

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

DIST: 03 OCTOBER 1990

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO RESOLVE  
JESUIT MURDER CASE AND ADDRESS CORRUPTION IN THE  
SALVADORAN MILITARY

[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. IN EARLY OCTOBER 1990, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED THAT MEMBERS OF TWO SALVADORAN MILITARY  
GRADUATING CLASSES, OR "TANDAS," ARE PRESSURING MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
COLONEL RENE EMILIO ((PONCE)) TO RESOLVE THE JESUIT MURDER CASE AND  
ELIMINATE WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN THE SENIOR ECHELONS OF THE  
SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES (ESAF) [REDACTED] HE  
ATTENDED A PARTY AT WHICH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS DISCUSSED THE  
PRESSURE BEING APPLIED ON PONCE BY THE "TANDA" OF ESAF LT. COL.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: El Salvador Certification

5. With respect to the behavior of the Salvadoran government and military, the legislation provides in particular, that no military assistance may be provided if: 1) the government "has failed to conduct a thorough and professional investigation" of the Jesuit murders, or; 2) the military "are assassinating or abducting civilian noncombatants."

6. Discussion on these two issues was restricted as described above. [REDACTED] briefed on the Jesuit case, pointing out positive aspects of the investigation and prosecution of the case. [REDACTED] also indicated that contradictory testimony by Salvadoran military personnel, the disappearance of evidence, and the reluctance of senior officers to volunteer information bolsters suspicions that the decision to kill the priests was made at a high level. [REDACTED] pointed out that the armed forces have made no attempt to launch a serious internal investigation of the incident.



7. After prior consultations with the chief and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I briefed on several [REDACTED] reports. They include specific allegations of assassinations and abuses by Salvadoran military officers. I indicated that [REDACTED] analysts who have seen the reports generally find them credible. I also emphasized that the reports are unconfirmed, and that the two most relevant [REDACTED] are from the same source and sub-source. Sullivan indicated that he would like to be able to convey the core of information about these reported abuses to Salvadoran

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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President Cristiani and Defense Minister Ponce. He will consult with the [REDACTED] Division. Sullivan did not request any additional intelligence support with respect to these issues.

[REDACTED]

X

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]