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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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EL SALVADOR: Counterinsurgency Gains

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The unprecedented success of the counterinsurgency operation completed last week in San Vicente Department was due to new tactics and better leadership. The two-phase sweep operation inflicted substantial losses on the guerrillas, and the armed forces--in contrast to past practice--took 25 prisoners. The operation's success is largely the result of the planning and leadership of veteran commander Lieutenant Colonel Ochoa.

Comment: The campaign, which has received extensive local press coverage, is sure to raise military morale. The influence of Ochoa, a strong rightist known to favor changing the current military leadership, also will increase. Defense Minister Garcia and other senior officers will thus face the dilemma of supporting Ochoa's combat initiatives while seeking to limit his political maneuvering against them. (S) -CIA, DIA, NSA-

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