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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: SALVADORAN MILITARY DISSATISFACTION WITH  
PRESIDENT DUARTE**

**Central Intelligence Agency**

**29 December 1984**

Doc Number: [REDACTED] (b)(3) NatSecAct

SOURCE: [REDACTED] (b)(1)  
(b)(3) NatSecAct

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DUPLICATE & CORRECTED FOR MISSING PORTION, PARA 2

DIST: 28 DEC 84

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: SALVADORAN MILITARY DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT

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DUARTE

DOI: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

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THERE IS A VERY SERIOUS CONCERN IN THE RANKS OF THE COLONELS  
IN THE SALVADORAN ARMY THAT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) HAS FAR  
EXCEEDED HIS POWERS AS PRESIDENT. [REDACTED]

DUARTE IS EXCESSIVELY INTERFERING IN THE EFFECTIVE RUNNING OF  
THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. HE JUDGED THAT THE COLONELS ARE MOST  
CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE WILL IN SOME WAY ATTEMPT TO  
TAMPER WITH THE NEW GENERAL ORDER FOR DECEMBER 1984 WHICH WOULD  
POSSIBLY PROMOTE SERVICE OFFICER AND VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
FOR PUBLIC SECURITY, COLONEL CARLOS REYNALDO ((LOPEZ)) NUILA, TO  
THE RANK OF GENERAL. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SALVADORAN MILITARY  
OFFICERS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES - SERVICE AND COMBAT.  
GENERALLY, SERVICE OFFICERS DO NOT HOLD COMBAT POSITIONS. THE

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CONSENSUS OF THE COMBAT OFFICERS IS THAT THESE OFFICERS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR PROMOTION TO GENERAL OFFICER GRADE.)

2. [REDACTED] MOST SALVADORAN COMBAT OFFICERS ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT IF PRESIDENT DUARTE ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE COLONEL LOPEZ NUILA SOME MOVE SHOULD BE MADE TO STOP THIS EFFORT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE COMBAT OFFICERS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF COLONEL BLANDON TO STOP EFFORTS OF THE PRESIDENT FROM TAMPERING WITH THE GENERAL ORDER BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS SUBJECT.)

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3. [REDACTED] GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAS TOLD THESE COMBAT OFFICERS THAT HE IS PLANNING TO RETIRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MOST COMBAT OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE IS PLANNING TO MOVE LOPEZ NUILA TO THIS POSITION IN ORDER TO GAIN FURTHER CONTROL OVER THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. THIS GROUP OF COMBAT OFFICERS FURTHER BELIEVES THAT THE VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, HAS LOST SUPPORT WITHIN THE MILITARY INSTITUTION AND HAS BEEN PLAYING POLITICS WITH THE PRESIDENT.

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4. THESE COMBAT OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED WAYS TO HANDLE PRESIDENT DUARTE'S INTERFERENCE IN THE MILITARY AND BELIEVE THAT THEIR PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN SOLVED IN VIEW OF THE RECENT VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE PRESIDENT WHERE HE TRIED TO TAMPER WITH THE ELECTORAL LAW. THESE OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR THE SUPREME COURT MAY SUCCEED IN IMPEACHNOING THE PRESIDENT OVER THIS ISSUE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
PRESIDENT.)

5. CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL BLANDON RECENTLY AGREED TO A REQUEST FROM THE COMBAT OFFICERS TO PERMIT THE RETURN OF COLONEL JULIO AUGUSTIN ((TRUJILLO)) FROM EXILE IN ARGENTINA. TRUJILLO HAD BEEN SERVING AS MILITARY ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES SINCE HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE OCTOBER 1982 - APRIL 1983 OFFICER REBELLION TO REMOVE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)). [REDACTED] COLONEL TRUJILLO; COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER AND LEADER OF THE OCTOBER 1982 REBELLION; COLONEL JULIO CESAR LOPEZ ((YANEZ)), BRIGADE COMMANDER IN USULATAN AND DM-1 COMMANDER COLONEL BENJAMIN ((RAMOS)) PLANNED TO MEET WITH OTHER COLONES TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE FUTURE OF TRUJILLO IN THE ARMED FORCES.

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