

INQUIRE=DOC11D
ITEM NO=00133567
ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX072 MCN = 90160/03943 TOR = 901600139
OTTSZYUW RUEKJCS7785 1600136- -RUEALGX.

ZNY
HEADER

O 090136Z JUN 90
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RUEDADA/AFIS AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUEKCCG/USDP-CCC WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE
RUETIAQ/MPCFTGEORGEGMEADEMD
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOACC/CDRPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUEALGX/SAFE

O 082328Z JUN 90
FM
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RHLBAAA/USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HEIGHTS//SCJ2//

BT
CONTROLS

SECTION 01 OF 02

CITE: (U) 1128.

SERIAL: (U) IIR

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: IIR /BEHIND THE SCENES MANEUVERING
OVER SELECTION OF A NEW MOD/(111)(U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900608.

REQS: (U)

SOURCES:

SUMMARY: [REDACTED] EX-MAJOR ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)) IS REPORTEDLY PULLING OUT ALL STOPS TO PREVENT COL RENE ((PONCE)) FROM BEING THE NEXT MOD. HIS CHOICE IS COL CARLOS ((RIVAS)), A NEIGHBOR AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SENIOR TO THE TANDONA.

TEXT:

2. (U) SITUATION ON MOD REPLACEMENT.

A. [REDACTED] PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) DISCUSSED WITH PONCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEFENSE MINISTER (MOD) ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. PONCE ARGUED AGAINST ANY SIGNIFICANT PERSONNEL CHANGES ON THAT DATE, INCLUDING HIS OWN, BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAIN THREAT SITUATION FOLLOWING THE 8911 FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) OFFENSIVE. AT THAT-TIME, CRISTIANI PROPOSED THAT THE CHANGE TAKE-PLACE ON 900601.

B. [REDACTED] ON 900521, PONCE WAS HOSPITALIZED AND VISITED BY CRISTIANI [REDACTED] ON 900524, PONCE WAS-THEN EVACUATED TO THE U.S. FOR FURTHER OBSERVATION AND TREATMENT. RETURNING ON 900602 [REDACTED] DURING THIS PERIOD, CRISTIANI MENTIONED NOTHING TO PONCE ABOUT MOVING HIM UP TO THE MOD POSITION. GIVEN OTHER -- CONSIDERATIONS [REDACTED] PONCE [REDACTED] PHYSICAL CONDITION AND ABSENCE SIMPLY PROVIDED A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT NOT TO HAVE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

C. [REDACTED] NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) DEPUTY ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON IS EXECUTING A "FULL COURT PRESS" USING ALL OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HIM TO INSURE THAT PONCE DOES NOT BECOME APPOINTED MOD. [REDACTED]

D'AUBUISSON CONTROLS MUCH OF THE GOES FROM BEHIND THE SCENES (I.E., THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, SUPREME COURT, AND AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS); HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT YET CONTROL THE ESAF. TO OBTAIN COMPLETE DOMINANCE, D'AUBUISSON ASPIRES TO PUT HIS OWN MAN IN AS MOD--COL CARLOS RIVAS, THE ARMED FORCE STUDY CENTER (CEFA) DIRECTOR.

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[REDACTED]

- D. [REDACTED] PONCE [REDACTED] RECEIVED INFORMATION THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS THAT RIVAS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH ARENA HARDLINERS (NFI) ON THE SUBJECT OF COUP PLOTTING. [REDACTED]

- E. [REDACTED] THE ENTIRE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IS UNDER D'AUBUISSON'S CONTROL WHICH HE IS MANIPULATING THROUGH THE DIRECTORS OF ISTA AND FINATA, BOTH OF WHOM ARE D'AUBUISSON PAWNS. THE PROGRAM IS BEING USED BY THE ARENA STRONGMAN SIMPLY TO GAIN POLITICAL LEVERAGE WITH THE RURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE LAND.

- F. [REDACTED] PONCE [REDACTED] IS NOW ANXIOUS TO BE NAMED MOD, NOT SO AS TO FULFILL HIS OWN PERSONAL AMBITIONS, RATHER MORE TO INSURE THAT A D'AUBUISSON LACKEY DOES NOT. PONCE IS CONVINCED THAT RIVAS IS STILL A CLOSE D'AUBUISSON CONFIDANT AND WOULD BE DOMINATED BY THE EX MAJOR.

- G. [REDACTED] OTHERS WHO ARE CONSPIRING WITH D'AUBUISSON TO PREVENT HIS APPOINTMENT AS MOD ARE VICE PRESIDENT JOSE FRANCISCO ((MERINO)) LOPEZ, COL (R) SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)), AN ARENA DEPUTY AND PRESIDENT OF CEL, AND TWO UNNAMED RIGHTIST CIVILIAN INTELLECTUALS WHO BELONG TO THE ULTRA CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE ARENA PARTY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]