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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: MEETING OF ESAF COMMANDERS AND THE HIGH
COMMAND OVER CURRENT CRITICAL ISSUES**

Central Intelligence Agency

16 October 1985

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

SOURCE [redacted]

~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ DIST: 16 OCTOBER 1985

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: MEETING OF ESAF COMMANDERS AND THE HIGH COMMAND OVER

CURRENT CRITICAL ISSUES

DOI: [redacted]

SOURCE: [redacted]

TEXT: 1. [redacted] SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES (ESAF)

COMMANDERS MET WITH THE ESAF HIGH COMMAND TO DISCUSS THE STATUS

OF THE KIDNAPPING OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE))'S

DAUGHTER, A LETTER FROM THE FOURTH BRIGADE CRITICIZING THE

GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPPING, AND THE 10 OCTOBER

ATTACK ON THE NATIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER (CEMFA).

2. [redacted]

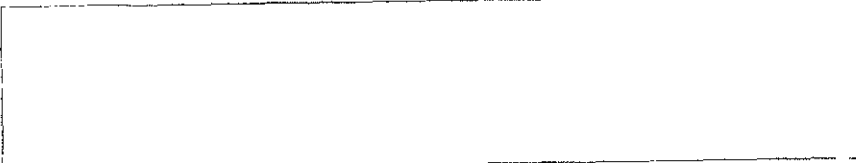
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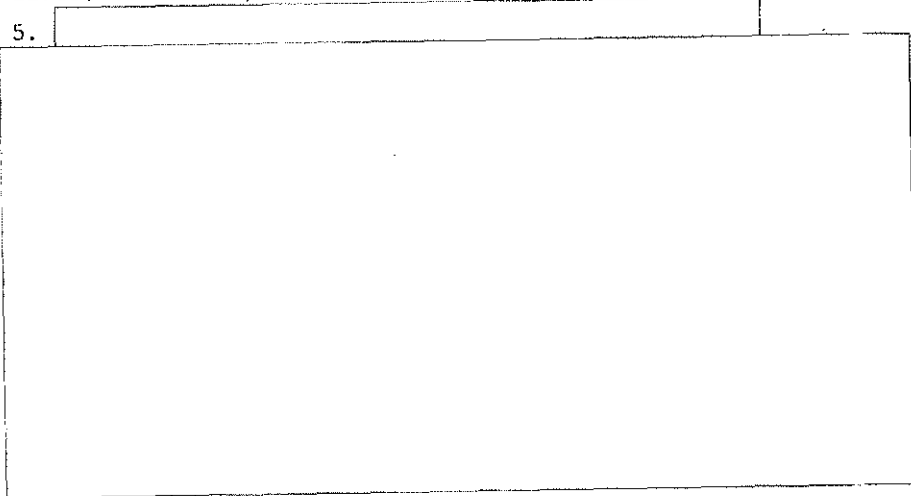
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3. IN SPEAKING ABOUT THE LETTER WHICH MILITARY ZONE FOUR COMMANDER COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ DELIVERED TO THE HIGH COMMAND ON 11 OCTOBER CONTAINING CRITICISM BY FOURTH BRIGADE OFFICERS CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPPING, VIDES EMPHASIZED THOSE ASPECTS OF THE LETTER WITH WHICH THE MILITARY AGREES. ALL THOSE PRESENT AT THE 14 OCTOBER MEETING AGREED THAT DUARTE'S HANDLING OF THE CASE COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO COMPROMISE NATIONAL SECURITY AND THAT THE KIDNAPPERS COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO HOLD THE COUNTRY HOSTAGE. VIDES RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO A SUGGESTION THAT A SIMILAR MEETING BE HELD WITH OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF MAJOR AND BELOW IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE PERCEIVED DISCONTENT OF THESE OFFICERS OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN THE CASE. VIDES DID NOT, HOWEVER, DISCUSS CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF THE LETTER WHICH WOULD HAVE CREATED DEBATE AND POSSIBLE DISSENSION AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

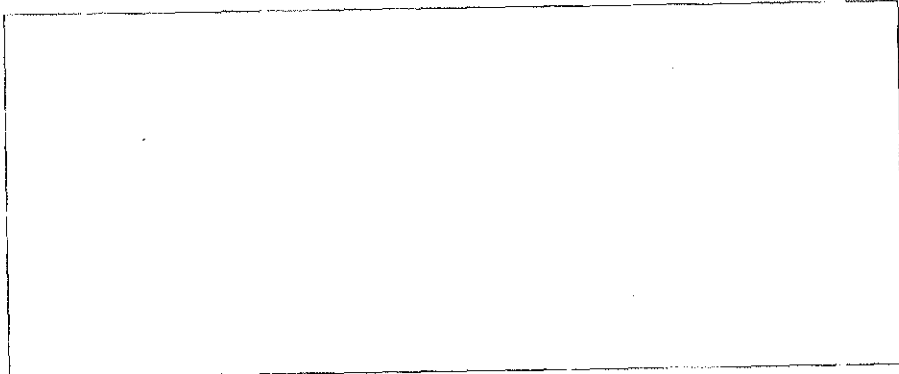
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4. MOST OF THE COMMANDERS AT THE 14 OCTOBER MEETING WHO EXPRESSED AN OPINION ABOUT THE LETTER SAID THAT THEY AGREED WITH THE MAJORITY OF POINTS IT CONTAINED BUT DISAGREED WITH OCHOA'S METHOD OF EXPRESSING HIS AND HIS OFFICERS' DISCONTENT. ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS POINTED OUT DURING THE MEETING, HOWEVER, THAT SOME COMMANDERS PRESENT BELIEVED THEY WERE EXPRESSING THE OPINIONS OF OFFICERS UNDER THEIR COMMAND BUT IN REALITY DID NOT KNOW THEIR SUBORDINATES' OPINIONS CONCERNING THE KIDNAPPING OR THE LETTER. A SUGGESTION WAS CONSEQUENTLY MADE THAT THE COMMANDERS POLL THEIR OFFICERS ON THE ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING.



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