

SECRET

25X1

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

22 November 1982

El Salvador: No End In Sight

The recent government counteroffensive in Chalatenango recaptured much lost ground and boosted Army morale. The operation had considerable cooperation from the Honduran military, which provided a large blocking force. Guerrilla casualties were heavy, with the government claiming over 150 killed, but the main insurgent force still managed to escape.

25X1
25X1

The government is planning another large operation with the Hondurans to retake lost towns in Morazan. The guerrillas are well entrenched in the region, and it will take a sustained effort to defeat them. The bottom line is that the current military stalemate is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, with each side holding the initiative only temporarily.

25X1

On the political front, President Magana and Defense Minister Garcia appear strengthened in their power struggle with Assembly President D'Aubuisson. Garcia has transferred some of his military critics to less important posts. D'Aubuisson can no longer count on a right-wing majority in the Assembly because of a new coalition by moderate political opponents. Nevertheless, D'Aubuisson is a skilled political maneuverer who will have to be watched constantly.

25X1

Meanwhile, the insurgent proposal for negotiations has made little headway. The government has turned a deaf ear to a Panamanian offer of good offices, and Magana is pushing formation of his own peace commission to bring the left into the electoral process. The insurgents themselves are divided on the negotiations issue, and many regard it only as a political gambit.

25X1

25X1

SECRET