

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

*Sec Def*

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

2 February 1983 FEB 4 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: El Salvador Meeting: Assistant Secretary Enders,  
CIA, JCS, ASD/ISA, DASD/I-A

~~(S)~~ The military situation in El Salvador has deteriorated somewhat over the past several months. The key reason is poor leadership in five of the six brigades and an unwillingness to patrol or to fight at night. Instead, large-unit sweeps are conducted infrequently and the guerrillas roam freely in the interim.

~~(S)~~ However, guerrilla strength still hovers around 5,000, and the government troops have not deserted or shown other signs of breaking.

~~(S)~~ At best, the outlook is for little or no military progress in 1983, while Congressional opposition mounts and Congressional appropriations drop.

~~(S)~~ Under these circumstances, the group decided we should collect the advice of our people in El Salvador and, if the advice merited it, present to SecState and SecDef an options paper: whether we continue with the current Salvadoran military commanders or urge a new slate of proven combat leaders.

~~(S)~~ CIA also warned that the Nicaraguan MIG pilots trained in Bulgaria were back in Nicaragua and that two MIG-21 crates were being loaded on a ship in Cuba.

*FJ West*  
Francis J. West, Jr.

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
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