



# EMPLOYEE BULLETIN

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## SSCI REPORT ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR

1. In response to charges in THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR that the U.S. Government and specifically the CIA were involved with death squad activity in El Salvador, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence some months ago began an extensive study of the activities and information held by the CIA, the Departments of State, Justice, and Defense, the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), and NSA relating to political violence in El Salvador. The Office of Public Affairs has repeatedly denied these allegations to the media and the Office of Legislative Liaison and appropriate Agency components have assisted the SSCI in its investigation.

2. The unclassified version of the study released to the public this week reports that there is no evidence to support the allegations of U.S. Government involvement with the recent political violence in El Salvador, especially violence perpetrated by extreme rightwing death squads. For the information of all employees, the text of the Committee's general conclusions follows:

"The Committee found ample evidence that the policy of the United States throughout the period under review was consistently to oppose political violence in El Salvador, including violence by extreme rightwing death squads. The degree to which Executive branch agencies acted directly with Salvadoran authorities to combat political violence generally reflected their judgments about what was achievable in the Salvadoran political context.

"The Committee found that, in the course of carrying out their missions implementing overall U.S. policy to assist the Government of El Salvador in resisting the leftist insurgency, elements of the U.S. government have unavoidably had contact with Salvadoran organizations and individuals strongly suspected of being involved in or associated with political violence. The Committee believes that, for the most part, the problems that have arisen in this regard are of the type which may occur whenever the U.S. government seeks to obtain intelligence on the activities of clandestine organizations such as international terrorist groups or narcotics rings, or to assist foreign governments engaged in violent confrontations with subversive forces.

Approved for Release

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