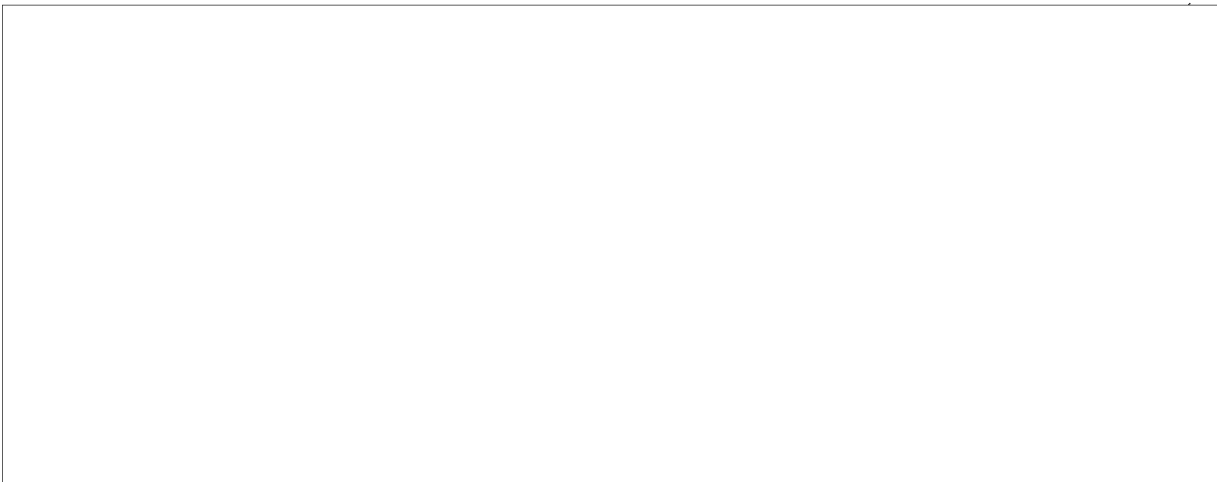


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WNINTEL NOFORN NOCONTRACT

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS TO DISCUSS  
THE REMOVAL OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.  
(DOI: EARLY SEPTEMBER 1982).

SOURCE :

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1. ON 9 OR 10 SEPTEMBER 1982, A GROUP OF SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS MET IN A PRIVATE HOME IN SAN SALVADOR TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN THE ARMED FORCES AND PLANS TO INFLUENCE THE REMOVAL OF GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THE OFFICERS, ALL LIEUTENANT COLONELS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE MILITARY ACADEMY IN EITHER 1963 OR 1964, HAVE COMBINED TO FORM A SINGLE "TANDA" OR CLASS GROUP. THEY ARE: LEOPOLDO ((HERNANDEZ)), DIRECTOR OF THE MAESTRANZA (ARMORY AND WEAPONS REPAIR DEPOT); ROBERTO ((RODRIGUEZ)) MURCIA, CHIEF OF THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE; RICARDO ((CIENFUEGOS)), PERSONAL AIDE TO THE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF; ROBERTO ARMANDO ((RIVERA)),

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COMMANDER OF ARMY DETACHMENT FIVE IN COJUTEPEQUE;  
SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT;  
DENNIS ((MORAN)), CURRENTLY UNASSIGNED; AND LEONEL ((LOBO)),  
CHIEF OF AIR FORCE OPERATIONS.

2. THESE OFFICERS UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE  
TO SEE GARCIA REMOVED, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO FIRM PLANS AT  
THIS TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. A PRINCIPAL COMPLAINT IS THAT  
GARCIA HAS ISOLATED HIMSELF FROM THE MILITARY COMMANDERS  
AND MAKES DECISIONS ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTERS WITHOUT  
CONSULTING WITH THE KEY MILITARY LEADERS. OTHER COMPLAINTS  
EXPRESSED AGAINST GARCIA WERE FOCUSED ON HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT  
FOR OFFICERS WHO HOLD IMPORTANT POSITIONS BUT WHO ARE  
INCOMPETENT OR WHOSE PERSONAL REPUTATIONS ARE DAMAGING TO THE  
IMAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THOSE OFFICERS REGARDED AS  
INCOMPETENT OR DISREPUTABLE INCLUDE LTC. NAPOLEON ((ALVARADO)),  
COMMANDER OF SAN VICENTE DEPARTMENT; LTC. MAX ((LEVIA)),

COMMANDER OF SONSONATE DEPARTMENT; LTC. ELMER ((GONZALEZ)),  
CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF; AND COLONEL FRANCISCO  
((MORAN)), DIRECTOR OF THE TREASURY POLICE.

3. THE GROUP OF OFFICERS CONSIDERS THAT GENERAL GARCIA  
MAY ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER OCHOA PEREZ OR LTC. JOSE DOMINGO  
((MONTEERROSA)), COMMANDER OF THE ATACATL BATTALION, INTO  
NON-COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS. IN THIS EVENT, THE OFFICERS AGREED  
THAT THEY WOULD PROMPTLY GENERATE SUPPORT IN THE OFFICER CORPS  
TO OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE BY GARCIA.

4. THE GROUP OF OFFICERS AGREED THAT, AS THEIR IMMEDIATE  
OBJECTIVE, THEY WOULD CONDUCT AN INFORMAL OPINION POLL IN THE  
OFFICER CORPS AIMED AT DETERMINING IF THERE WAS SUFFICIENT  
SUPPORT FOR A FORMAL PROPOSAL BY KEY COMMANDERS FOR THE REMOVAL  
OF GARCIA. WHILE THIS OFFICER GROUP HAS EXPRESSED NO OPPOSITION  
TO COL. RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES  
GENERAL STAFF, THEY WOULD REQUEST HIS REMOVAL AS WELL IF HE  
OPPOSED AN ORGANIZED EFFORT TO REMOVE GARCIA.

5.  COMMENT: THE COMPLAINTS DIRECTED AGAINST  
GARCIA BY THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF OFFICERS INCLUDE THOSE  
MOST COMMONLY EXPRESSED IN THE OFFICER CORPS AND ARE CONSISTENT  
WITH PREVIOUS REPORTING. HOWEVER, OPPOSITION TO GARCIA WITHIN  
THE ARMED FORCES IS NOT SOLELY BASED ON HIS MANAGEMENT OF THE  
WAR OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEFICIENCIES. OTHER OFFICERS  
WHO CRITICIZE GARCIA ON PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS ALSO OPPOSE HIM  
AS A RESULT OF THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH  
ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
AND LEADER OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA).  
D'AUBUISSON IN TURN REPRESENTS INTERESTS DEDICATED TO  
STALLING OR MODIFYING THE REFORM PROGRAMS WHICH IS BEING STRONGLY  
PROMOTED BY GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA. ACCORDINGLY, THESE  
PRO-D'AUBUISSON OFFICERS ARE ALSO OPPOSED TO FLORES LIMA.  
LTC. OCHOA PEREZ, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE OFFICER GROUP DESCRIBED  
IN THIS REPORT, IS ALSO PERSONALLY CLOSE TO D'AUBUISSON AND  
ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS IS OPPOSED TO FLORES LIMA AS WELL  
AS GARCIA. OCHOA PEREZ APPARENTLY PREFERRED NOT TO MANIFEST HIS  
OPPOSITION TO FLORES LIMA IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE OFFICER GROUP  
DESCRIBED HEREIN.)

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5. [REDACTED]

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6. [REDACTED]

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ORIGINATOR [REDACTED]  
ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL  
DOCUMENT.

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