUAY, KILLED IN MID-1981. THE DEATH SQUAD UNDER RIVAS WAS COMPRISED OF CARLOS ALBERTO ((ORELLANA)) APARICIO, ISMAEL ((PARADA)) CACERES, JOSE ROBERTO ((RECINOS)) MARROQUIN, EFRAIN ((LARIOS)) MONROY, CARLOS ((ALVARADO)) GOMEZ, MARIO SAUL ((MERINO)) ESCOBAR, EMMANUEL ((ALFARO)) VILLANUEVA, MIGUEL ANTONIO ((VIDES)) POCASANGRE, NOE ((PINEDA)) ORELLANA,

192023Z MAR 83

SERGEANT (FNU) ((AYALA)) CRUZ, AND SERGEANT (FNU) ((CASTELLON)). IN MID-1982, APPROXIMATELY 25 OF THE DEATH SQUAD MEMBERS, ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, WERE SENT TO VENEZUELA FOR SPECIAL TRAINING. DURING THEIR ABSENCE, DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED BY A GROUP HEADED BY SECOND LIEUTENANT SAUL TADEO ((SALAZAR)) ARDON, A CLOSE FRIEND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARQUEZ. SALARZAR'S GROUP INCLUDED BELARMIDES ((CASTILLO)) MEDRANO, SANTOS ((ULLOA)), FIDEL ((RAMOS)) RIVERA, CONCEPCION ((AGUILAR)), INES ALFONSO ((ESCOBAR)), ROBERTO ((CHAVEZ)) SOAS, AND (FNU) ((FERNANDEZ)) HERNANDEZ. ([REDACTED])
COMMENT: IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE VENEZUELAN'S WERE AWARE OF THE DEATH SQUAD ROLE OF THESE POLICE OFFICERS.)

4. FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF THE DEATH SQUAD MEMBERS FROM VENEZUELA IN FEBRUARY 1983, INSPECTOR RIVAS RESUMED HIS ROLE AS THE CHIEF DIRECTOR OF DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES. AS OF MID-MARCH, DEATH SQUAD OPERATIONS WERE PLANNED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARQUEZ AND CARRIED OUT BY LIEUTENANT RIVAS AND CAPTAIN LOPEZ WHO ALSO RUNS THE PRISON IN LA LIBERTAD. DETECTIVE PEREZ SERVED AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE DEATH SQUAD LEADERSHIP AND ROBERTO

((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA). [REDACTED]

COMMENT: DEATH SQUAD MEMBERS BELIEVE D'AUBUISSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING SOME OF THE LEFTISTS TO BE INTERROGATED OR EXECUTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE GROUP.)

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