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DIST: 16 DECEMBER 1983

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS BY SALVADORAN ARMY POLITICAL COMMISSION

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Approved for Release  
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ON POINTS RAISED DURING THE VISIT OF THE UNITED STATES  
VICE PRESIDENT

1. ACCORDING TO COLONEL NICOLAS ((CARRANZA)), DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TREASURY POLICE AND SENIOR MEMBER OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE SALVADORAN ARMY, THE COMMITTEE MET ON 12 DECEMBER TO DISCUSS THE 11 DECEMBER VISIT OF THE U.S. VICE PRESIDENT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE REGARDING "REQUIREMENTS" WHICH THE VICE PRESIDENT GAVE TO THE SALVADORAN MILITARY. CARRANZA SAID THE POLICY COMMITTEE GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE SALVADORAN MILITARY SHOULD MEET THE "REQUIREMENTS" AND THAT THE GROUP PREPARED A WRITTEN REPORT WHICH IT PRESENTED TO GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, ON 13 DECEMBER. CARRANZA SAID VIDES AGREED WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT, AND THAT VIDES AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA)) ON 14 DECEMBER TO PRESENT THE REPORT.

2. CARRANZA OUTLINED THE MAIN POINTS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH THE COMMITTEE AND VIDES WILL PRESENT TO THE PRESIDENT AS BEING THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE SALVADORAN ARMY LEADERSHIP AGREES TO THE DETENTION OF CAPTAIN EDUARDO ALFONSO ((AVILA)) AVILA. RECENT LEGAL TACTICS ON THE PART OF RICARDO ((AVILA)) MAREYDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, HAVE COMPLICATED THE ARREST BUT THE COMMISSION IS STUDYING WAYS TO DETAIN EDUARDO AVILA.

B. A COMMISSION WILL BE SET UP TO INVESTIGATE ANY DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY. THIS COMMISSION WILL INVESTIGATE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR ON A LIST OF NAMES PROVIDED TO THE SALVADORAN MILITARY BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

C. AN INVENTORY WILL BE TAKEN OF ARMS WHICH SECURITY SERVICES HAVE PROVIDED TO OTHER GOVERNMENT UNITS. COMMENT: CARRANZA SAID THAT IT IS KNOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SOME TIME AGO THE TREASURY POLICE PROVIDED ARMS TO ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. CARRANZA EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THIS AND SAID HE IS WORRIED THAT WEAPONS WHICH THE TREASURY POLICE GAVE TO D'AUBUISSON MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES.)

D. INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE MADE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND

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IDENTITIES OF RETIRED OR INACTIVE MILITARY OR SECURITY SERVICE OFFICERS WHO DIRECT OR WORK FOR SECURITY FIRMS. (COMMENT: THE COMMITTEE SUSPECTS THAT SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS MAY BE INVOLVED IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES.)

E. CLOSER CONTROLS WILL BE ENFORCED OVER WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM INSURGENTS. IT IS KNOWN THAT ENLISTED MEN AS WELL AS OFFICERS SELL THESE WEAPONS, SOMETIMES BACK TO THE INSURGENTS.

F. THERE WILL BE A CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL THE IMPORTATION OF WEAPONS INTO EL SALVADOR.

G. IN THOSE CRIMINAL CASES WHERE INDIVIDUALS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AS MEMBERS OF DEATH SQUADS, A FULL INVESTIGATION WILL TAKE PLACE TO VERIFY THE CLAIM.

H. CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

I. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS NO COMMENT ON THE STATED INTENTION OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO MOUNT OPERATIONS AGAINST SALVADORANS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES WHO FINANCE DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY.

J. WHILE INVESTIGATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ON INDIVIDUALS WHO THE U.S. SAYS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES, THOSE INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING CIVILIANS, WILL BE SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

K. IT WILL BE STANDARD POLICE PROCEDURE TO INFORM A FAMILY MEMBER OR SOME CLOSE CONTACT OF A DETAINEE.

L. THE ARMY WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO PERMIT ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE BUT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS OR IN THE ELECTIONS.

M. AGRARIAN REFORM WILL TAKE PLACE AND THE ARMY RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK.

3. CARRANZA ADDED THAT, APART FROM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AS A RESULT AS THE VISIT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S., THE COMMITTEE ALSO WILL RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT THE BODY WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ADVICE TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR AND IT WILL BE MADE UP OF CIVILIANS AS WELL AS MILITARY.

4. FINALLY, CARRANZA SAID THE MILITARY COMMANDERS WOULD UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN CARRYING OUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSION.

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