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SUBJECT: CODEL MOAKLEY WRAP-UPREF: A) SAN SALVADOR 2043; B) SAN SALVADOR 2189;
C) SAN SALVADOR 2655

1. SUMMARY: CODEL MOAKLEY SPENT FEBRUARY 11-14 IN EL SALVADOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT THE JESUIT MURDERS AND THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GENERAL. CODEL MEMBERS WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN THE JOYA MARTINEZ CASE AND IN JENNIFER CASOLO. DURING THEIR VISIT, THEY MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR, MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM, PRESIDENT CRISTIANI, ESAF CHIEF OF STAFF COL. PONCE, VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE COL. ZEPEDA, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE JESUIT CASE. AT A PREDEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, CONG. MOAKLEY SAID THAT CODEL MEMBERS WERE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION, EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE THAT THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUE, CONDEMNED VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY THE FMLN AND THE ESAF, AND ENCOURAGED NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE CONFLICT. SOME MEMBERS ALSO VISITED AREAS OF SAN SALVADOR DAMAGED IN THE NOVEMBER OFFENSIVE; CASOLO'S HOUSE; AND THE VILLAGE WHERE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED BY AIR FORCE ROCKETS. END SUMMARY. FYI: THE INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN CODEL, AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF WAS REPORTED IN RETEL A.

MEETING WITH COLONELS PONCE AND ZEPEDA (ENTIRE CODEL)

2. IN A MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12 WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF COL. RENE EMILIO PONCE AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE COL. JUAN ORLANDO ZEPEDA, THE CODEL ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE JESUIT KILLING AND FOCUSED ON THE NOVEMBER 15 MEETING AT THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 30 OFFICERS, INCLUDING COL. BENAVIDES.

3. COL. PONCE STATED THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN MILITARY IN NATURE AND EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS PERMISSION TO KILL THE PRIESTS. HE CALLED ON COPREFA (ARMED FORCES PRESS OFFICE) DIRECTOR MAJOR MAURICIO CHAVEZ CACERES TO GIVE HIS VERSION OF THAT EVENING'S EVENTS. MAJ. CHAVEZ ECHOED PONCE'S EXPLANATION.

4. A DISCUSSION ALSO INCLUDED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE TANDONA (1966 MILITARY SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS). COL. ZEPEDA EXPLAINED THE TANDONA'S UNITY AND THAT IT IS THE SOURCE OF SENIOR COLONELS FOR KEY POSITIONS.

MEETING WITH SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT DIRECTOR (ENTIRE CODEL)

5. THE DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT LT. COLONEL MANUEL ANTONIO RIVAS MEJIA BRIEFED CODEL MOAKLEY ON THE JESUIT INVESTIGATION. SHARP QUESTIONING FOCUSED ON THE NOVEMBER 15 MEETING OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND AND THE NOVEMBER 16 MEETING AT WHICH THE DEATH OF THE JESUITS WAS ANNOUNCED. THERE WAS ALSO A POINTED EXCHANGE ON THE

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BUCKLAND-AVILES INCIDENT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A COVER-UP. CODEL MEMBERS POINTED OUT THAT COL. AVILES AND MAJOR BUCKLAND HAD TAKEN POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS. IN THE INTERESTS OF "CLEARING THE AIR" ON COVER-UP ALLEGATIONS, CODEL MEMBERS ASKED RIVAS IF HE WOULD TAKE A POLYGRAPH. RIVAS SAID HE WOULD DO SO IF ORDERED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. (COMMENT: RIVAS WAS BOTH HURT AND OFFENDED BY THE TONE OF MUCH OF THIS MEETING. MANY MEMBERS AND THE CHAIRMAN FELT THAT SOME QUESTIONS HAD BEEN TOO HARSH. IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH RIVAS LATER IN THE VISIT, THE CHAIRMAN REPAIRED A LOT OF THE DAMAGE. END COMMENT.)

6. AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 13 (SEE RETEL B), THE CODEL SPLIT INTO THREE PARTS TO MEET WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL COLORADO (SMALL GROUP)

7. THE CODEL ASKED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ABOUT THE ROLE OF HIS OFFICE IN THE JESUIT CASE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU). THE AG EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE MISSION OF HIS OFFICE IS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND PROSECUTE CASES OF STATE INTEREST, HE LACKS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES INCLUDING PROSECUTORS, TO DO HIS JOB WELL. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE SIU TO REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE SIU, SAID COLORADO, HAD DONE A PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATION AND HE FEELS ABLE TO PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.

8. THE CODEL ASKED COLORADO ABOUT ALLEGATIONS OF A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND AND IF HIS OFFICE WAS INVESTIGATING SUCH ALLEGATIONS. COLORADO NOTED THAT CONSPIRACY ALLEGATIONS WERE BEING MADE WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC EVIDENCE. WHILE HE WOULD CONSIDER ANY ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE, COLORADO SAID HE WOULD NOT INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION BASED ON RUMORS. COLORADO ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT SPOKEN TO COL. BENAVIDES AND DID NOT KNOW IF BENAVIDES KEPT A DIARY. IN ADDITION, COLORADO SAID HE HAD NOT ASKED COL. RIVAS ABOUT A MEETING OF THE ESAF HIGH COMMAND IN WHICH THE JESUIT KILLINGS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

9. CONG. MILLER SAID THAT IF AFTER ALL THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT THE USG HAS POURED INTO EL SALVADOR, THE SALVADORAN JUSTICE SYSTEM CANNOT MAKE A CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED IN THE JESUIT CASE, THEN ADDITIONAL AID IS IN TROUBLE IN CONGRESS. COLORADO REPLIED THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE SOLVED IN A DAQ. HE ARGUED AGAINST CUTTING OR CONDITIONING AID SOLELY ON THE OUTCOME OF A SINGLE CASE.

10. COLORADO ALSO DISCUSSED HIS LETTER TO THE POPE ASKING FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE BISHOPS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS MEANT TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS AND AUXILIARY BISHOP ROSA CHAVEZ MIGHT BE IN GRAVE DANGER, LIKE THE JESUITS. HE WAS SUGGESTING THAT THEY BE TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION. THE AG INSISTED THAT HIS MOTIVES WERE NOT BASED ON HOSTILITY TOWARD THE CHURCH BUT OUT OF CONCERN FOR THEIR SAFETY. HE STATED THAT THE PRESS HAD MISINTERPRETED THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER.

11. CONCERNING THE CASOLO CASE, COLORADO SAID THAT SHE WAS RELEASED BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND NOT BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

MEETING WITH FMLN DEFACTORS (SMALL GROUP)

12. SOME MEMBERS OF THE CODEL MET WITH TWO CAPTURED FMLN FIGHTERS AT NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THEY ASKED

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SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT FMLN STRATEGIC PLANS, PLANNING FOR
TE OFFENSIVE, FLOW OF WEAPONS, AND REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR
THE FMLN. THE DEFECTORS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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--THE FMLN HAS A STRATEGIC POLITICAL-MILITARY PLAN WHICH
GIVES EMPHASIS TO POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC AND/OR MILITARY
OPERATIONS AT DIFFERENT TIMES DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES.
THIS PLAN, FORMULATED IN 1987/1988 IS DESIGNED TO ALLOW
THE FMLN TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF TOTAL POWER. DIALOGUE IS
USED AS A TOOL UNDER THIS PLAN.

--THE FMLN, OR AT LEAST SOME OF ITS GROUPS, USES
ASSASSINATIONS TO FRIGHTEN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT
INVOLVED IN PROGRAMS WHICH BENEFIT THE PEOPLE.

--FMLN MEMBERS ARE TRAINED IN CUBA, NORTH KOREA, AND
VIETNAM. NICARAGUA IS USED AS THE BRIDGE TO CHANNEL
PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF CENTRAL AMERICA. WEAPONS,
AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES ARE INTRODUCED INTO EL SALVADOR
USUALLY BY LAND, FROM NICARAGUA THROUGH HONDURAS AND
SOMETIMES GUATEMALA. MORE SOPHISTICATED ARMS ARE BROUGHT
IN BY SMALL PLANE. CUBA PLAYS THE LEAD ROLE IN PROVIDING
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE FMLN.

