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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: NOV 19 2018

JCSM-403-81  
22 December 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: US Security Assistance Strategy for El Salvador (U)

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff concur in the findings of the US Military Strategy Assistance Team to El Salvador and the need to pursue a strategy that will lead to victory. While making this recommendation, the Joint Chiefs of Staff do not envision that these military measures are an end in themselves. Rather, they are a judgment of the military security assistance component of an overall US strategy to achieve "victory" in El Salvador that must include concomitant economic assistance and political support, if victory is to be achieved. Success in this venture assumes:

El Salvador

- a. El Salvador will continue to take corresponding political and economic measures to widen the process of reforms initiated by the current government.
- b. External support for the insurgency does not dramatically exceed the levels now provided.

Due to time constraints, the dollar costs in Annexes A and B represent only a best estimate available at this time for implementing that strategy. Requirements are prioritized, and some high-cost items in the future may be deleted because of budgetary considerations. The Services are presently reviewing these requirements and costs to provide more accurate estimates. Time being a major factor, however, the Joint Chiefs of Staff strongly believe that this strategy should be approved and that the short-term actions outlined in Tab B to Annex A be undertaken immediately.

2. Annexes A and B are a summary of the report of the US Military Strategy Assistance Team (The Woerner Report) and the implementation concept, as developed by the team, for US security assistance requirements, to support a "victory" strategy for El Salvador. The annexes address the personnel, materiel requirements, and associated costs determined essential by the team to achieve success in El Salvador over the current insurgency. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have added costing data for out-of-country training and for secure communications.

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3. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that a memorandum, substantially like that in the Appendix, with its Annexes A and B, be forwarded to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

CHARLES W. DYKE  
Major General, USA  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Attachments

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