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COMMENTS ON REF

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1. LTC OCHOA PEREZ IS STILL IN SAN SALVADOR (HE HAD DINNER WITH ARMA 26 JANUARY) AND IS SCHEDULED DEPART FOR WDC NEXT WEEK.

2. ALTHOUGH OCHOA ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY IN THE MILITARY AS ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE SALVADORAN TROOP COMMANDERS, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT HE COULD BECOME THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, OVER THE SHORT TERM. THEY KEY MILITARY COMMANDERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO FAVOR THE REMOVAL OF THE MIDNDEF, ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT OCHOA WAS WRONG IN REBELLING AGAINST THE MOD'S ORDERS, AN ACT WHICH DETRACTED FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINE OF THE ARMED FORCES.

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