--MANY PEOPLE REPATRIATED FROM CAMPS IN HONDURAS ARE
FAMILY MEMBERS OF FMLN COMBATANTS. FAMILY TIES, RATHER
THAN IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT, FORM THE LINK BETWEEN
REPATRIATED PERSONS AND THE FMLN.

MEETING WITH BENAVIDES' ATTORNEY (SMALL GROUP)

13. MEMBERS OF THE CODEL MET WITH CARLOS ALFREDO MENDEZ
FLORES, COL. BENAVIDES' ATTORNEY. DESPITE THEIR BEST
EFFORTS, MENDEZ FLORES GRACIOUSLY AND LOQUACIOUSLY
REFUSED TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT ANY ASPECTS OF HIS
CLIENT'S CASE. THE MEETING WAS NOT A SUCCESS.

14. THE CODEL WAS ALSO IN THREE GROUPS DURING THE EARLY
AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 13.

MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS WORKERS (SMALL GROUP)

15. THE CODEL MET WITH LEADERS FROM LUTHERAN, EPISCOPAL,
CATHOLIC, MENNONITE AND BAPTIST CHURCHES. THE LUTHERANS
AND CATHOLICS SPOKE OF PERSECUTION OF THEIR WORKERS
BECAUSE THEY HELP THE POOR. THEY STATED THAT IT WAS
DANGEROUS TO CARRY BIBLES OR TO CARRY CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS.
LUTHERAN BISHOP GOMEZ FEARS FOR HIS LIFE AND REMAINS
OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. FATHER [REDACTED] A CATHOLIC
PRIEST TOLD CODEL MEMBERS OF HIS HARRASSMENT BY THE ARMY
AND NOTED THE CLIMATE OF FEAR AFFECTING THE CHURCHES AND
REITERATED THAT HELPING THE POOR CAUSED PERSECUTION.

16. A DIFFERENT PICTURE WAS PRESENTED BY ONE OF THE
BAPTISTS WHO SAID THAT HE HAS DISTRIBUTED BIBLES AND
CHRISTIAN LITERATURE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR 13 YEARS
WITH NO PROBLEMS FROM THE AUTHORITIES. HE SAID THAT HE
WORKS WITH THE POOREST OF THE POOR PROVIDING HEALTH
CARE, SCHOOLING, ETC.

17. IN A TELLING RESPONSE TO WHY THERE SHOULD BE SUCH
DIFFERENCES, FATHER SANCHEZ SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A
GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GIVING MEDICINE TO THE POOR AND
"EMPOWERING THE POOR."

MEETING WITH JUDGE ZAMORA (SMALL GROUP)

18. JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA OF THE FOURTH CRIMINAL COURT OF
SAN SALVADOR TO WHOM THE JESUIT CASE HAS BEEN CONSIGNED,
MET WITH CODEL MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE JESUIT CASE. THE

JUDGE POINTED OUT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
IN THE U.S. AND SALVADOR AND EXPLAINED THE JUDGE'S ROLE
IN THE PROCESS. HE ALSO NOTED WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE
THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM INCLUDING
THE INABILITY TO FORM JURIES. JUDGE ZAMORA NOTED THAT
IN 1989, 55 - 75 PER CENT OF HIS JURY HEARINGS HAD TO BE
DELAYED OR DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED BECAUSE THERE
WERE NOT ENOUGH JURORS PRESENT TO FORM A JURY.

19. ZAMORA SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH HE IS IN CHARGE OF THE
INVESTIGATION, THE COURTS DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN
INVESTIGATIVE ARM AND THEREFORE MUST RELY ON THE POLICE
OR THE SIU. THIS IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE OFTEN THE POLICE
FAIL TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUDICIARY.

MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEBATE (SMALL GROUP)

20. THE MEETING OF CODEL MEMBERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE NATIONAL DEBATE COMMITTEE PROVIDED A FORUM FOR THE
EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON THE DIALOGUE ISSUE, THE NOVEMBER 11
OFFENSIVE, AND THE EFFECTS OF THE STATE OF EXCEPTION ON
THE SALVADORAN POLITICAL PROCESS.

