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Document: CIAA -0000 353200 Subject: BELIEF BY SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT ELEMENTS OF

THE OFFICER CORPS ARE PLANNING TO REMOVE HIM FROM OFFICE. C 15754CIAA 353200 MSR82-9643895 MIDE

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT, NPIC,  
ZEN/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
STAFF, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WWINTEL [redacted]

DIST: 11 OCTOBER 1982

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: BELIEF BY SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT ELEMENTS OF  
THE OFFICER CORPS ARE PLANNING TO REMOVE HIM FROM OFFICE.

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TEXT: 1. DURING THE WEEK OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1982, SALVADORAN  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) MET  
SEPARATELY WITH COLONEL ADOLFO ONECIFERO ((BLANDON)),  
MILITARY COMMANDER OF ZONE 2; COLONEL LEOPOLDO ((HERNANDEZ)),  
DIRECTOR OF THE MAESTRANZA (ARMORY AND WEAPONS REPAIR DEPOT);  
AND LTC. RICARDO ((CIENFUEGOS)), AIDE TO THE SALVADORAN  
CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA. GARCIA  
INFORMED THE OFFICERS THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF EFFORTS TO  
REMOVE HIM FROM THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE POST, BUT SAID  
THAT HE WAS CONFIDANT HE COULD SURVIVE A COUP ATTEMPT.

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2. GARCIA TOLD THE THREE OFFICERS THAT HE HAD INFORMATION IMPLICATING THEM IN COUP PLOTTING AND WANTED TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THEM WHETHER THIS WAS THE CASE. GARCIA STATED THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH THE OFFICERS AS A WARNING TO OTHERS IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO BELIEVED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE SUFFICIENT POWER TO OUST GARCIA. ADDITIONALLY, GARCIA TOLD CIENFUEGOS THAT HE WAS AWARE THE LATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSING GARCIA'S REMOVAL WITH FRIENDS OF FLORES LIMA.

3. ALL THREE OFFICERS DENIED THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED IN COUP PLOTTING AND REAFFIRMED THEIR LOYALTY TO THE ARMED FORCES AND THE HIGH COMMAND. ONE OF THE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, NOTED TO GARCIA THAT DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WAS OF SERIOUS PROPORTION AND URGED GARCIA TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DISSATISFACTION. GARCIA REPLIED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF CRITICISM BEING LEVELED AGAINST HIM WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO ABOUT IT.

[REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED] GARCIA HAS INDICATED IN THE PAST THAT HE WAS AWARE OF CRITICISM AGAINST HIS CONTINUED COMMAND BY VARIOUS OFFICERS. HE HAS ALSO PERSONALLY CONFRONTED SOME OF THESE CRITICS, INCLUDING LTC. SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT, AND LTC. JOSE DOMINGO ((MONTERROSA)), COMMANDER OF THE ATLCATL BATTALION. THIS IS, HOWEVER, THE FIRST INDICATION THAT COLONEL BLANDON MAY BE AMONG THE ANTI-GARCIA ACTIVISTS.

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

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