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~~(S//NC//CIA-IUO//OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: PLANS BY THE COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE TO REGAIN GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT**

Central Intelligence Agency
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Doc Number: [REDACTED] (b)(3) NatSecAct

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

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SUBJ: PLANS BY THE COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE TO REGAIN GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT

DOI: [REDACTED]

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROPOSAL WHICH LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE AT EL PARAISO, CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT, WILL MAKE TO PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR. COLONEL OCHOA ESTIMATES THAT THE NORTHERN 50 PERCENT OF THE DEPARTMENT IS HELD AND CONTROLLED BY INSURGENTS. THE PRINCIPAL SUBVERSIVE GROUP IN THE DEPARTMENT IS THE POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL) OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN). COLONEL OCHOA PROPOSES TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT BY A COMBINED MILITARY-POLITICAL-ECONOMIC PROGRAM DESIGNED TO WIN TERRITORY AND THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, COLONEL OCHOA WILL PROPOSE THE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL MILITARY FORCES IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER HIS DIRECT COMMAND.

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[REDACTED] COMMENT: CURRENTLY, THE COMMAND OF MILITARY FORCES IN THE DEPARTMENT IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER AND THE COMMANDER OF THE FIRST MILITARY DETACHMENT IN CHALATENANGO CITY. ALTHOUGH THE DETACHMENT IS UNDER THE

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JURISDICTION OF COLONEL OCHOA, THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF DETACHMENT ONE IS ALSO MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE DEPARTMENT. OCHOA BELIEVES THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE DEPARTMENT SO THAT, THERE COULD BE BETTER UTILIZATION OF MILITARY FORCES AND ONLY ONE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMAND STRUCTURE RATHER THAN THE CURRENT TWO. IN ADDITION, THE FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER SHOULD BE THE MILITARY OFFICER DEALING WITH THE DEPARTMENT GOVERNOR RATHER THAN THE COMMANDER OF A UNIT SUBORDINATE TO THE BRIGADE.)

2. UNDER HIS PROPOSAL, OCHOA WOULD BE PLACED ON A PAR WITH THE DEPARTMENT GOVERNOR WHO IS APPOINTED TO HIS POSITION BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR. WITH THE CONSOLIDATION OF MILITARY FORCES UNDER COLONEL OCHOA, HE WOULD HAVE MORE FORCES AT HIS DISPOSITION FOR OPERATIONS. HE WOULD BEGIN CONSTANT OPERATIONS TO LIBERATE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE SUBVERSIVES. AS AREAS ARE LIBERATED, THE COLONEL WOULD GO TO THE GOVERNOR AND ASK THAT MAYORS, TEACHERS, PUBLIC WORKS PERSONNEL, PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES BE SENT IN TO TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES. THE ARMY WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SECURITY WHILE CIVIL AUTHORITIES WOULD WORK TO REESTABLISH PUBLIC SERVICES AND GET THE ECONOMY MOVING. CURRENTLY, MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO POSITIONS IN AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE INSURGENTS ARE RESIDING IN CHALATENANGO CITY AND COLLECTING THEIR PAY.

3. COLONEL OCHOA PLANS TO TAKE HIS PROPOSAL DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT DUARTE BECAUSE HE IS CONCERNED THAT WERE IT TO GO THROUGH THE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND IT WOULD NEVER REACH THE PRESIDENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY WHO WILL BELIEVE THAT COLONEL OCHOA IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL BASE FOR HIMSELF, IN FACT, HE IS NOT. ALL OCHOA WANTS TO DO IS TO RETAKE CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT.)

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4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: WHILE OCHOA'S MOTIVES MAY BE AS SELFLESSLY MOTIVATED AS PRESENTED ABOVE, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HIS MOTIVE WILL BE WIDELY VIEWED AS SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT. WHEN HE PRESENTS HIS PROPOSAL TO THE PRESIDENT, THERE WILL BE MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, WHO REMEMBER THE TEMPEST OCHOA GENERATED AS THE COMMANDER IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT IN OCTOBER 1982 WHEN HE CHALLENGED THE GOVERNMENT AND FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)) TO RESIGN HIS OFFICE IN RETURN FOR OCHOA'S DEPARTING THE COUNTRY. STEPPING OUT OF CHANNELS TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT IS BOUND TO CAUSE

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OCHOA PROBLEMS WITH THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.]

[REDACTED]

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