

~~SECRET//NC/CIA-IUO//ORCON//NOFORN//MR~~

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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: MILITARY ZONE FOUR COMMANDER OCHOA'S
ASSESSMENT OF THE [REDACTED] MEETING BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN HIGH
COMMAND AND SALVADORAN MILITARY COMMANDERS**

Central Intelligence Agency

16 October 1985

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

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DOI: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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TEXT: 1. COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF
MILITARY ZONE FOUR AND THE FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE, CALLED A
MEETING OF ALL FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS
[REDACTED] TO BRIEF THEM ON THE MEETING
BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN HIGH COMMAND AND THE SALVADORAN MILITARY
COMMANDERS HELD EARLIER THAT DAY IN SAN SALVADOR. OCHOA TOLD
HIS OFFICERS THAT ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN
THE DOCUMENT SIGNED BY FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS CRITICIZING
THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS HANDLING THE KIDNAPPING OF
PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE))'S DAUGHTER.

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2. OCHOA PRAISED THE WAY THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND
PUBLIC SECURITY GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA
HANDLED THE SUBJECT OF THE DOCUMENT. OCHOA SAID THAT THE
SENTIMENTS AND INTENTIONS EXPRESSED IN THE DOCUMENT WERE WELL
RECEIVED AND UNDERSTOOD BY VIDES. OCHOA STATED THAT THE
DOCUMENT HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND THAT VIDES AND CHIEF OF
THE ARMED FORCES JOINT GENERAL STAFF (EMCFA) GENERAL ADOLFO
ONECIFERO ((BLANDON)) WOULD VISIT THE FOURTH BRIGADE [REDACTED]

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[redacted] TO EXPLAIN TO THE OFFICERS THE GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION IN THE KIDNAPPING CASE.

3. ACCORDING TO OCHOA, THE ONLY SENIOR OFFICERS WHO
OPENLY CRITICIZED THE ACTION TAKEN BY OCHOA AND HIS OFFICERS
WERE NAVY COMMANDER LT. COLONEL HUMBERTO P. ((VILLALTA)),
THIRD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMMANDER LT. COLONEL MIGUEL ANTONIO
((MENDEZ)), AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC SECURITY
COLONEL CARLOS REYNALDO ((LOPEZ)) NUILA. THE ONLY OFFICER TO
SUPPORT OCHOA'S POSITION OPENLY WAS COLONEL JESUS GABRIEL
((CONTRERAS)), DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL
INTELLIGENCE.

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4. OCHOA INDICATED THAT HE CONSIDERED THE HIGH COMMAND'S
REACTION TO THE DOCUMENT AS A VINDICATION OF HIS STANCE. HE
CONSEQUENTLY HAS DECIDED AGAINST REQUESTING A TRANSFER AND HAS
WITHDRAWN A REQUEST HE SUBMITTED FOR EARLY RETIREMENT.

5. FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED RELIEF
AT THE HIGH COMMAND'S REACTION TO THEIR DOCUMENT. MANY FEARED
THAT THEY MIGHT BE FORCED TO RESIGN THEIR COMMISSIONS OVER THE
INCIDENT. THEY NOW FEEL THAT THEY HAVE BEEN VINDICATED.

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PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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