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Director of
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National Intelligence Daily

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*Saturday
5 February 1983*

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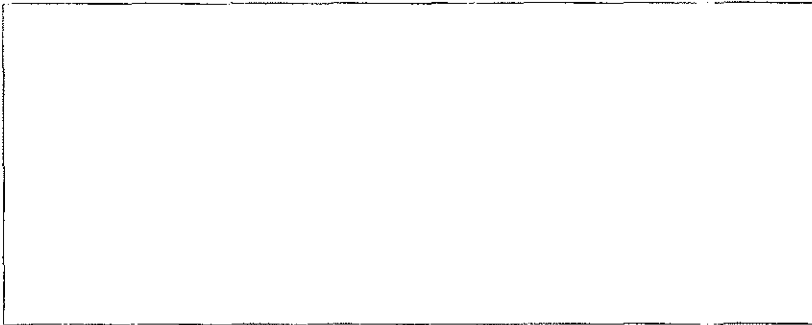
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EL SALVADOR: New Power Struggle

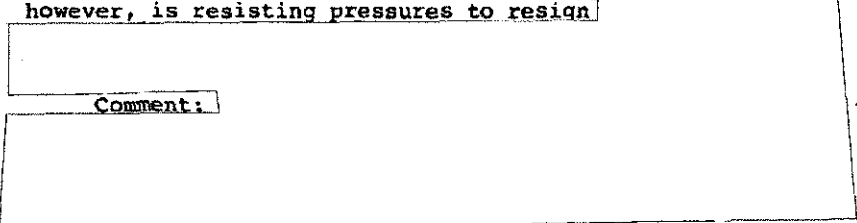


Moderate forces backed by President Magana and Defense Minister Garcia recently succeeded in reducing the power that D'Aubuisson and his party wield in the government. At the same time, the continuing insurgent threat has strengthened the position of D'Aubuisson's loyalists in the military. [redacted] these supporters dislike the reform process and dependency on US aid and want to pursue a more aggressive war strategy. (S)

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D'Aubuisson has told the US Embassy that a decision to replace Defense Minister Garcia must be made "within days" because Army morale is low and slipping. Garcia, however, is resisting pressures to resign [redacted]

Comment:



Garcia is stonewalling pressure to resign, and it is unclear whether he can be pushed into doing so by the opposition of the apparently overwhelming majority of his fellow officers. The military would be likely to replace him with one of several center-right pragmatists. The leading candidate would be Vides Casanova, who probably would be charged with rallying the officer corps and cooperating with the civilian government. (S) -CIA,

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