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Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

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"EXCLUSIVE FOR" DOCUMENT

DIST 23 JANUARY 1979

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ - WNINTEL - NOFORN -- NO CONTRACT -- ORCON

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

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SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF SALVADORAN POLITICAL PRISONERS BY THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARD

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SOURCE:

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1. IN NOVEMBER 1978, GENERAL ALFREDO ALVARENGA, WHO WAS THEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARD, ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF THE FOLLOWING SALVADORAN POLITICAL PRISONERS: EFRAIN AREVALO IBARRA, MANUEL ALBERTO RIVERA, AND CARLOS ANTONIO MADRIZ MARTINEZ. THEY WERE KILLED BY LIEUTENANT JOSE ANTONIO CASTILLO OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND BY SERGEANT NIGUEL ANTONIO RAMIREZ NEJUCANOS. FOLLOWING THEIR DEATHS, THE BODIES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE DISPOSED OF AT AN UNDISCLOSED SITE.

2. IN MID-DECEMBER 1978, ALVARENGA ORDERED THE ASSASSINATION OF ANOTHER SALVADORAN POLITICAL PRISONER, LIL NILAGRO RAMIREZ HULLCO. AS WITH THE PREVIOUS KILLINGS, IT WAS CARRIED OUT BY CASTILLO

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AND MIGUEL RAMIREZ. THE BODY OF LIL MILAGRO RAMIREZ HUEZO WAS THEN BURNED AT AN UNDISCLOSED SITE.

3. [Redacted] COMMENT: THE ASSASSINATIONS WERE PROMPTED BY ALVARENGA'S DESIRE TO REMOVE ANY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE PRIOR TO HIS BEING RELIEVED OF COMMAND, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 1 JANUARY 1979.) [Redacted] COMMENT: APPARENTLY, THE FOUR INDIVIDUALS WERE HELD AND LATER KILLED AT THE DISCRETION OF ALVARENGA WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT OF OTHER ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ALVARENGA, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY DENIED HOLDING THESE PERSONS IN CUSTODY, WAS LATER AFRAID TO REVERSE HIMSELF WHEN THEIR PROLONGED DISAPPEARANCE BECAME AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUE. THIS AROSE WHEN THE ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE (FARN/RN), TERRORIST GROUP, DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF LIL RAMIREZ AND RIVERA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN TAKAKASU S U Z U K I, WHO IS BEING HELD BY THEM. THERE HAS BEEN HIGH INTEREST - BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL - IN THE WHEREABOUTS OF AREVALO, WHO WAS THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SALVADORAN EDUCATORS (ANDES 21 DE JUNIO). ANDES-21 DE JUNIO IS A BRANCH OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR), THE FRONT GROUP FOR THE FARABUNDO-MARTI POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT (FPL), TERRORIST GROUP.

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AREVALO, RIVERA, MADRIZ, AND LIL MILAGRO RAMIREZ HUEZO WERE ALL
REPORTED IN "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S EL SALVADOR - CASE STUDIES, JULY
1976 - DECEMBER 1977.")

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