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Document: CIAA -0000 377727 Subject: MEASURES BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF ARMY
OFFICERS WHO OPPOSE THEM. C 10636CIAA 377727 MSP82-9827527

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TO: PRIORITY DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, ZEN/WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WNINTEL []

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
SUBJ: MEASURES BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF ARMY
OFFICERS WHO OPPOSE THEM.

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TEXT: 1. GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, AND COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, CONTINUE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO UNDER-
CUT THE INFLUENCE OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY FOSTERING
CRITICISM OF THEM WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND AMONG RIGHTIST
POLITICAL ELEMENTS.

2. THE RECENT ASSIGNMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONE

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SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ TO THE GENERAL STAFF TO ASSIST IN PLANNING A NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY WAS A PRETEXT TO ALLOW GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTROL OCHOA MORE CLOSELY AND TO INFLUENCE HIM. IN THE HOPE THAT HE WILL BECOME MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF COMMAND AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, FLORES LIMA HAD BEEN MEETING REGULARLY WITH OCHOA, WHOM GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA CONSIDER TO BE THE MILITARY COMMANDER MOST ACTIVELY PROMOTING THEIR REMOVAL.

3. ADDITIONALLY, ON 3 OR 4 NOVEMBER, GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA INTENDED TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA)) IN AN EFFORT TO REPLACE COLONEL NICOLAS ((CARANZA)), DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCY (ANTEL), WITH COLONEL JULIO CESAR ((GOMEZ)), CURRENTLY THE CHIEF OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. GARCIA AND

FLORES LIMA CONSIDER THAT CARANZA, A CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA), IS THEIR MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT IN THE ARMED FORCES AND THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE INFLUENTIAL ANTEL POSITION WHICH ALLOWS HIM TO MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN, CARANZA WOULD BE ASSIGNED AS DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ELECTRICAL ENTERPRISE (CEL) WHICH GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA CONSIDER TO BE A LESS SENSITIVE POSITION.

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

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ORIG/REL: [Redacted]

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