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Document: [redacted] Subject: BELIEF BY LEADER OF NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA)  
PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORDERED  
KIDNAPPING OF A MEMBER OF THAT UNIT; ARENA INVESTIGATION  
INTO THE INCIDENTC [redacted]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: BELIEF BY LEADER OF NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORDERED KIDNAPPING OF A MEMBER OF THAT UNIT; ARENA INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT

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TEXT: 1. DOCTOR ANTONIO HECTOR ((REGALADO)) CUELLAR, LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE'S (ARENA) CLANDESTINE PARAMILITARY UNIT AND CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IS CONVINCED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 22 MARCH KIDNAPPING OF PATRICIA ((MARTINO)), REGALADO'S PERSONAL SECRETARY AND A MEMBER OF THE PARAMILITARY UNIT. ON 29 MARCH, REGALADO CONFIDED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNIT THAT A SOURCE INSIDE THE ARMED FORCES HAD ADVISED HIM THAT MARTINO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED FROM HER VEHICLE BY ELEMENTS OF THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES ON ORDERS FROM GARCIA. REGALADO FURTHER NOTED THAT HIS ARMED FORCES SOURCE CLAIMED THAT MARTINO WAS BEING HELD AT AN ARMED FORCES CLANDESTINE PRISON LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN SAN SALVADOR.

2. REGALADO, SPEAKING IN HIS OFFICE IN THE SALVADORAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING, STATED THAT HE BELIEVED GARCIA'S ACTION WAS PROMPTED BY ARENA LINKS WITH OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO FAVORED GARCIA'S REMOVAL AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. ACCORDING TO REGALADO, ARENA PRESIDENT ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)) IS PERSONALLY

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CLOSE TO THREE RANKING ANTI-GARCIA OFFICERS. THESE OFFICERS ARE COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.; COLONEL ADOLFO ((BLANDON)), COMMANDER OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE, AND COLONEL JUAN RAFARL ((BUSTILLO)), COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE. REGALADO SAID THAT HE HAD ADVISED BLANDON AND BUSTILLO OF MARTINO'S ABDUCTION AND STATED THAT BOTH OFFICERS HAD OFFERED TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHERE MARTINO IS BEING HELD. REGALADO BELIEVES THAT GARCIA INTENDS TO HAVE MARTINO INTERROGATED. IF THIS OCCURS, HE IS AFRAID THAT SHE WILL REVEAL ARENA COMPLICITY IN VARIOUS ASSASSINATIONS TO WHICH SHE IS PRIVY.

3. REGALADO ADVISED HIS PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT LOCATING MARTINO WAS THEIR CURRENT TOP PRIOTIY. TO THIS END, REGALADO WAS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPILING PHOTOGRAPHS OF MARTINO TO BE USED IN INQUIRIES AS TO HERE WHEREABOUTS. ON 29 MARCH, REGALADO TELEPHONED THE U.S. EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PHOTOGRAPH USED ON MARTINO'S U.S. VISA APPLICATION. IN ADDITION TO THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARAMILITARY UNIT, REGALADO ALSO ACQUIRED THE ASSISTANCE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARISTIDES ((MARQUEZ)), CHIEF OF THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. IN A SEPERATE ACTION, REGALADO DISPATCHED ARENA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ASK THE COMMISSION'S ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING MARTINO.

4. IN ADDITION TO HIS CONCERN OVER MARTINO'S ABDUCTION, REGALADO IS FEARFUL THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE MAY ORDER A KIDNAPPING OR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST REGLADO. AS A RESULT, REGALADO VIRTUALLY LIVES IN HIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES, SLEEPING ON A COUCH. AS OF 29 MARCH, REGALADO MAINTAINED AN EIGHT-MAN SECURITY FORCES AT THE ASSEMBLY HEADQUARTERS FOR HIS PERSONAL PROTECTION. [REDACTED] REGALADO'S HEALTH HAS VISIBLY DECLINED SINCE MARTINO'S DISAPPEARANCE AND HE HAS ALTERNATED BETWEEN BOUTS OF DEPRESSIONAND FITS OF RAGE DIRECTED AGAINST GENERAL GARCIA.)

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

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DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION

OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

DECL: [REDACTED] RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER.

ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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