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Document: CIAA -0000 474811 Subject: AGREEMENT BY THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHOULD LEAVE

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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,
USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WNINTEL ☐

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BY THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHOULD LEAVE OFFICE

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TEXT: 1. SHORTLY BEFORE THE CEREMONY ON 16 FEBRUARY 1983 IN WHICH COL. FLORES LIME WAS SWORN IN BY PRESIDENT MAGANA AS VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR FLORES LIME'S PERSONAL OPINION OF GENERAL GARCIA. WHILE FLOARES LIME CREDITED

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GARCIA WITH SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR HIS PERFORMANCE IN OTHER AREAS, FLORES LIMA'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF GARCIA WAS DEROGATORY.

2. FLORES LIMA STRESSED THAT GARCIA DOES NOT PROPERLY DELEGATE AUTHORITY. FLORES LIMA NOTED THAT, IN HIS PREVIOUS POSITION AS CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, HE HAD NO COMMAND AUTHORITY OVER THE SECURITY SERVICES (THE NATIONAL POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD AND TREASURY POLICE), EACH OF WHICH CONTINUES TO ANSWER DIRECTLY TO GARCIA. FLORES LIMA COMPLAINED THAT WITHIN THE ARMY, GARCIA HAD CURTAILED HIS AUTHORITY AND THEREBY SERIOUSLY LIMITED FLORES LIMA'S EFFECTIVENESS IN MANY AREAS. AS ONE EXAMPLE, FLORES LIMA SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE INEFFECTIVE COMMANDERS BUT WAS PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY GARCIA WHO WANTED TO HELP HIS LOYAL SUPPORTERS IN KEY POSITIONS. THESE AND OTHER DEFECTS IN GARCIA'S LEADERSHIP HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED OPPOSITION TO GARCIA, WHICH FLORES LIMA SAID WAS MANIFESTED IN THE EARLY JANUARY REBELLION AGAINST GARCIA BY LTC. SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ AND HIS UNIT IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT.

3. PRESIDENT MAGANA AGREED WITH FLORES LIMA THAT GENERAL GARCIA DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN AND IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO FORTIFY HIS POSITION IN THE ARMED FORCES. FURTHER, FLORES LIMA SAID HE CONSIDERED THAT GARCIA HARBORED PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION FROM MAGANA, FLORES LIMA SAID HE BELIEVED GARCIA WAS A DIVISIVE FORCE IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND SHOULD RETIRE. PRESIDENT MAGANA SAID HE AGREED BUT WAS UNCERTAIN HOW TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM OF GARCIA'S REMOVAL.

4. AT FLORES LIMA'S SUGGESTION, MAGANA AGREED THAT HE WOULD WAIT UNTIL THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH FOR THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN PROBLEM AREAS IN THE ARMED FORCES, CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY A COMMISSION OF SIX SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS. MAGANA WOULD THEN ENDORSE THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, WHICH FLORES LIMA CONSIDERS WILL VERY LIKELY INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER STEPS DOWN.

5. [REDACTED]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE --

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-DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION

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