



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

Wednesday  
25 May 1983

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CPAS NIDC 83-123C

25 May 1983

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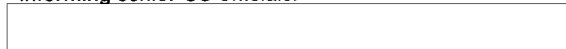
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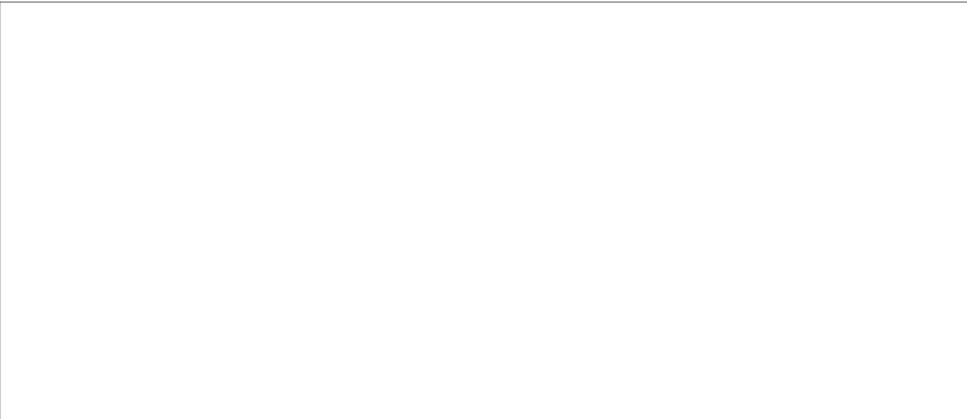
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NR Record

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[Redacted]

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**EL SALVADOR: New Government Campaign**

*San Salvador's planned civil-military campaign in the southeast is a crucial gamble for the armed forces.* [Redacted]

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//The government is planning a major pacification operation to establish control of the strategically important departments of San Vicente and Usulután. Military sweep operations will begin in about two weeks and will involve as many as seven Army battalions.// [Redacted]

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//After the sweep operations, some military forces are to remain behind to prevent the guerrillas from returning until new civilian defense forces can be trained. Civilian government agencies—using US development aid—will begin rebuilding the economic and social infrastructure.// [Redacted]

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The insurgents, meanwhile, continue to attack roads, bridges, and other targets in the region. The government plans to set up a temporary bridge over the Lempa River to replace the key Oro Bridge, which linked central El Salvador with the east until it was destroyed in 1981. [Redacted]

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Eleven US-supplied temporary Bailey bridges have been installed to replace structures damaged by the guerrillas. Press reports say the insurgents destroyed one of the bridges in La Unión Department over the weekend. [Redacted]

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**Comment:** The government's plan is designed to break the guerrillas' momentum. Prospects for success are limited, however, because of the lack of good military field commanders and material resources. Moreover, the insurgents probably will react by increasing attacks against economic and military targets on other fronts, thereby diverting the armed forces before the program is completed. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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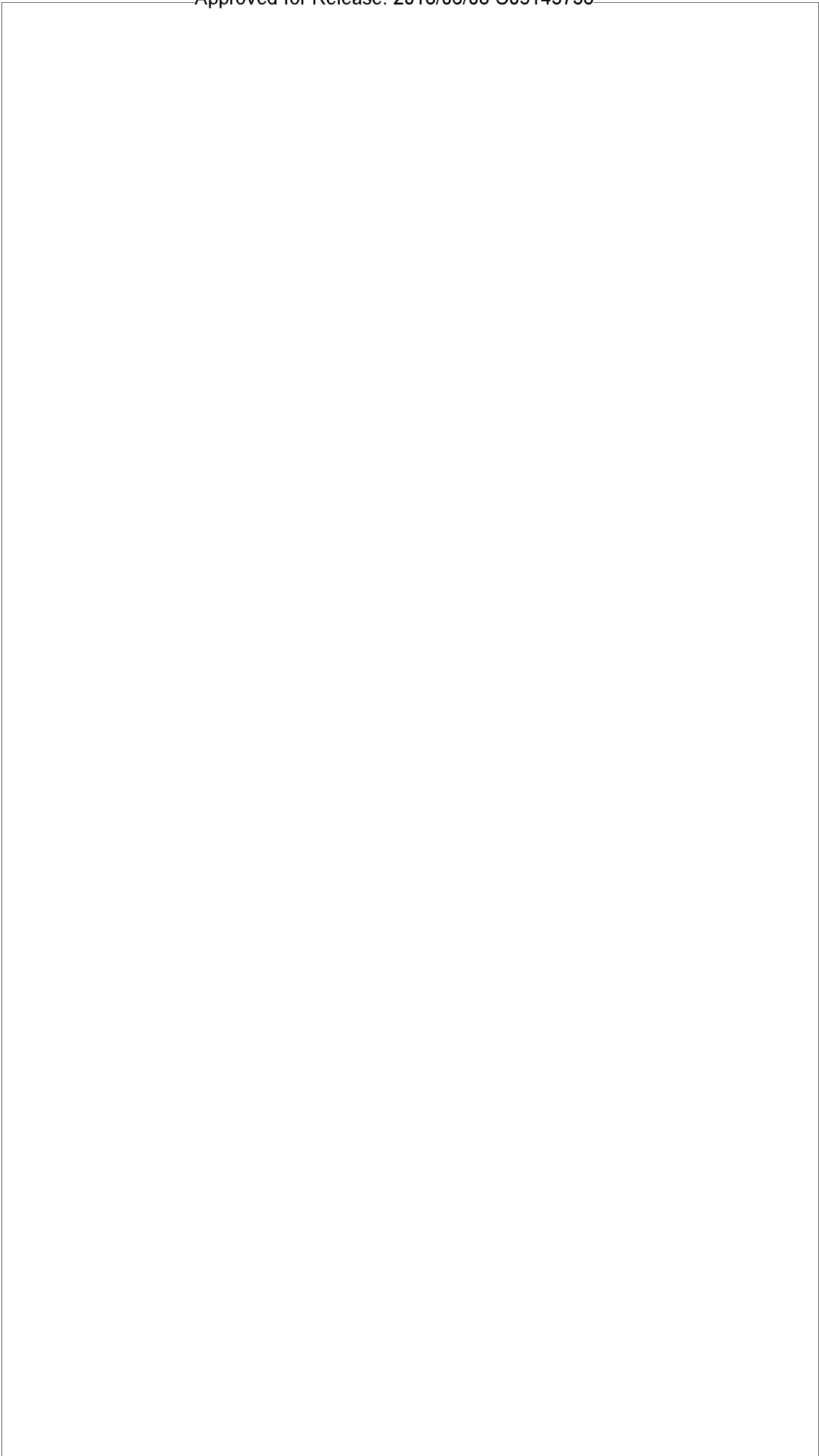
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