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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-0684-80/1
28 January 1980

25X1

file

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America

25X1

1. Attached is a copy of the Latin America Warning Assessment based upon our discussion of 23 January 1980.

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2. The next warning meeting will be held on 20 February 1980 at 1100 hours in room 5600 at CIA headquarters. Please call by noon on 19 February to give her the name of the individual participating from your office.

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[Signature]
Jack Davis

att: (1)

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-0684-80
28 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America 25X1

1. Action Requested: None; for your information only. 25X1
2. El Salvador

The participants of the monthly warning meeting were in general agreement that

- a. the extreme left was gaining in military strength and popular support,
- b. the center-left Junta was ineffective and not likely to survive for long,
- c. the military establishment was split and a rightist coup was possible.

The general feeling was that a major thrust for power by the leftist extremists could come at any time--through preplanned military action or massive demonstrations, or as the result of some development, such as a rightist military coup. 25X1

3. Cuba

The participants generally agreed that the Castro regime would throttle the rise in popular unrest with its current get-tough policy.

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The impact of Castro's domestic problems on his foreign policy was discussed, with the following judgments expressed:

a. There would probably be no impact on his low-cost, low-risk activities in support of Central American and Caribbean revolutionaries.

b. Castro would probably be more hesitant to undertake a major military deployment in Africa or the Middle East, because of popular grumbling about costs and casualties.

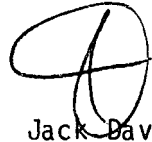
c. There was, however, an outside chance that he would seek a new foreign adventure to divert domestic discontent. This was judged somewhat more likely if the US could be effectively posed as "the enemy".

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3. Jamaica

The participants agreed that there was a considerable prospect for the outbreak of major disorders, because of intensifying economic deprivations (food shortages, layoffs). The ability of the security forces to maintain order was questionable at best, very poor if the disorders are prolonged and widespread. The chances for politically-inspired action against US personnel, companies, or tourists was judged small. But the danger of crimes against US citizens or physical harm to those caught in the midst of mob actions was high.

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