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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,
USCINCSO QHTS PANAMA.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE BY TWO KEY
MILITARY COMMANDERS.

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TEXT: 1. ON 26 MARCH 1983, COLONEL JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)),
CHIEF OF THE SALVADORAN AIR FORCE, VISITED LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MAXIMILIANO ((LEIVA)), COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE
IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT. BUSTILLO COMPLAINED ABOUT LEIVA'S DEC-
LARATION OF SUPPORT FOR MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO
((GARCIA)), MADE DURING AN 18 MARCH MEETING OF FIELD COMMANDERS WITH THE

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HIGH COMMAND. BUSTILLO WAS PERTURBED WITH LEIVA WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD FIGURED PROMINENTLY AMONG THE OFFICERS PROMOTING GARCIA'S REMOVAL. LEIVA TOLD BUSTILLO THAT HE NOW STRONGLY SUPPORTS GARCIA BECAUSE THE SITUATION IN THE ARMED FORCES HAS IMPROVED SINCE THE JANUARY 1983 REBELLION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ. LEIVA ALSO TOLD BUSTILLO THAT OCHOA HAD BEEN COLLABORATING WITH RIGHTIST POLITICAL ELEMENTS AND THUS DESERVED TO BE REASSIGNED.

2. ALSO ON 26 MARCH, COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DISCUSSED THE CONTINUED OPPOSITION OF BUSTILLO AND LT. COL. ADOLFO ((BLANDON)) WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND. FLORES LIMA SAID THAT BUSTILLO AND BLANDON CONTINUE TO SEEK GARCIA'S REMOVAL AND ARE ACTIVELY PLOTTING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. HOWEVER,

FLORES LIMA SAID HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT EITHER OFFICER WOULD RESORT TO VIOLENCE TO EFFECT GARCIA'S REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS MORE LIKELY THAT BUSTILLO AND BLANDON, TOGETHER OR INDIVIDUALLY, WOULD CONFRONT THE PRESIDENT OVER THE GARCIA ISSUE, PERHAPS WITH A CONTINGENT OF THEIR OFFICERS. FLORES LIMA, HOWEVER, DID NOT RULE OUT A POSSIBLE DISPLAY OF FORCE TO DRAMATIZE THEIR POINT, PARTICULARLY BY THE AIR FORCE.

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