

Classified by: Unspecified
Derived from: Unspecified
Declassify on: MR, 20091130

(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION OF OFFICERS OF FOURTH BRIGADE TO IDEA OF CEASE FIRE WITH THE INSURGENTS

Central Intelligence Agency
30 November 1984

(b)(3) NatSecAct

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Doc Number: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) DIST: 30 NOVEMBER 1984~~

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION OF OFFICERS OF FOURTH BRIGADE TO IDEA OF CEASE FIRE WITH THE INSURGENTS

[REDACTED]

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BRIGADE COMMANDER LT. COL. SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ CALLED A MEETING OF FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS ON THE EVENING OF 15 NOVEMBER 1984. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AT A COMMANDERS MEETING EARLIER THAT DAY AT HIGH COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR, THERE HAD BEEN A DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY AND THE INSURGENTS. [REDACTED]

ALL BUT THREE OF THE COMMANDERS WERE OPPOSED TO A CEASE FIRE, AND THAT ONLY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, AND THE CHIEF OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS WERE FOR IT.

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2. [REDACTED] OCHOA ASKED HIS OFFICERS' OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF A CEASE FIRE. [REDACTED] ALL WERE AGREED THAT

A CEASE FIRE WOULD NOT BE GOOD BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE, RATHER THAN A DECREASE, IN INSURGENT VIOLENCE SINCE THE 15 OCTOBER TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INSURGENTS; THE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE TALKS BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED VIOLENCE; A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS

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DEVELOPED AMONG MANY MILITARY OFFICERS BECAUSE HE HAS NEVER MADE
A FULL REPORT TO THE MILITARY ON THE 15 OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS; AND
A CEASE FIRE WOULD ONLY HELP THE INSURGENTS TO REST AND PREPARE FOR
ANOTHER OFFENSIVE. [REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE OFFICERS OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE DID
NOT CONSIDER A COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR
AGREE TO A CEASE FIRE. FOR THEM, A CEASE FIRE IS UNTHINKABLE, AND
THUS IN THEIR VIEW IT WILL NOT COME ABOUT.)

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