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Document [redacted] Subject: COMMENT ON (b)(1) NatSecAct REPORT 18849 [redacted]

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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR [redacted]

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1. FROM A SALVADORAN STANDPOINT, THE DISSEMINATION OF REF B IS IMPORTANT IN TWO RESPECTS.

2. FIRST, IT SHOWS THAT SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS ARE NOT UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATING A SOLUTION TO THE BORDER DISPUTE; THE FACT THAT COLONEL SIGIFERDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ WAS WILLING TO CALL HIS OFFICERS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT AS OCHOA IS EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE AND HAS PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PRECIPITOUS INDEPENDENT ACTION WHEN HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT (SUCH AS WHEN HE CALLED HIS SOLDIERS BACK TO THE BARRACKS AND CLOSED OFF HIS CUARTEL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS IN 1983 WITH THE DEMAND THAT THE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE BE REPLACED).

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2. SECOND, REF B, TOGETHER WITH PREVIOUS [redacted] PROVIDES A FURTHER INDICATION OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE))'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FIND A CONSENSUS ON THE ISSUE AMONG VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS.

4. WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF REF A BEING INCLUDED IN REF B AS A [redacted] COMMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE INFORMATION IN REF B SHOULD BE SUPPRESSED.

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5. NO FILE. [redacted]

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END OF MESSAGE

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