

DISAGREES WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) IS HANDLING THE KIDNAPPING OF HIS DAUGHTER, INES GUADALUPE ((DUARTE)) DURAN. PONCE SAID THAT OCHOA HAS COMPLAINED TO THE EMCFA ABOUT ORDERS FORBIDDING MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN PART OF CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT. ACCORDING TO PONCE, OCHOA HAS STATED THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT THE IMPACT OF THIS "POLITICAL DECISION" ON THE MILITARY CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

2. PONCE SAID THAT OCHOA MET WITH CHIEF, EMCFA, GENERAL ADOLFO ONECIFERO ((BLANDON)) ON THE MORNING OF 11 OCTOBER; BLANDON ORDERED OCHOA TO STOP HIS OPEN COMPLAINING AND INCITING HIS OFFICERS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

3. PONCE COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE UNDERSTANDS THE OFFICER CORPS' FRUSTRATION OVER PRESIDENT DUARTE'S BEHAVIOR, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION WILL BECOME UNMANAGEABLE BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH AND RESPECT WHICH GENERAL BLANDON COMMANDS OVER THESE OFFICERS.

4. PONCE ALSO REMARKED THAT THE EMCFA HAS BEEN GIVEN APPROVAL TO PLAN AN ATTEMPT TO RESCUE INES DUARTE. PONCE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF A RESCUE OPERATION AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT HELP IN REGAINING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM DISGRUNTLED OFFICERS.

5. PONCE ADDED THAT GRUMBLING IS OCCURRING AMONG OTHER MILITARY CONTINGENTS BUT HAS NOT REACHED THE EXTENT OF THAT IN THE FOURTH BRIGADE. PONCE SAID THAT OCHOA'S FOLLOWERS ARE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY LIMITED TO THE OFFICERS OF HIS OWN BRIGADE. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT DISCONTENT IN OTHER BRIGADES, SUCH AS THE THIRD BRIGADE, IS NORMAL IN VIEW OF THE RIGHTIST POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF SOME OF THE OFFICERS IN THE EASTERN ZONE.



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12-Apr-2016

Document: [redacted] Subject: FRICTION WITHIN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY
HIGH COMMAND
OVER DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF INES DUARTE'S KIDNAPPING [redacted]

[redacted]

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TO: [redacted]

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SERIAL: [redacted]

PASS: [redacted]

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DIST: 12 OCTOBER 1985

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: FRICTION WITHIN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND
OVER DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF INES DUARTE'S KIDNAPPING

DOI: EARLY OCTOBER 1985

SOURCE: [redacted]

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AN EXACT RECORD OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

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TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES (ESAF) HIGH COMMAND IS ACUTELY CONCERNED OVER THE GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ESAF OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF OF THE KIDNAPPING OF INES GUADALUPE ((DUARTE)) DURAN, DAUGHTER OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A LETTER WRITTEN IN EARLY OCTOBER BY MILITARY ZONE FOUR COMMANDER SIGFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ AND SIGNED BY OFFICERS OF OCHOA'S FOURTH BRIGADE CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE HAS AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION AND HAS PROMPTED THE HIGH COMMAND TO SCHEDULE AN URGENT MEETING OF ALL SALVADORAN MILITARY COMMANDERS ON 14 OCTOBER TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

2. [REDACTED] OCHOA'S LETTER HAD INFORMED THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE'S OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF CONCESSIONS TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAD KIDNAPPED A COMMON CITIZEN. OCHOA'S LETTER STATED THAT THE RESTRICTION ON THE LAUNCHING OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HAD "TIED THE HANDS" OF THE ESAF AND HAD PUT OCHOA'S TROOPS IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS SITUATION. THE LETTER ALSO CRITICIZED THE MANNER IN WHICH DUARTE'S GOVERNMENT "CAVED IN" TO ALL THE DEMANDS OF THE GUERRILLAS WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO GAIN CONCESSIONS IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

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3. [REDACTED] OCHOA'S LETTER HAD CAUSED FRICTION WITHIN THE HIGH COMMAND ITSELF. [REDACTED] WHILE SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND DISAGREED WITH THE METHOD AND SUBSTANCE OF OCHOA'S LETTER, OTHERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, DISAGREED WITH THE METHOD BUT AGREED WITH OCHOA'S CONCLUSIONS AND DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPPING CASE. [REDACTED] THE HIGH COMMAND WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT MOST OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF CAPTAIN AND BELOW SHARE OCHOA'S VIEWPOINT. AN URGENT MEETING WAS CONSEQUENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 14 OCTOBER FOR ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. [REDACTED] THE KIDNAPPING CASE WAS CAUSING DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND PRESIDENT DUARTE TO THE NET BENEFIT OF THE INSURGENCY.

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EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

DECL: [REDACTED]

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