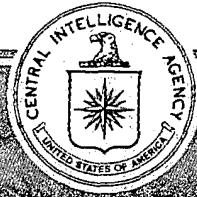
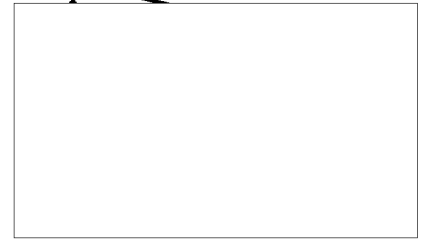


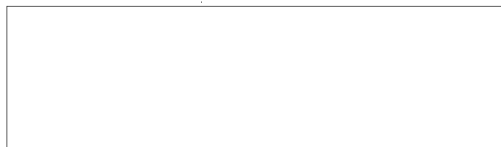
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Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Thursday, 3 January 1991



~~Top Secret~~

CPAS NID 91-002JX

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EL SALVADOR: Insurgents Execute US Servicemen

Salvadoran guerrillas shot to death three US servicemen yesterday afternoon after downing their helicopter some 75 miles east of the capital [redacted] The helicopter, en route to a military base in Honduras, reportedly was flying at only 50 feet and apparently was downed by small-arms fire. Meanwhile, a three-day round of UN-brokered peace talks is slated to begin today in Mexico City [redacted]

Comment: The insurgents have not targeted US personnel in recent years and initially could have mistaken the helicopter for a Salvadoran aircraft. The FMLN General Command may be concerned about a possible US backlash. For its part, San Salvador is likely to use the incident to lobby for a reversal of recent cuts in US military assistance. The government almost certainly will not use the killings as an excuse to pull out of talks, but no breakthrough is likely.

[redacted]



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3 January 1991