

APPROVED FOR
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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: PRESIDENT DUARTE'S DESIRE TO HOLD IMPENDING SENIOR OFFICER CHANGES TO A MINIMUM**

Central Intelligence Agency
22 December 1985

Doc Number [redacted] (b)(3) NatSecAct

SOURCE [redacted]

~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ DIST: 22 DECEMBER 1985

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

(b)(1)
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SUBJ: PRESIDENT DUARTE'S DESIRE TO HOLD IMPENDING SENIOR OFFICER CHANGES TO A MINIMUM

DOI: [redacted]

SOURCE: [redacted]

TEXT: 1. AS OF MID-DECEMBER 1985, SALVADORAN PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) HAD INFORMED THE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND OF HIS DESIRE TO HOLD SENIOR OFFICER TRANSFERS TO A MINIMUM IN THE UPCOMING END-OF-YEAR TRADITIONAL TRANSFER CYCLE. DUARTE EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST COUPLE OF MONTHS IN 1986 ARE EXPECTED TO BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. HE CITED THE PLANNED IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC REFORMS IN JANUARY AND POSSIBLE INCREASED LABOR UNION AGITATION EARLY IN 1986 AS REASONS FOR NEEDING "EXTRA STABILITY" IN THE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS PERIOD. DUARTE STATED THAT TOO MANY SENIOR CHANGES IN THE MILITARY AND PUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE COMMANDS COULD LEAD TO UNWANTED UNCERTAINTIES IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, BY LATE FEBRUARY OR MARCH, INTERNAL CONDITIONS COULD HAVE SETTLED ENOUGH TO PERMIT CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENTS THAN HE INITIALLY INTENDED TO EFFECT ON 1 JANUARY.

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2. [redacted] COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DELAY SENIOR CHANGES IN THE ARMED FORCES COULD AGAIN BE REVISED BEFORE THE 1 JANUARY OFFICER TRANSFER LIST IS PUBLISHED. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, HOWEVER, EVEN THOSE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAD EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED

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ON 1 JANUARY--SUCH AS COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF THE 4TH BRIGADE, AND COLONEL OSCAR ((CASANOVA)) VEJAR, COMMANDER OF THE 2ND BRIGADE--WILL BE STAYING WITH THEIR UNITS AT LEAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS MORE. THE ONLY SENIOR ARMY TRANSFER THAT IS "SURE" AT THE MOMENT IS THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY DETACHMENT 7 IN AHUACHAPAN, COLONEL CARLOS ANDRES ((ARAUJO)) AGUIRRE, WHO WILL BE MOVING TO THE ARMED FORCES JOINT GENERAL STAFF AS THE NEW CHIEF OF LOGISTICS (C-IV), PERMITTING THE INCUMBENT, COLONEL AUGUSTO CANDELARIO ((MARAVILLA)) REYES, TO GO TO CHILE AS MILITARY ATTACHE.)



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