

[REDACTED]

EL SALVADOR: Political Difficulties Persist

*Ultrarightist political forces led by Assembly President D'Aubuisson are maneuvering more aggressively against moderates in the government and military.* [REDACTED]

Criticism centers on the investigation of the murders of two US labor advisers in January 1981. Rightist spokesmen publicly are defending the key suspects--two junior military officers with ties to D'Aubuisson--and are berating national leaders for submitting to alleged US interference in the local investigation. High-level government and military officials and US Embassy personnel have received threats regarding their involvement in the case. [REDACTED]

Defense Minister Garcia remains a primary target of the rightist campaign. He is publicly accused of bowing to US pressure by keeping one of the suspects under detention despite a judge's order to release him. Privately, he faces continued efforts by D'Aubuisson loyalists in the military to remove him because of his alleged poor direction of the war effort. [REDACTED]

Garcia has responded by vowing to prosecute any military personnel that engage in criminal acts, particularly the two officers charged with murdering the US advisers. He recently presided over a conference of some 200 local commanders in which he ordered them to stay out of politics and lectured them on the penalties for committing human rights violations. [REDACTED]

Comment: Continued sparring between Garcia and D'Aubuisson is likely as they move further apart on a variety of issues. Garcia probably will come under even greater pressure if the military fails to regain quickly the initiative now held by the insurgents. [REDACTED]

The Army apparently has not yet decided to launch a major counterattack in the north, because of anticipated guerrilla actions elsewhere. If it delays too long, however, public confidence in it could be weakened. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 October 1982  
Approved for Release

NOV 1993