

National Intelligence Council

[REDACTED]
23 January 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: PCC on El Salvador

1. Assistant Secretary of State (ARA) Bernard Aronson chaired a PCC on El Salvador on 22 January to discuss possible US initiatives in the aftermath of the recent executions of two US servicemen by FMLN guerrillas. [REDACTED] also participated.

2. Initially, there was a brief discussion of what public relations strategy should be pursued to inform Congress and the public about the executions. This was followed by an extended discussion about how and whether the guerrillas responsible for the murders could be brought to justice in the United States and whether conspiracy charges could be brought against the FMLN leadership. The Justice representative emphasized that they are still waiting for the results of the murder investigation that was done in El Salvador and for other written reports. He said there is an extra-territorial principle with respect to jurisdiction that would apply, assuming that a prosecutable case could be assembled. He expressed reservations, however, about the availability of witnesses and adequate evidence. He emphasized that Justice has no position yet about whether it would be better to try the executioners in the United States or in El Salvador.

3. In the only part of this discussion relevant to foreign intelligence responsibilities, the Justice Department representative requested that any information available to the Intelligence Community about higher-level FMLN involvement or approval of the murders be shared promptly with Justice.

4. The third major item on the agenda focused on State's desire to retaliate against the murders by shutting down FMLN

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Approved for Release

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offices in the United States and to reduce the effectiveness of FMLN front groups abroad. State has sought Intelligence Community support with respect to the front groups but I have emphasized that this is a matter for the FBI and not for the foreign intelligence community. I told Aronson and his Deputy for Central America Joseph Sullivan that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] available to us about FMLN contacts with, or dependence on, front groups outside of El Salvador.

National Intelligence Officer
for Latin America