

[REDACTED]

24 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant National Intelligence Officer
for Latin America

FROM: [REDACTED], Acting Chief, Central America

SUBJECT: Political Violence and Insurgent Propaganda in
El Salvador

The following responds to your request of this morning for information on civilian and military deaths, the orientation and methodology of Salvadoran organizations reporting on political violence, and the external propaganda apparatus of the extreme leftist alliance.

[REDACTED] "Official figures" are those of the government of El Salvador [REDACTED]

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1. Official death rates 1981-1983

	1981	1982	1983 (current)
Civilian Deaths (Total)	6122	2629	745
Military Deaths (Total)	998	1150	696

We can provide no reliable estimate of civilian deaths caused by any particular group. We believe, however, that the combined impact of separate actions--legal and illegal--of the Army, the various security forces, and right-wing vigilantes still probably accounts for a majority of civilian deaths. An educated guess would be that between 35 to 45 percent of the

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killing may be at the hands of guerrillas and common criminals. Insurgents regularly execute rural public officials and suspected government collaborators and their families. In addition, the guerrillas are increasingly strafing commercial and private vehicles and are threatening peasants with death if they plant crops this summer. Meanwhile, murder-for-hire and crimes of passion remain staples in El Salvador's violence-prone society and are largely indistinguishable from political killings. [REDACTED] NF)

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3. The Salvadoran insurgent alliance maintains a worldwide propaganda and fundraising network reportedly comprising at least 70 solidarity committees in perhaps several dozen countries and permanent offices in many major cities--e.g. New York, Washington, Toronto, Mexico City, Panama, Brussels, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, and Rome. Guerrilla representatives regularly lecture at university campuses and Church conferences in the western democracies, and have excellent access to political organizations, government officials, and the international press. The insurgents also frequently visit Communist Bloc countries and radical Third World states where they have received considerable political, financial, logistical, and material support. [REDACTED]

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