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Document: CIAA -0000 505934 Subject: INTENTION OF THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO
SEEK A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE PRESIDENTC 44696CIAA 505934 MSO83-0778537
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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.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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

DIST : 21 MARCH 1983
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: INTENTION OF THE SALVADORAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO
SEEK A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TEXT: 1. ON THE EVENING OF 18 MARCH 1983, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO
(GARCIA), MINISTER OF DEFENSE, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND
IRRITATION OVER A WIRE SERVICE ARTICLE OF THE SAME DATE IN WHICH
GARCIA IS HARSHLY CRITICIZED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGIFREDO
(OCHOA) PEREZ WHO IS ASSIGNED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE
BOARD AS THE RESULT OF A REBELLION HE LED AGAINST GARCIA IN

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

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JANUARY. AS A RESULT OF THIS ARTICLE, IN WHICH OCHOA DECLARED THAT HE AND MILITARY UNITS IN EL SALVADOR WILL USE FORCE TO REMOVE GARCIA IF HE DOES NOT RESIGN, GARCIA SAID THAT HE PLANS TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT ALVARO ((MAGANA)) ON 21 MARCH WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MAGANA WOULD REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION, THEREBY PUBLICLY DISPLAYING HIS SUPPORT FOR GARCIA'S REMAINING IN OFFICE. [REDACTED] DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE 18 MARCH MEETING OF FIELD COMMANDERS WITH MAGANA AND THE HIGH COMMAND TENDED TO FAVOR GARCIA AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT FAVOR HIS RESIGNATION.)

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GARCIA AND MAGANA WERE CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVADORAN AIR FORCE WHICH WERE HELD AT ILOPANGO AIRBASE ON 20 MARCH. THE PERCEPTION THAT GARCIA WILL NOT RESIGN COULD LEAD TO A CRISIS WITHIN THE ARMED

FORCES ON THE PART OF THE COMMANDERS WHO ARE MOST INSISTENT ON GARCIA'S REMOVAL; PRIMARILY, COLONEL ADOLFO O. ((BLANDON)), COMMANDER OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE AND COLONEL JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)), COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE. AT A MINIMUM, THESE AND OTHER COMMANDERS OPPOSING GARCIA MAY CONFRONT MAGANA AND INSIST THAT HE FACILITATE GARCIA'S REMOVAL. IT ALSO IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME UNITS, PARTICULARLY THE AIR FORCE IN WHICH RESISTANCE TO GARCIA IS ALMOST UNIFORM AMONG THE OFFICERS, WILL ATTEMPT TO FORCE GARCIA'S RESIGNATION BY SUSPENDING ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS UNTIL HE IS REMOVED OR PUBLICLY PROMISES TO LEAVE OFFICE.

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

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-DISSEMINATION AND

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

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