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Department of State

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5:42:23 AM 02/09/2023

U.S. was murdered near the international airport on December 9th. Col. García was on a trip to El Salvador on December 8th. There were two incidents in the vicinity of the airport on December 8th. One of the incidents involved the murder of Col. García. The other incident involved the murder of Col. Solís. At the time of the incident, Col. García was traveling with his family on a private jet. The jet was hijacked by armed men who murdered all of the passengers on board. The other incident involved the murder of Col. Solís. At the time of the incident, Col. Solís was traveling with his family on a private jet. The jet was hijacked by armed men who murdered all of the passengers on board. The jet was later found with the bodies of all of the passengers still on board.

SECRET

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AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: 78365

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: CROWLEY, JOHN

DATE: 11/28/03

CASE ID: 5423

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To rising sentiment in the U.S. to "go it alone" unless the attitude of the U.S. will make clear his preference for cooperation with the U.S. and specifically said he had rejected suggestions to join the COP. COI.

Nicolas Garranha, the vice-minister, also showed appreciation for the gravity of the current crises with both the U.S. and the Christian Democratic party. He had been less categorical than the others in deciding military responsibility for rightwing members. The worst possibility, precisely, was ruled by LT. COL. "COPAN, head of the notorious Treasury police, and raised doubts about the army's political orientation and told a story about capturing a Salvadorean who had recently released an armed attack on a police post. The other colonels looked embarrassed and shifted in their chairs.

At this point the ambassador was called away to take a phone call from Washington. He returned to tell the guests that the ambassador had called the U.S. press treatment to the story received this morning and the intense concern at all levels of the U.S. corps. Col. Garcia, summarizing his earlier remarks, promised to seek foreign technical assistance for an intensive investigation to find the guilty parties and punish them. Once again, the ambassador laid out for the colonels the general problems of sponsored or tolerated violence and spoke of the scarring isolation of El Salvador in the civilized world. We are not prepared to help the JSC and the armed forces in their program of structural reform and legitimate internal defense, but there was a real question now about any but the most calloused foreign state could go on in this effort while atrocities such as the murder of the killers were occurring constantly.

Comment: I am convinced that none of the colonels recognized just how serious this piece is until this conversation. Despite Col. Cummings' meetings with several of them last night, we have reached a critical juncture in this country. Either the military establishment will cut out the gang that is destroying it or the democratic forces that have worked to save the JSC will succeed. I hear the Christian democrat, the democrats and ourselves, will find it nearly impossible to go on. I made clear to the colonels this decision is theirs but that public opinion can probably only be satisfied by a major reorganization of the military establishment that will show it means to fulfill the understandings of the October 15 proclamation. Some of them understood what I mean and I believe we are leading the resistance to a rightwing military/civilian plot aimed at subverting a dictatorship for the JSC and launching a vast massacre in this country. Whether these conservative or anti-fascist members of the military establishment can fend off the pressures from the ultra-right is still problematic, but within the boundaries of the possible. The key question is whether the military has the strength and will to restore and unify its chain of command.

Nicolás Christopherson