

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EL SALVADOR Human Rights Abuses

A government security official claims that intimidation, political pressure, and corruption in the judicial system are ensuring continuing human rights abuses as well as the activity of extreme rightist death squads [REDACTED]

Colonel Moran, the head of the 2,000-man Treasury Police, has admitted [REDACTED] that he could bring criminal charges against at least seven Treasury officers [REDACTED] however, turning the offenders over to the civilian courts would result in their exoneration [REDACTED]. If he dismissed men "whose only skill is killing," they would either end up working with rightist death squads or with leftist insurgents [REDACTED]

Moran denied that the Treasury Police--which have the best intelligence sources and worst human rights record in El Salvador--are responsible for death squad actions. [REDACTED] these groups are controlled by the Constituent Assembly's chief of security and other extreme rightists, who rely on intimidation to avoid prosecution. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] claimed intervention by extreme rightist Assembly leader D'Aubuisson caused the civilian courts to release Lieutenant Lopez Sibrian, one of the instigators of the murder of two US labor representatives in 1981. Although Lopez Sibrian is back on active duty [REDACTED] a majority of the officer corps favors reopening the case. [REDACTED]

Comment: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] conclusion regarding military sentiment for a reexamination of the Lopez Sibrian case is supported by a recent survey [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The willingness of the officer corps to press for punishment reflects its fear of jeopardizing continuing US military assistance. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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[REDACTED]