

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-7NEW YORK TIMES
23 March 1984

Salvador Police Chief Denies He Got C.I.A. Funds

Special to The New York Times

SAN SALVADOR, March 22 — The head of El Salvador's Treasury police denied today that he had ever received money as an informant from the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Treasury police chief, Col. Nicolás Carranza, was responding to an article in The New York Times today that quoted American officials as saying he had received \$90,000 a year for the last five or six years.

"I've never accepted money from the C.I.A.," Colonel Carranza said in a brief news conference at the Treasury Police headquarters here. "I've had no

relations with anyone from the C.I.A."

Information linking Colonel Carranza with the C.I.A. was initially provided to news organizations by a former Salvadoran official who also accused leading Salvadoran officials and civilians of involvement in death squad activities. The information about Colonel Carranza's links to the C.I.A. was confirmed by American officials with knowledge of intelligence operations in El Salvador.

Colonel Carranza said today that the former Salvadoran official who had accused him of involvement with the C.I.A. and with the death squads was Roberto Eulalio Santibañez, a former Salvadoran Army colonel.

But at another news conference today, Roberto d'Aubuisson, the rightist candidate for President in the elections Sunday, said, "I don't believe it was Colonel Santibañez."

At his news conference today, Colonel Carranza also denied that he was involved in any way in El Salvador's death squads.

He said his accuser had "50,000 good reasons" for making the accusations against him. This was an allusion to the fact that the former official who accused him was promised \$50,000 by a

group of critics of Reagan Administration policy in Latin America if he would speak out. The former official has already received \$29,500 of the \$50,000, which was promised as a "security net" to support him and move his family from El Salvador.

The 51-year-old Colonel Carranza was first identified as being involved in death squad activity in an article in The Times on March 3.

Origin of Death Squads

He was said by the former Salvadoran military official to have helped shape the death squads in late 1979 with the assistance of José Guillermo García, the former Minister of Defense, and to have taken part in the selection of some of their victims.

The American officials who identified Colonel Carranza as a C.I.A. informant said it was common practice for the C.I.A. to recruit and pay senior military officers in foreign countries to provide information.

The officials added that many informants were involved in activities which the C.I.A. did not necessarily support or condone.

The Treasury police, which Colonel Carranza took over as commander last year, have long been known as one of the most brutal organizations among the Salvadoran security forces.

State Department officials have said that the conduct of the Treasury police had improved since Colonel Carranza took command, but that they were still responsible for many human rights abuses.

STAT