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Document: CIAA -0000 305552 Subject: UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT BY SALVADORAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO REPLACE THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND

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TO: PRIORITY DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT, ZEN/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS, USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WNINTEL [Redacted]

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT BY SALVADORAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO REPLACE THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND

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SUMMARY. ON 2 AUGUST 1982, SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO REPLACE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND. GARCIA BECAME AWARE OF THIS EFFORT, CONFRONTED SOME OF THE LEADERS AND PROMPTLY DEFUSED THE ATTEMPT. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GROUP INCLUDED ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON, COLONEL JOSE DOMINGO ((MONTERROSA)) BARRIOS AND NICOLAS ((CARRANZA)), LIEUTENANT COLONELS SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) AND MIGUEL ANTONIO ((MENDEZ)). SOME OF THESE LEADERS ASKED LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIO AGUSTIN ((TRUJILO)) IN LATE JULY

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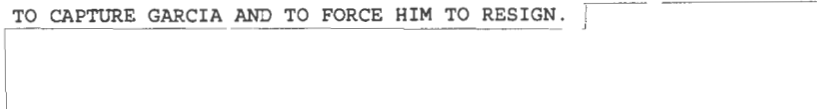
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TO HELP LEAD A MOVE AGAINST GARCIA AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND BUT TRUJILLO REFUSED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE EVENING OF 2 AUGUST 1982, A SMALL GROUP OF RETIRED AND ACTIVE DUTY SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SOLDIERS FROM SEVERAL MILITARY UNITS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO REPLACE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND, INCLUDING COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, AND GENERAL CARLOS ((VIDES)) CASANOVA, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD. PERSONNEL FROM THE ATLCATL BATTALION WERE TO LEAD AN ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE GARCIA AND TO FORCE HIM TO RESIGN.



2. THE GROUP'S INTENTIONS WERE DISCOVERED BY GENERAL GARCIA WHO PROMPTLY CONFRONTED SOME OF THE LEADERS INCLUDING

COLONEL JOSE DOMINGO ((MONTERROSA)) BARRIOS, COMMANDER OF THE ATLCATL BATTALION. GARCIA WARNED THE OFFICERS AGAINST CONTINUING THEIR ACTIVITY AND MADE THE POINT THAT THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES (THE NATIONAL GUARD, NATIONAL POLICE AND TREASURY POLICE) SUPPORT HIM AND HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY COUNTER ANY MOVE BY THE GROUP. AS A RESULT, MONTERROSA AND THE OTHER LEADERS DECIDED AGAINST ANY FURTHER EFFORTS AGAINST GARCIA AND THE HIGH COMMAND FOR THE PRESENT TIME.

3. OTHER LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT INCLUDED ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; COLONEL NICOLAS ((CARRANZA)), PRESIDENT OF THE STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY; LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT; LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIGUEL ANTONIO ((MENDEZ)), COMMANDER OF THE RAMON BELLOSO BATTALION; CAPTAIN FNU ((RENDON)) YUDICE AND CAPTAIN FNU ((AZMITIA)). THE TROOPS INVOLVED WERE FROM THE RAMON BELLOSO.

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ATLACATL AND ATONAL BATTALIONS, THE CAVALRY REGIMENT AND OTHER UNIDENTIFIED UNITS. [] A MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY OBJECT TO THE LEADERSHIP UNDER GARCIA AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM REPLACED.)

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4. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EFFORT STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH HOW GARCIA AND THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND ARE CONDUCTING THE WAR. THEY ACCUSE GARCIA OF NOT MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE INSURGENTS. IN THEIR OPINION, MORALE THROUGHOUT THE ARMY IS PRESENTLY AT ITS LOWEST EVER. AFTER THE 2 AUGUST ATTEMPT, NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR LOPEZ ((MARAVAR)) COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT ANY FUTURE ACTIONS TO REPLACE GARCIA AND THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

5. DURING A LATE JULY 1982 MEETING IN SAN SALVADOR, D'AUBUISSON, MONTERROSA, OCHOA AND MAJOR DENIS ((MORAN)), A SALVADORAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN CHIE, ASKED LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIO AGUSTIN ((TRUJILLO)), WHO IS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO ARGENTINA AS A MILITARY ATTACHE, TO HELP LEAD AN EFFORT TO REPLACE GARCIA, VIDES CASANOVA AND FLORES LIMA. TRUJILLO SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED AND SUGGESTED THAT D'AUBUISSON USE HIS POSITION IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO SEEK GARCIA'S REMOVAL.

6. IN A SEPARATE, PRIVATE MEETING, D'AUBUISSON PERSONALLY ASKED TRUJILLO TO LEAD A MOVEMENT AGAINST GARCIA BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT GARCIA WAS NOT SINCERE IN TRYING TO DEFEAT THE INSURGENTS. TRUJILLO AGAIN REFUSED.

7. [] WHILE THERE EXISTS SOME DISSENSION WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES AND DISSATISFACTION AMONG SOME OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TOWARDS THE HIGH COMMAND, PARTICULARLY GARCIA, THE ELEMENT WHICH WOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUCH A MOVEMENT IS RELATIVELY SMALL. GARCIA STILL MAINTAINS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE ARMY AND SECURITY SERVICES. HOWEVER, DISSATISFACTION SEEMS TO BE INCREASING, IN WHICH CASE IT COULD EVENTUALLY PROVOKE A MORE FORCEFUL MOVE AGAINST GARCIA AND POSSIBLY FLORES LIMA.)

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

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[] DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR. DECL: [] RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER.

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ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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