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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

NIACT DIRECTOR.

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SUBJECT: ESTIMATE OF POLITICAL SITUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESERVE NATIONAL POLICY EQUITIES

REFS: A. DIRECTOR 460755 *
B. DIRECTOR 460761 **

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1. AS OF 0245 HRS LOCAL WE HAVE NO COUP PLOTTING INFO IN ADDITION TO REFS. FOLLOWING MEET AT 1730 3 FEB WITH [redacted] DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND BRIEFED HIM ON CONTENTS OF REFS C AND D. WE WILL CLOSELY MONITOR ATTITUDES AND INTENTIONS IN ARMED FORCES VIA KEY [redacted] AND ADVISE.

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2. ALTHOUGH AMB HAS NOT YET ADVISED HIS PLAN OF ACTION TO DISCOURAGE POSSIBLE PRECIPITIOUS MOVE BY MILITARY OFFICERS AND RIGHTIST CIVILIANS AGAINST GOVERNMENT, BELIEVE BEST ACTION AT THIS POINT CENTERS ON CONVEYING TO PRINCIPAL PLAYERS, INCLUDING ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON AND HIS ARENA ASSOCIATES, PARA 1 REF B MESSAGE THAT [redacted] SUPPORT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IF FORCE IS USED TO RESHAPE GOVERNMENT. WE CAN ALSO INSURE APPROPRIATE [redacted] IN MILITARY ARE SO ADVISED INCLUDING [redacted] AND [redacted] WE WILL ENCOURAGE GEN. VIDES-CASSANGVA TO CONTINUE TO REASON WITH RIGHTIST PLOTTERS AND REFUSE TO SUPPORT THEIR PLANS.

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3. OPPOSITION TO GARCIA AND I CONCERN THAT HE WILL NOT LEAVE OFFICE OVER THE NEAR TERM AS HE AGREED DURING THE OCHOA REBELLION, IS A KEY FACTOR MOTIVATING BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN RIGHTIST-ARENA ACTIVISTS. DESPITE HIS VALUE AS A CHECK AGAINST ARENA INFILTRATION AND INFLUENCE IN MILITARY, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE GARCIA TO STEP DOWN, TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WHICH COULD ALSO BE DIRECTED AGAINST PRES. MAGANA WHO IS SEEN AS

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SUPPORTIVE OF GARCIA. BELIEVE [REDACTED] LEADING ROLE AGAINST GARCIA IS FUELED BY AMBITION AND A DESIRE TO REPLACE GARCIA AS MOD. AS WE HAVE NOTED, GARCIA'S INSISTANCE THAT [REDACTED] TAKE THE SUB SECRETARY OF DEFENSE POSITION, INDICATES HE IS ATTEMPTING TO REINFORCE HIS POSITION WITH THE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT. AT OUR RECOMMENDATION [REDACTED] WILL MEET GARCIA ON 4 FEB IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT FROM HIM AN EXPLANATION OF HIS STRATEGY AND INTENTIONS. WE EXPECT TO MEET WITH [REDACTED] SHORTLY AFTER HIS SESSION WITH GARCIA AND WILL ADVISE. [REDACTED]

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**PROVIDED GUIDANCE AGREED UPON WITH AMB. HINTON FOR PASSAGE TO KEY SALVADORIAN PLAYERS RE COUP PLOTTING IN SALVADOR.

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** [REDACTED] RE APPROACH TO GENERAL VIDES CASANOVA BY RIGHT WING COUP PLOTTERS. GROUP ASKED GEN VIDES TO LEAD THE PROPOSED COUP, VIDES REFUSED.

**** SALVADORIAN ARMY OFFICER LTC. SIGFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A COUP. [REDACTED]

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