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	<p style="text-align: right;">17 MAR 1989</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Congressional Affairs Washington, D.C. 20505 Telephone: 482-6136</p>
<p>TO: Mr. Richard Giza Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515</p>	
<p>Dick,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enclosed is the unclassified version on El Salvador's Election Mechanics.</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">House Affairs</p> <p>Enclosure</p>	

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El Salvador's Election Mechanics

The Central Election Council (CCE) is in charge of most of the mechanics of the Salvadoran election process not specified by the constitution. Its members are appointed by the Assembly from lists submitted by the three parties that won the most votes in 1984 and currently include a president from the Christian Democratic Party, and one member each from ARENA and the National Reconciliation Party. The CCE oversees voter registration, distribution of voter identity cards, and the tabulation of the results.

Voting Procedures

When 7,000 polling sites open at 0700, local time, Salvadorans will vote by presenting their identification cards in the town they designated when registering. Polling officials will verify each voter's name on the electoral registry. The voter must mark the symbol of the party or coalition he prefers, fold the ballot in half, and put it in a transparent, plexiglass ballot box. The voter's name will then be marked off the registry. The voter will retrieve his card and will have a finger marked with indelible ink to prevent multiple voting.

Transmission of Results

Immediately after the polls close at 1800, the polling officials will count the ballots in the presence of party workers and record the final vote tally and any challenges made by poll watchers. The polling officials and poll watchers will countersign the official record and can announce unofficial results. Copies of the record are sent to the municipal and departmental electoral boards and the attorney general's office. Within one day, the CCE in the capital must receive copies of the results and do a final tabulation.

All three members of the CCE must sign the credentials of the election winner within eight days of the formal declaration of the final results. If they do not, the election winner may take office provisionally based on the final vote count results announced by the CCE.

A Second Round

The same election mechanics will apply. A runoff must take place before 1 June, and because of the time needed to print new ballots and for other preparations, will probably come in May. To reduce the chances of fraud, no new identification cards will be issued; no new candidates can enter the race.