

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence

EL SALVADOR
SITUATION REPORT #14

Approved for Release
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[REDACTED]

El Salvador Situation Report No. 14

Information as of 1630 16 March 1983

[REDACTED] heavy losses were suffered early this month by government forces when guerrillas overran several towns in Morazan Department.

- [REDACTED] that 65 soldiers died and 50 were captured by the insurgents; most of their arms and equipment also fell into guerrilla hands.
- This is not the worst single defeat suffered by the Army perhaps, but demonstrates both the growing confidence and skill of the insurgents and the poor morale and training among Army regulars in this northeastern region.
- As a result of this defeat, the commanding officer in San Francisco was relieved of his command--the second such development for the Morazan garrison in three months.
- The military high command has attempted to keep the incident quiet both publicly and within the armed forces.

Another aspect of military performance requiring much improvement is that of human rights.

- Colonel Francisco Moran, head of the 2,000-man Treasury Police, [REDACTED] at least seven of his officers are guilty of serious abuses but that he cannot afford to bring them up on charges--presumably because of the scarcity of experienced leaders in his organization.

- [REDACTED]
- Moreover, [REDACTED] that death squad activity continues and is controlled by wealthy elites; [REDACTED] the chief of security for the Constituent Assembly--a member of ARENA--as one death squad leader.
 - Press reports yesterday say that five National Guardsmen charged with murdering four US churchwomen in 1980 have been given temporary reprieve from trial proceedings by a civilian judge.

LATE NEWS

Information as of 0830 17 March 1983

Insurgent military activity continues at a low level.

- Only a few isolated attacks have been reported in recent days.

Meanwhile, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the new airborne battalion and long-range reconnaissance company would be combat ready by early April.

- [REDACTED] that he believed he needed a permanent forward airbase in eastern El Salvador, but needed technical assistance and additional funds.

General Garcia has appointed a military liaison officer to the civilian human rights commission.

- He also instructed the armed forces to report to this officer within 24 hours any civilian deaths or insurgent captures, as well as official abuses of authority.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]