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Confidential File: The classified dispatches from embattled El Salvador contain grim news. Here are some excerpts:

- Three weeks ago, the American Embassy warned that the moderate Salvadoran government would be "severely imperiled" without massive U.S. economic aid. "I am convinced," cabled acting Ambassador Frederick Chapin, "that the most urgent need is for \$22 million to \$40 million." But within two weeks, the price for saving the moderate government skyrocketed to \$260 million. "Unless political stability is brought about soon," warned a confidential cable, "there is little chance the current government can survive the next three to six months."
- The battles between the military junta and left-wing guerrillas have made incendiary news. But the greater danger to the government is from the right-wing elements that have controlled the tiny Central American nation in the past. The Salvadoran right has powerful support, according to intelligence reports, not only from an estimated 20 percent to 30 percent of the Army officers but from wealthy members of the once-ruling oligarchy, who want their expropriated land back.
- Despite all the arms and training provided by Soviet-bloc nations through Cuba and Nicaragua, the Salvadoran left has largely failed to gain widespread support among the population. "They are having trouble getting recruits," reports an intelligence source.