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Document: CIAA -0000 434205 Subject: AGREEMENT OF SOME FIELD-GRADE SALVADORAN ARMY OFFICERS  
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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,  
SECRET SERVICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,  
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS, USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT OF SOME FIELD-GRADE SALVADORAN ARMY OFFICERS  
THAT A MEETING OF FIELD COMMANDERS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY  
CONVENED TO DEAL WITH THE REBELLION OF CABANAS  
DEPARTMENTAL COMMANDER; FEAR THAT JUNIOR OFFICERS MAY  
SIDE WITH CABANAS COMMANDER

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TEXT: 1. IN CONVERSATIONS AT THE SALVADORAN GENERAL STAFF  
DURING THE MORNING OF 8 JANUARY 1983, A GROUP OF FIELD-GRADE  
SALVADORAN ARMY OFFICERS OUTLINED THEIR VIEWS OF THE REBELLION  
OF LTC. SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS  
DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICER GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED  
LTC. RAMON ANTONIO ((MORALES)) RUIZ, COMMANDER OF LA UNION  
DEPARTMENT; COL. MAXIMILIANO ((LEIVA)), COMMANDER OF CHALATENANGO  
DEPARTMENT; COL. RINALDO ((GOLCHER)), D-2 OF THE SALVADORAN  
GENERAL STAFF, OCHOA HAD CLEARLY DISOBEYED A LAWFUL MILITARY  
ORDER AND SHOULD BE REMOVED AND/OR PUNISHED FOR HIS ACTION.

2. THE GROUP OF FIELD-GRADE OFFICERS EXPRESSED CONCERN  
OVER THE CONTINUING STALEMATE BETWEEN OCHOA AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE,  
GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), AND AGREED THAT THE ONLY WAY  
TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS WAS TO IMMEDIATELY CONVENE A FIELD COMMANDERS'

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MEETING. HOWEVER, THE OFFICER GROUP REJECTED AS PREPOSTEROUS A REQUEST BY OCHOA ON 8 JANUARY THAT A COMMANDERS' MEETING BE HELD IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT.

3. THE OFFICER GROUP AGREED THAT THE FIELD COMMANDERS' MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY FIELD COMMANDERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HIGH COMMAND. ADDITIONALLY, THE FIELD COMMANDERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS OPENLY, ENGAGE IN A FRANK EXCHANGE AND NOT BE CALLED UPON TO SIDE EITHER WITH GARCIA OR OCHOA IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO DO SO. BOTH THE HIGH COMMAND AND

COLONEL OCHOA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE MAJORITY DECISION OF THE FIELD COMMANDERS IS FINAL AND SHOULD BE OBEYED BY ALL PARTIES. ALSO, THE FIELD COMMANDERS' MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY FOR 8 OR 9 JANUARY 1983.

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4. ACCORDING TO THE GROUP OF GIELD-GRADE OFFICERS, A FAILURE BY THE HIGH COMMAND TO SCHEDULE A COMMANDERS' MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WOULD INEVITABLY STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF OCHOA AS GARCIA WILL BE VIEWED BY JUNIOR OFFICERS AS INDECISIVE. SIMILARLY, INDECISION BY THE HIGH COMMAND AND A CONTINUATION OF OCHOA'S REBELLION MAY LEAD SOME JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO ADMIRE OCHOA TO TAKE OVER FIELD UNITS AND REMOVE THEIR SUPERIOR OFFICERS. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR ESCALATION OF THE CRISIS AND ONE FROM WHICH GARCIA WOULD BE HARD PUT TO EXTRACT HIMSELF.

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--

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