



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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OCPAS/CTG

[Redacted]

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National Intelligence Daily

*Wednesday
3 August 1983*

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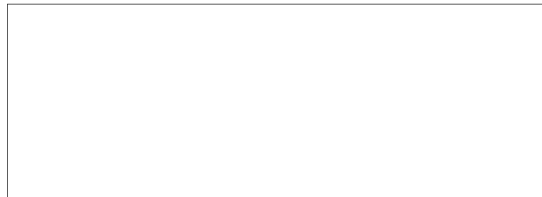
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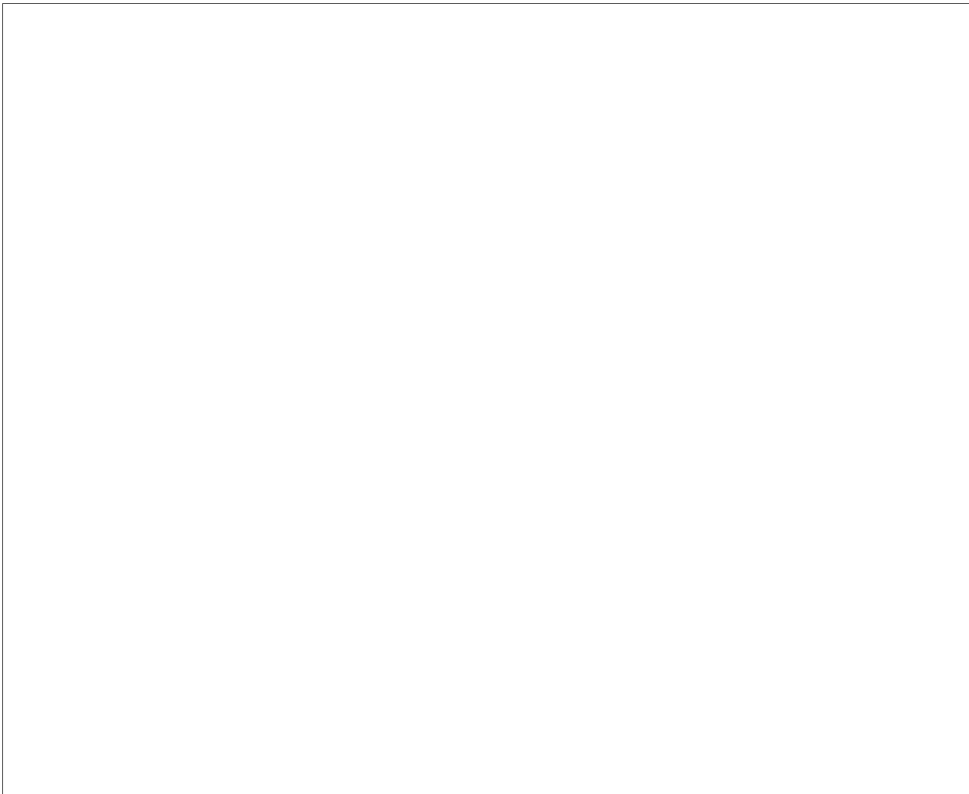
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EL SALVADOR: New Government Offensive

The Army has begun another operation in Chalatenango Department and continues to put pressure on the guerrillas in San Vicente, Usulután, and Morazán. [Redacted]

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The US defense attache reports that government troops plan to sweep parallel to the Honduran border through northeastern Chalatenango. They have arranged for Honduran forces to screen the operation and to ambush fleeing guerrillas. Reports from the attache also indicate that several government battalions are operating near the Littoral Highway in San Vicente and Usulután Departments and that other Army units are moving against insurgent positions in northeastern Morazán. [Redacted]

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Comment: The government operations appear aimed at continuing the disruption of guerrilla base camps and supply lines. Last month the Army completed a sweep into northern Chalatenango, which has long been a guerrilla stronghold. [Redacted]

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Another large-scale operation in the region may catch the insurgents off balance. As in the past, however, most are likely to flee the area beforehand. [Redacted]

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Although the guerrillas generally have been on the defensive for the last two months, there are reports that they continue to receive supplies from Nicaragua and that they are planning a major offensive for later this month. They hope to regain the tactical initiative and strengthen their negotiating position. Army morale and confidence remain high, however, and it may prove difficult for the insurgents to achieve more than limited successes. [Redacted]

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