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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A2g

DATE DISTR.

JAN 27 1949

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

COUNTRY El Salvador

SUBJECT Government Crisis in El Salvador  
25X1A6a

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25X1X6

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
Auth: DDA Memo, 77-1763  
Date: 17 MAY 1978: 011

1. Major Oscar Osorio reportedly is currently faced with a critical situation precipitated by two opposing factions which desire to dominate the government. The first group consists of military personalities who are attempting to establish complete military dictatorship under Osorio. However this group is prepared to proceed with their plans without the assistance of Osorio if he will not support them. The second or "civilian" group desires to remove all "militarists" from the government and desires a civilian president. However it is understood that this group will accept Osorio as president if he rejects the militarists. It is further understood that Humberto Villalta is involved with this civilian group.
2. Villalta is remaining at his home, which has been surrounded by police. However he maintains that he is still Chief of the Armed Forces, and is carrying on his fight through the press, radio, and handbills.
3. A general assembly of army officials was held on 19 January 1949 with the opposing factions. It is reported that both factions are equally determined to force Osorio to take sides or resign.
4. Armaments have arrived at the capital clandestinely from Guatemala via the International Railway. University students, among others, have been the recipients of guns, grenades, and bombs.

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Comment. It is believed that the situation continues serious and tension is mounting. Osorio probably has at most forty-eight hours to reach a compromise and dominate the situation before a complete crisis will develop.)

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