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Document: CIAA -0000 428255 Subject: DECISION BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO  
TRANSFER OVERSEAS A KEY ARMY COMMANDER WHO IS A  
POLITICAL OPPONENT. C 00846 CIAA 428255 MSO83-0200033

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

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ WNINTEL [redacted]

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: DECISION BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO  
TRANSFER OVERSEAS A KEY ARMY COMMANDER WHO IS A  
POLITICAL OPPONENT.

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TEXT: 1. GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), MINISTER OF DEFENSE,  
SAID THAT HE PLANS TO ORDER THE TRANSFER, ON ABOUT 6 JANUARY 1983,  
OF LTC. SIGFRIEDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT,

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CL BY:	[redacted]
CL REASON:	[redacted]
DECL ON:	[redacted]
DRV FROM:	[redacted]

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TO EITHER URUGUAY OR VENEZUELA AS MILITARY ATTACHE.

2. GARCIA REACHED THIS DECISION DURING PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS ON THE EVENING OF 30 DECEMBER 1982 WITH PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA)) AND COLONEL RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO AGREE THAT THE TRANSFER OF OCHOA, GARCIA' MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITIC IN THE ARMY, WAS NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE GROWING OPPOSITION TO GARCIA IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ORDER TO TRANSFER OCHOA WILL BE RESISTED BY OCHOA AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED ARMY OFFICERS, GARCIA AND FLORES LIMA BELIEVE THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO HANDLE ANY ADVERSE REACTION. [REDACTED] THE PLAN TO REMOVE OCHOA, WHO IS POPULAR AMONG THE JUNIOR OFFICERS AND ENJOYS A REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE ARMY'S BEST FIELD COMMANDERS, COULD PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GARCIA AND THE RIGHTIST POLITICAL SECTOR AS WELL AS ELEMENTS IN THE ARMY. [REDACTED]

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IT LIKELY THAT THE TRANSFER OF OCHOA WILL BE CHALLENGED BY ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA), WITH WHOM OCHOA IS CLOSELY ALLIED AND WHO STRONGLY FAVORS THE REMOVAL OF GARCIA. [REDACTED]

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3. EARLIER ON 30 DECEMBER, FLORES LIMA HAD MET PRIVATELY WITH JOSE DOMINGO ((MONTERROSA)), COMMANDER OF THE ATACATLAN BATTALION, IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO LINE UP SUPPORT FOR GARCIA AMONG KEY COMMANDERS TO COUNTER THE PLANS OF RIGHTIST CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO EFFECT GARCIA'S REMOVAL. WHILE MONTERROSA INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO GARCIA REMAINING IN OFFICE, HE FIRMLY REFUSED FLORES LIMA'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR GARCIA, EITHER PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY. MONTERROSA SAID THAT FLORES LIMA COULD EXPECT THE SAME RESPONSE TOWARDS GARCIA FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: OCHOA PEREZ, LTC. NAPOLEON HERSON ((CALITTO)), COMMANDER OF THE ATONAL BATTALION; LTC. MIGUEL ALFREDO ((VASCONCELOS)), COMMANDER OF USULUTAN DEPARTMENT; LTC. MIGUEL ANTONIO ((MENDE)) ((CAMPOS)) AMAYA, COMMANDER OF THE CAVALRY REGIMENT; LTC. RICARDO ((CIENFUEGOS)), PERSONAL AIDE TO FLORES LIMA; LTC. JULIO CESAR ((LOPEZ)) YANES, SUBDIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE; LTC. ARMANDO ((RIVERA)), COMMANDER OF CUSCATLAN DEPARTMENT AND LTC. OSCAR ARMANDO ((AMAYA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]-DISSEMINATION AND

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EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.DECL: [REDACTED]

RECORDED REPORTING

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OFFICER.  
ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL  
DOCUMENT.

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