

25 February 1982
OEXA 82- 0284/7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Present Situation in El Salvador

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1. On Thursday, 25 February 1982, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) received a briefing on the present political/military situation in El Salvador by the DCI and the DDCI. The briefing took place in Room S-407, The Capitol, from 1000-1300 hours. A transcript was taken.

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2. Accompanying the DCI and DDCI were:

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Duane R. Clarridge

Chief, LA/DDO
Chief, Middle America Caribbean
Division, OALAA/DDI
LA/DDO
Director, Office of External Affairs
Chief, Legislative Liaison Division
Legislative Liaison Officer

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3. Present from the National Security Agency were:

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4. Members present from the Committee were:

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Barry Goldwater (R., AZ), Chairman
Richard Lugar (R., IN)
John Chafee (R., RI)
William Roth (R., DE)
David Durenberger (R., MN)
Malcolm Wallop (R., WY)

Patrick Moynihan (D., NY)
Lloyd Bentson (D., TX)
Henry Jackson (D., WA)
Walter Huddleston (D., KY)
Joseph Biden (D., DE)
Patrick Leahy (D., VT)
Claiborne Pell (D., RI)

5. No members of the Committee staff were present.

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6. The DCI and DDCI, with the assistance of the back-up witnesses, covered four major areas: intelligence capabilities, sources, gaps and information in El Salvador.

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7. The following questions arose during the hearing:

- a. Roth: Are negotiations being hindered by Communist propaganda?
- b. Chafee: What is the quality of the Slavadoran Army?
- c. Moynihan: What is American policy toward the election?
- d. Huddleston: What will the guerrillas do after the election?

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e. Biden: Is Duarte really independent?

[Redacted]

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g. Leahy: Can we trust the Salvadorans?

8. The attached statement is a synopsis of the hearing by Chairman Barry Goldwater.

[Redacted]

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Legislative Liaison

Attachment:
As stated

STATEMENT FOR USE BY SENATOR GOLDWATER ON SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE
BRIEFING ON CENTRAL AMERICA

ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BRIEFED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THE BRIEFING, WHICH LASTED SEVERAL HOURS, ADDRESSED THE MILITARY SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR, THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF GUERRILLA FORCES THERE, AND THE DEGREE OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS IN EL SALVADOR, ESPECIALLY THAT PROVIDED BY THE SANDINISTAS IN NICARAGUA.

THE BRIEFING LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THERE IS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN SUPPORT OF THE SALVADORAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT. THIS SUPPORT INCLUDES ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE USE OF NICARAGUAN TERRITORY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR, THE CONTINUING PASSAGE OF GUERRILLAS IN AND OUT OF NICARAGUA FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN SABOTAGE AND OTHER TERRORIST TACTICS, AND THE PRESENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL GUERRILLA HEADQUARTERS ELEMENTS IN NICARAGUA. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF A GREAT SURGE IN THE DELIVERY OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND RELATED MATERIALS FROM NICARAGUA TO EL SALVADOR.

SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, I MUST STRESS THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED US. THE DETAILS MUST REMAIN SECRET. BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THE OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING U.S. POLICY IN THIS AREA ARE DOING SO ON THE BASIS OF SOLID EVIDENCE.