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Document [redacted] Subject: ENCOUNTER WITH SALVADORAN LTC SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ
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TO: DIRECTOR [redacted]

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ENCOUNTER WITH SALVADORAN LTC SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ

REF: DIRECTOR 483036

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1. ON 8 APRIL 1988 OFFICER [redacted] MET AND ENGAGED
IN CONVERSATION SALVADORAN ARMY LTC SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ AT
A PARTY GIVEN BY [redacted]

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[redacted] THE GALA INCLUDED OFFICERS FROM ALL IBERO-AMERICAN
COUNTRIES, THUS [redacted] ENCOUNTER WAS ONE OF MANY OCCURRING
DURING THE EVENING. OCHOA PROVED TO BE A GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST,
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE U.S., WORKING ON IMPROVING
HIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. HE PROVIDED SOME BACKGROUND ON
HIS LIFE WHICH MIGHT REFLECT WHAT HE IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO
THOSE INDIVIDUALS HE MEETS HERE.

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2. OCHOA STATED HE WAS BORN IN A SMALL TOWN IN THE INTERIOR
OF EL SALVADOR AND WHILE VERY YOUNG DECIDED HE WANTED TO BE A
MILITARY OFFICER. HE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD STUDENT, FINISHING FIRST
IN HIS PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE MILITARY ACADEMY
AND AGAIN FINISHED FIRST IN HIS CLASS. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER
OF POSTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND UNDERSTANDS THE PEOPLE WELL.
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS,
STEMMING FROM HIS EARLY VILLAGE LIFE. HOWEVER, HIS ADVOCACY OF
BETTER TREATMENT FOR SALVADORAN SOLDIERS AND THE GENERAL POPULATION
CONSTANTLY CREATED DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS SUPERIORS.
HE HAS BEEN EXILED SEVERAL TIMES DURING HIS CAREER DUE TO HIS
CRITICISM OF THE SALVADORAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP. HE USED THESE
PERIODS TO IMPROVE HIS TECHNICAL AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AS WELL
AS DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS WHICH HE NOW FEELS USEFUL. HE POINTED OUT
HE IS A LTC IN SPITE OF, NOT BECAUSE OF, THE SYSTEM.

3. OCHOA STRESSED HIS SUCCESS IN PACIFYING THE DEPARTMENT OF
CABANAS, FOR WHICH HE WAS RESPONSIBLE PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO
THE U.S. OCHOA STATED HE BELIEVES WARFARE COMPRISES ONLY TWENTY
PERCENT OF THE TOTAL EFFORT AGAINST THE GUERRILLA. THERE MUST
ALSO BE AN EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PLAN WHICH
CAN DESTROY ANY SUPPORT THE GUERRILLA MIGHT ENGENDER. THIS WAS

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THE POLICY HE FOLLOWED DURING HIS TENURE. OCHOA BELIEVES THE SALVADORAN HIGH COMMAND, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) MEZA, IS INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS. HE IS PROUD OF HIS PAST OPPOSITION TO GARCIA.

4. OCHOA STRIKES ONE AS AN INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE AND COMPASSIONATE OFFICER WHO UNDERSTANDS THE NATURE OF THE TOTAL WAR WAGED BY THE GUERRILLAS. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO WAGE TOTAL WAR IN REVERSE; TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE; TO ELIMINATE INCAPABLE OFFICERS WHO NOW HAVE COMMANDS, AND TO HOLD FREE ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH HE IS STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY AND ANTICIPATES A RETURN TO EL SALVADOR, HE BELIEVES HE WILL REMAIN IN THE U.S. FOR SOME TIME. OCHOA'S FAMILY AND FURNITURE ARE HERE AND HE HAS PURCHASED A NEW AUTOMOBILE. PER



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