

[REDACTED]

EL SALVADOR: Extreme Rightist Activity

Assembly leader D'Aubuisson has indicated that elements of the military and security forces are engaging in illegal actions against alleged subversives [REDACTED]

D'Aubuisson has told [REDACTED] that military and security personnel are planning to eliminate suspected leftists. He noted that corruption and political pressures often protect insurgent sympathizers in their operations and said that safeguarding human rights is impossible as long as the war continues. The Assembly leader also advocated a more aggressive war strategy, including "extra-official" operations [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, Col. Nicolas Carranza, who has extensive ties to D'Aubuisson, is lobbying to be named Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Carranza has a reputation as a strong leader but was isolated by former Defense Minister Garcia, who felt threatened by his political ambitions and feared he would undercut efforts to keep the military out of partisan politics. [REDACTED]

Comment: D'Aubuisson's candid admissions—which are tacit support for the existence of death squads—may also reflect the belief that the extreme right can expand its influence now that Garcia has been replaced as defense minister by the less dynamic General Vides. Moreover, chances are increasing that extreme rightist violence will escalate as political prisoners are released under the new amnesty law [REDACTED]

Carranza's lobbying may become a serious dilemma for Vides. The Defense Minister probably recognizes that Carranza's presence on the General Staff might help him conduct a more aggressive war strategy. At the same time, the appointment of Carranza to a high military post probably would result in renewed politicization of the armed forces. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]