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[redacted] SUPPLEMENT TO NID SUPPORT CABLE FOR SATURDAY, 25 AUGUST 1984.

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- 1. EL SALVADOR: PREPARATIONS FOR THE GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE

BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR A GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE, WHICH COULD BEGIN ANY TIME IN THE NEXT MONTH AND WHICH SEEMS AIMED AT WIDENING THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE WAR. (S NF)

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AN [redacted] SAYS THE GUERRILLAS PLAN TO ATTACK TARGETS IN AND NEAR SAN SALVADOR. A [redacted] SAYS SOME 80 INSURGENTS ARE HIDING IN SAFEHOUSES THROUGHOUT THE CITY. (S NF)

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IN THE WEST, GUERRILLAS IN SONSONATE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN RECONNOITERING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FACILITIES FOR SEVERAL WEEKS

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INDICATES THE MILITARY BELIEVES THE GUERRILLAS MAY LAUNCH MAJOR
ATTACKS SOON IN CHALATENANGO. (TS [] NF [])

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MEANWHILE, THE ARMY INTENSIFIED SWEEPS IN NORTHERN SAN MIGUEL
DEPARTMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK, AND IT CONTINUES OPERATIONS ALONG
COASTAL AREAS IN SAN MIGUEL AND USULUTAN. []

INDICATES GUERRILLA CONCENTRATIONS IN BOTH REGIONS AND REFLECTS THE
MOVEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES INTO THESE AREAS. (TS [] NF [])

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[] SAYS THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL
BLANDON, IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENT DECLINE IN AGGRESSIVE
OPERATIONS BY THE ARMY AND INTENDS TO REPLACE SEVERAL SENIOR FIELD
COMMANDERS. HE PLANS TO TURN THE CHALATENANGO COMMAND OVER TO
LIEUTENANT COLONEL OCHOA, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON LAST YEAR
BECAUSE OF HIS MEDDLING IN DOMESTIC POLITICS. (S NF [])

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[] INDICATED THE GUERRILLAS WOULD
STRIKE AT THE CAPITAL AND IN WESTERN EL SALVADOR. ESPECIALLY
LUCRATIVE TARGETS IN SONSONATE INCLUDE THE PORT FACILITIES AND OIL
REFINERY AT ACAJUTLA. (S NF)

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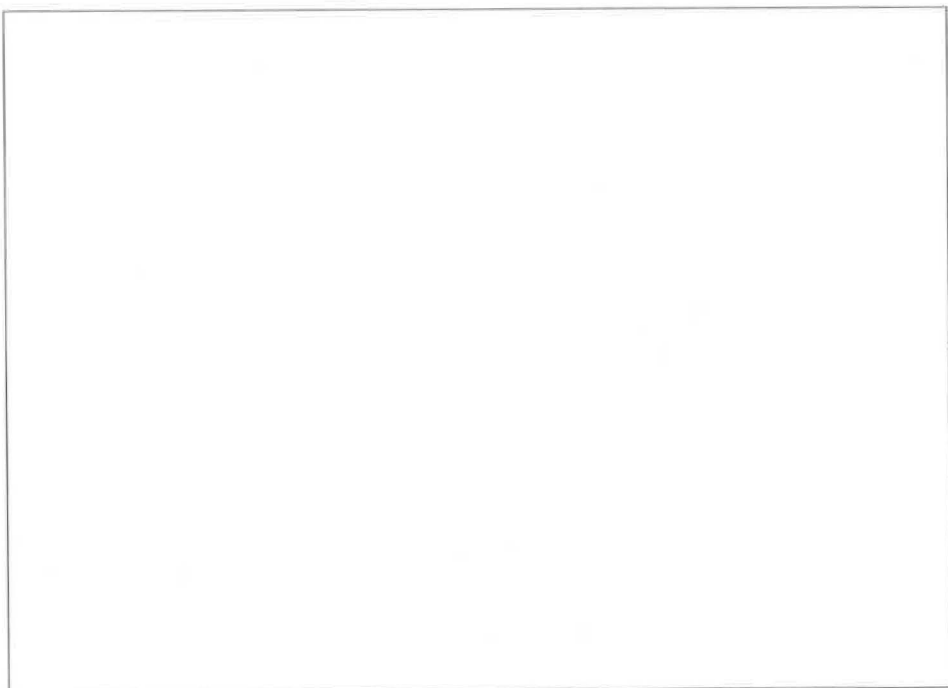
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IN THE EAST, THE GUERRILLAS MAY BE PLANNING TO ATTACK THE
CITIES OF SAN MIGUEL AND SANTA ROSA DE LIMA. THE ARMY WOULD BE HARD
PRESSED TO COUNTER GUERRILLA THRUSTS IN THE EAST AND WEST
SIMULTANEOUSLY. (S NF)

