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Document: [redacted] Subject: BELIEF BY LEADERS OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE
(ARENA) THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS ORDERED ATTACKS
ON ARENA PERSONNEL.C [redacted] ISZ83-0364961 MIDB
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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: BELIEF BY LEADERS OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS ORDERED ATTACKS ON ARENA PERSONNEL.

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TEXT: 1. LEADERS OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA), INCLUDING AREANA PRESIDENT ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), BELIEVE THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), ORDERED A 20 JANUARY 1983 ATTACK ON ARENA HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR WHICH LEFT THREE ARENA MEMBERS WOUNDED. THE ARENA LEADERSHIP ALSO HOLDS GARCIA RESPONSIBLE FOR A MACHINEGUN ATTACK THE SAME EVENING ON THE HOME OF WILLIAM ((MURPHY)), A U.S. CITIZEN AND WELL-KNOWN ARENA SUPPORTER. MURPHY WAS UNHURT.

2. D'AUBUISSON AND OTHER ARENA LEADERS BELIEVE THAT GARCIA HAS INITIATED A STATE OF VIRTUAL OPEN WARFARE AGAINST ARENA AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ARENA AND LTC. SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, FORMER CABANAS DEPARTMENTAL COMMANDER, WHO REBELLED AGAINST GARCIA IN EARLY JANUARY. PEDRO ((REGALADO)) CUELLAR, CHIEF OF ARENA'S PARAMILITARY UNIT, INFORMED CONFIDANTS ON 21 JANUARY THAT HE EXPECTS FURTHER PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON ARENA PROPERTIES AND PERSONNEL, POSSIBLY AGAINST D'AUBUISSON HIMSELF. AS A RESULT, REGALADO HAS INSTITUTED STRINGENT NEW SECURITY PROCEDURES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING WHERE D'AUBUISSON'S

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OFFICE IS LOCATED. THE MEASURES INCLUDE THE ISSUANCE OF I.D. BADGES TO WORKERS AND OTHER FREQUENT VISITORS TO THE BUILDING, ALLOWING THEM ACCESS ONLY TO THE PARTICULAR FLOOR ON WHICH THEY HAVE BUSINESS.

3. AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF GARCIA'S ANTI-ARENA ACTIVITY, REGALADO NOTED THAT HE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF SECURITY OFOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, RECEIVED A MESSAGE THE WEEK OF 16 JANUARY FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH STATED THAT THE FIREARMS PERMITS ISSUED BY REGALADO TO D'AUBUISSON'S SECURITY FORCE WERE INVALID. THE MESSAGE SAID THAT ONLY PERMITS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OR THE SECURITY FORCES HAD ANY LEGAL MERIT. REGALADO SAID THAT HE REGARDS THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE LETTER AS A MOVE BY GARCIA TO DISARM ARENA MEMBERS AND CONFIDED THAT WHILE HE DOES NOT INTEND TO DISARM ANY OF THE ARENA PARAMILITARY OR SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS, HE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN NEW FIREARMS PERMITS.

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE -- [Redacted]

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-DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION

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DECL: [Redacted] RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER.

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