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Document: CIAA -0000 287596 Subject: CONCERNS OF PRESIDENT MAGANA AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GARCIA THAT ARENA IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT.

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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,  
SECRET SERVICE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, DEPT OF JUSTICE,  
ZEN/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
STAFF, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WMINTEL [redacted]  
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR  
SUBJECT: CONCERNS OF PRESIDENT MAGANA AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE GARCIA THAT ARENA IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT.

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1. ON 20 JULY 1982, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SAID THAT HE AND PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA)) HAD DISCUSSED THAT DAY THEIR SERIOUS CONCERNS THAT THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) IS ENGAGED IN A CONCERTED EFFORT TO DISCREDIT THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES, WITH THE AIM OF EVENTUALLY CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT.

2. GENERAL GARCIA REFERRED TO RECENTLY PUBLISHED PRONOUNCEMENTS BY LEADING SALVADORAN BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION ON 15 JULY OF NICOLAS ESTEBAN ((NASSER)), PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN AND PRESIDENT OF THE 1982 SALVADORAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR. GENERAL GARCIA SAID THAT HE AND

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PRESIDENT MAGANA, AS WELL AS LEADERS OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, VIEW THE PRESS ARTICLES AS HIGHLY TENDENTIOUS AND ARE CONVINCED THAT ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), LEADER OF ARENA AND PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IS INVOLVED IN A SUBTLE ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN THE MAGANA GOVERNMENT AND CREATE DIVISION IN THE ARMED FORCES. ACCORDING TO GENERAL GARCIA, D'AUBUISSON WISHES TO REMOVE PRESIDENT MAGANA AND GARCIA FROM THEIR POSITIONS AND REPLACE THEM WITH LOYAL ARENA FOLLOWERS.

3. [REDACTED] THE LOCAL PRESS ON 17 JULY PUBLISHED A RELEASE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (ANEP), THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SCIS), THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS (FENAPES) AND OTHER BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL GROUPS CONDEMING NASSER'S KILLING AND CALLING ATTENTION TO THE "EXISTING REIGN OF ANARCHY AND FAILURE OF THE ARMED FORCES TO PROTECT HONEST CITIZENS". THE RELEASE WENT ON TO NOTE "THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL SPIRIT AND PATRIOTISM OF SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE, WHILE SOME CIRCLES OF THE HIGH COMMAND SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE ELECTORAL MANDATE OF 28 MARCH WHEN THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE VOTED TO END THE ANARCHY AND STOP THE FLOW OF BLOOD."

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4. GENERAL GARCIA SAID THAT D'AUBUISSON IS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE PRESS TO DIVIDE THE ARMED FORCES BY PRAISING THE OFFICERS AND MEN IN THE FIELD WHILE CRITICIZING THE HIGH COMMAND. GARCIA SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT ARENA HOPES TO CREATE DISSENT IN THE ARMED FORCES TO DESTROY THEM, AS THEY ARE THE ONLY VALID COHESIVE GROUP IN THE COUNTRY WHICH OPPOSE ARENA POLICIES. HE SAID THAT D'AUBUISSON AND ARENA WILL STOP AT NOTHING IN ORDER TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

5. FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION WITH GARCIA, PRESIDENT MAGANA DECIDED THAT GARCIA SHOULD MAKE AN APPEARANCE ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THAT SAME DAY TO REFUTE THE PRESS PRONOUNCEMENTS. (FIELD COMMENT: DURING HIS TELEVISED MESSAGE THAT EVENING, GENERAL GARCIA SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT DIVIDED AND THAT THE MILITARY REMAINS SOLID AND OBEIDENT TO INSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES.)

6. [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH GENERAL GARCIA'S SPEECH NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" IS A FAVORITE MARXIST TACTIC, HIS SPEECH CONTAINED A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE RIGHT WING POLITICAL PARTIES AS WELL WHEN HE STATED THAT "REGRETTABLY, THOSE WHO ARE NOT MARXISTS SOMETIMES USE THE SAME TACTICS".)

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7. IN DISCUSSING ARENA'S POSSIBLE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, GARCIA SAID THAT MOST MILITARY LEADERS WOULD REMAIN LOYAL TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD AVOID BEING PULLED INTO A DEBATE WITH ARENA AND POLITICIZED. [REDACTED] COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN A CLOSE SUPPORTER OF ARENA, BUT OCHOA'S RECENT REMARKS DURING MEETINGS OF SENIOR OFFICERS APPEAR TO BE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF D'AUBUISSON AND ARENA. WHETHER THIS IS OCHOA'S TRUE ATTITUDE IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME, BUT IT MAY BE AN INDICATION THAT D'AUBUISSON IS LOSING POLITICAL CLOUT.

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T - WARNING NOTICE - INTELLIGENCE

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DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED  
BY ORIGINATOR. [REDACTED] RECORDED REPORTING  
OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS  
OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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