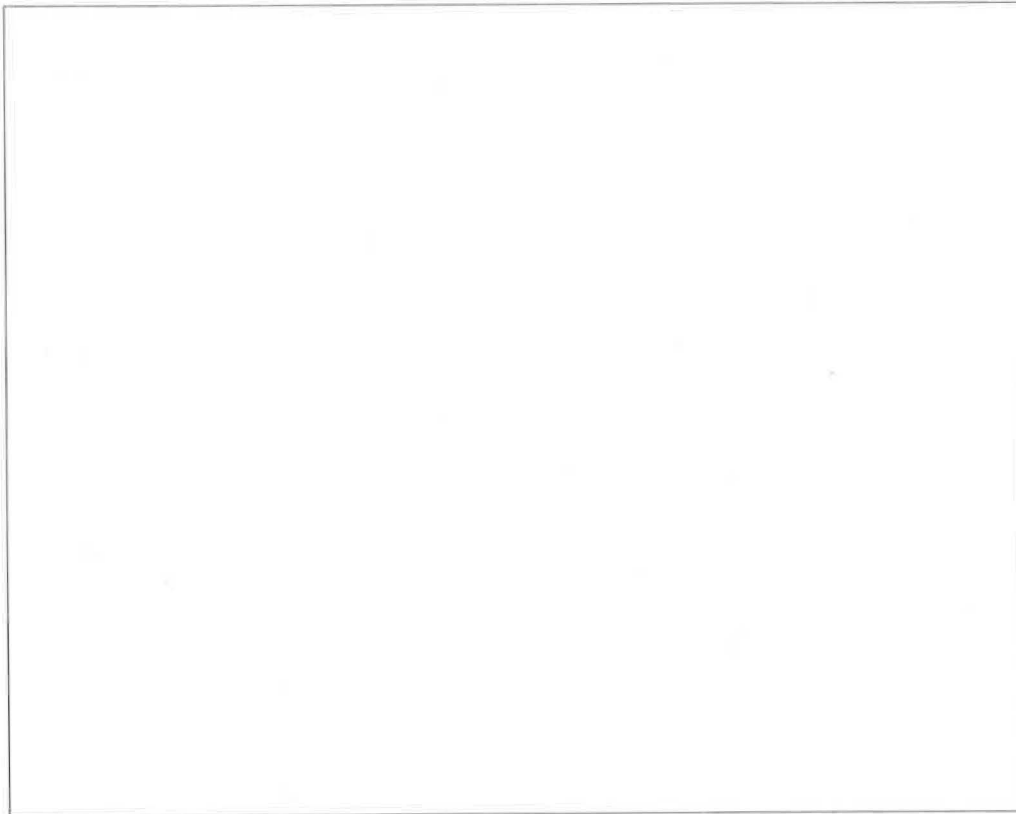
OCHOA IS TAINTED BY HIS ULTRARIGHTIST PAST AND HIS ROLE IN THE
MUTINY EARLY LAST YEAR THAT LED TO THE OUSTER OF THEN - DEFENSE
MINISTER GARCIA. THE HIGH COMMAND AND PRESIDENT DUARTE, HOWEVER,
APPARENTLY ARE WILLING TO RISK OCHOA'S RETURN BECAUSE OF THE
OVERRIDING NEED FOR AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP IN CHALATANANGO SINCE THE
BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS WAS OVERRUN LATE LAST YEAR. (C NF) []

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