

Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

26 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Mr. Hugh Montgomery
Director, Bureau of Intelligence
and Research
Department of State

Hugh:

In view of the slowness of the dissemination system, I thought you might like to see this addendum to our memorandum today.

[Redacted Signature]

Director

Attachment:
As stated

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[Redacted]

Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

26 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Ambassador Langhorne A. Motley
Assistant Secretary of State for
Inter-American Affairs

Tony:

In view of the slowness of the dissemination system, I thought you might like to see this addendum to our memorandum today. I understand that you want to get together with Don Gregg in order to sort this out. [Redacted] who has just [Redacted] and I will be happy to get together with you at your convenience.

[Redacted Signature]

Director

Attachment:
As stated

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Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

26 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Dr. Constantine Menges
Senior Staff Member, Inter-America
National Security Council

Constantine:

In view of the slowness of the dissemination system, I thought you might like to see this addendum to our memorandum today.



Attachment:
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EL SALVADOR: DEALING WITH DEATH SQUADS [REDACTED]

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Comments

1. Unfortunately, the CIA memorandum on the Salvadoran death squads and Ambassador Pickering's response appear to be dealing with two separate issues. The CIA memorandum was answering the question of what has the Salvadoran government accomplished in its effort to crackdown on rightwing death squads from a relatively broad perspective, while the US Embassy is focusing on the Salvadoran response to the specific requests of Vice President Bush. The CIA agrees that the Salvadorans have done all that we have asked to be done, but we also believe that the government is reluctant, and may in fact be incapable, of undertaking a real crackdown on the death squads. As the Embassy points out, however, the US proposals were meant to be a starter, and they have had a positive effect in El Salvador.

2. Concerning the facts, we would point out that deaths attributed to political violence have not declined significantly, only notorious high-level death squads claims of violence. We also would point out that several Army commanders with past death squad associations, especially Zacapa and Zepeda, were appointed to new leadership positions after the Vice President's visit. Finally, while the special investigative unit will be lead by Lieutenant Colonel Rivas, Captain Arango was named to head an ad hoc investigation within the armed forces.

These comments were prepared by [REDACTED] ALA, as a result of perceptions obtained during his recent visit to El Salvador. It contains information available as of 30 January 1984. Questions and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Chief, Middle-America Caribbean Division, ALA, [REDACTED]

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EL SALVADOR: DEALING WITH DEATH SQUADS [REDACTED]

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Addendum

While the efforts by the Salvadoran government and military high command to crack down on rightwing violence have been mainly verbal, they nevertheless have had a positive effect in El Salvador. Rightwing violence has been greatly reduced in the past month, and the death squads have generally toned down their public threats and propaganda efforts. Such threats have not ceased entirely, however, and in early January one extremist group publicly warned the military high command that it was becoming too subservient to the US. [REDACTED]

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The reduction of rightwing threats and violence has been well received in El Salvador, and apparently has contributed to a general popular feeling of greater confidence and anticipation about the scheduled March presidential elections. The hope is that with the rightwing death squads lying low, there may be less pre-election political violence than previously expected. [REDACTED]

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Another positive effect of the military's public warnings about rightwing violence is that they may have driven a greater wedge between the high command and various ultrarightist political leaders who may have hoped to gain some measure of military support in the electoral campaign. In view of the fact that the crackdown has been largely cosmetic, however, the possibility of political collusion between the ultraright and various hardline military officers, as well as a resurgence of death squad activity, cannot be excluded. There may even be a spout of new coup rumors around election time, particularly if it appears that Duarte might be a first-round victor. [REDACTED]

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This addendum was prepared by [REDACTED], ALA, as a result of perceptions obtained during his recent visit to El Salvador. It contains information available as of 24 January 1984. Questions and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Chief, Middle-America Caribbean Division, ALA, [REDACTED]

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Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

25 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

Attached is an addendum to our memorandum dealing with the death squads in El Salvador. [redacted] my Central American Branch Chief who returned this week from El Salvador, feels that the US message concerning the death squads had indeed been received, and that although the government's response has been mainly verbal, the US position was understood and has had a clear impact.

We provided a copy of this addendum to Vice President Bush, Ambassadors Pickering and Motley, Hugh Montgomery and Constantine Menges.

[redacted]

Director

Attachment:
As stated

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[redacted]

Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

25 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

John:

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Director

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NOTE FOR: Executive Director

NOTE FOR: NIO for Latin America

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Director

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25 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering
US Embassy El Salvador

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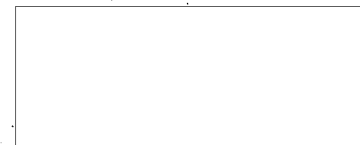
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African and Latin American Analysis

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Directorate of Intelligence
Office of African and Latin American Analysis

25 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Dr. Constantine Menges
Senior Staff Member, Inter-America
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Constantine:

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Directorate of Intelligence
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25 January 1984

NOTE FOR: Ambassador Langhorne A. Motley
Assistant Secretary of State for
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