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TOT: 130034Z OCT 85

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SUBJ: FRICTION WITHIN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND
OVER DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF INES DUARTE'S KIDNAPPING

DOI: EARLY OCTOBER 1985

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SALVADORAN ARMED
FORCES (ESAF) HIGH COMMAND IS ACUTELY CONCERNED OVER THE GROWING

[REDACTED]

DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ESAF OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF OF THE KIDNAPPING OF INES GUADALUPE ((DUARTE)) DURAN, DAUGHTER OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)).

A LETTER WRITTEN IN EARLY OCTOBER BY MILITARY ZONE FOUR COMMANDER SIGFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ AND SIGNED BY OFFICERS OF OCHOA'S FOURTH BRIGADE CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE HAS AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION AND HAS PROMPTED THE HIGH COMMAND TO SCHEDULE AN URGENT MEETING OF ALL SALVADORAN MILITARY COMMANDERS ON 14 OCTOBER TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

2. OCHOA'S LETTER HAD INFORMED THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE'S OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF CONCESSIONS TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAD KIDNAPPED A COMMON CITIZEN. OCHOA'S LETTER STATED THAT THE RESTRICTION ON THE LAUNCHING OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HAD "TIED THE HANDS" OF THE ESAF AND HAD PUT OCHOA'S TROOPS IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS SITUATION. THE LETTER ALSO CRITICIZED THE MANNER IN WHICH DUARTE'S GOVERNMENT "CAVED IN" TO ALL THE DEMANDS OF THE GUERRILLAS WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO GAIN CONCESSIONS IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

3. OCHOA'S LETTER HAD CAUSED FRICTION WITHIN THE HIGH COMMAND ITSELF. WHILE SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND DISAGREED WITH THE METHOD AND SUBSTANCE OF OCHOA'S LETTER, OTHERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, DISAGREED WITH THE METHOD BUT AGREED WITH OCHOA'S CONCLUSIONS AND DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPPING CASE. THE HIGH COMMAND WAS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT MOST OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF CAPTAIN AND BELOW SHARE OCHOA'S VIEWPOINT. AN URGENT MEETING WAS CONSEQUENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 14 OCTOBER FOR ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

THE KIDNAPPING CASE WAS CAUSING DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND PRESIDENT DUARTE TO THE NET BENEFIT OF THE INSURGENCY.