

[REDACTED]

[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]

2. [REDACTED] THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE ABOVE ISSUES IMMEDIATELY AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE "TANDONA," (SALVADORAN MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1966) MUST BE FORCED INTO RETIREMENT IN ORDER TO PURGE THE ESAF OF ITS MOST CORRUPT MEMBERS. [REDACTED] THE PARTICIPANTS EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION; [REDACTED] SINGLED OUT D'AUBUISSON AS THE PARTICIPANT WHO REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR ACTION ON PONCE'S PART; FAILING ACTION BY PONCE, D'AUBUISSON SAID "SOMETHING WILL HAVE TO BE DONE." [REDACTED] BUSTILLO VOCIFEROUSLY REPLIED THAT HE COULD GUARANTEE PILOTS AND "ELITE TROOPS" TO INTERVENE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) IF IT WERE DEEMED NECESSARY. [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." [REDACTED]

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. [REDACTED]

X

7. After prior consultations with the chief and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], I briefed on several [REDACTED]
[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]
[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]

2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: El Salvador Certification

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]