-- THE COMMITTEE CLAIMED, INCORRECTLY WE BELIEVE, TO BE
AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE MAJORITY OF
THE PEOPLE EFFECTED BY THE INSURGENCY AND SAID THAT
THEY SHOULD BE A PART OF THE PEACE PROCESS. THE
COMMITTEE IS CONVINCED THAT THE PROCESS MUST INCLUDE
BROADER REPRESENTATION THAN THE GOES AND THE FMLN,
MEANING THE "SOCIAL SECTORS".

--ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AGREED THAT THAT THE STATE OF
EXCEPTION IS STIFLING POLITICAL EXPRESSION. THEY
BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO CONTINUE THE STATE
OF EXCEPTION TO KEEP POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM
PROTESTING AGAINST THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ITS ECONOMIC
POLICIES.

--COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADMITTED THAT THE NOVEMBER 11
OFFENSIVE WAS A MISTAKE BY THE FMLN. ALTHOUGH OFFENSIVES
AND COUNTER-OFFENSIVES HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR ALMOST TEN
YEARS, IT WAS STRESSED THAT THE NATIONAL DEBATE ABHORS
ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS.

MEETING WITH CHURCH LEADERS (ENTIRE GROUP)

21. THE ENTIRE CODEL THEN MET WITH ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y
DAMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP ROSA CHAVEZ AND ARCHDIOCESE LEGAL
OFFICE DIRECTOR MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ. RIVERA Y DAMAS
TOLD THE CODEL THAT THE JESUIT MURDERS MUST HAVE HAD MORE
THAN ONE INTELLECTUAL AUTHOR. ROSA CHAVEZ CITED THE
SOUND TRUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE MORNING OF THE MURDER
WHICH SAID "ELLACURIA AND MONTES HAVE FALLEN...LET'S
CONTINUE KILLING COMMUNISTS...WE ARE THE FIRST BRIGADE."
THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK WAS DISCUSSED IN
RELATION TO THE CLIMATE THAT LED TO THE JESUIT MURDER.
ROSA CHAVEZ SPOKE ABOUT MODERATE AND "HARD" TENDENCIES
IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES, AND DESCRIBED
CRISTIANI AS A MODERATE FORCE WHO SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.
22. HERNANDEZ NOTED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS
AS BAD AS THE EARLY 1980S IN SPITE OF A MUCH LOWER NUMBER
OF "DEATH SQUAD" MURDERS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SHE
STATED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE REDUCTION IN
VIOLENCE WAS THE ARMED FORCES FEAR OF LOSING AMERICAN
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR
PASTORAL ADVICE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE ARCHBISHOP
REPLIED WITH A CALL FOR "GEOPOLITICAL, REGIONAL, AND
LOCAL" NEGOTIATIONS.

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23. DINNER WITH JESUITS (SMALL GROUP)

AT THE MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA) ON FEBRUARY 12 WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS DID NOT ATTEND, CONG. DORNAN ARRANGED A DINNER WITH FATHER MIGUEL FRANCISCO ESTRADA, RECTOR OF UCA; FATHER JOSE MARTA TOJIERA, JESUIT PROVINCIAL FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA; AND FATHER FERMIN SAENZ. OTHER CODEL MEMBERS ALSO ATTENDED THE DINNER WHICH WAS HELD AT THE HOME OF CONSUL GENERAL RICCIUTI. DORNAN DESCRIBED HIS JESUIT EDUCATION WHICH INSTILLED STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST BELIEFS. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE JESUITS WITH THE EMBASSY WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS STRAINED AT BEST. THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF THE WITNESS IN THE JESUIT CASE WAS GIVEN AS AN EXAMPLE.

24. THE REMAINDER OF THE CONVERSATION WAS SPENT EXPLORING LIBERATION THEOLOGY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNISM. THE CONGRESSMEN OPINED THAT LIBERATION THEOLOGY AND COMMUNISM ARE CLOSELY RELATED IN THAT LIBERATION THEOLOGY ENCOURAGES THE POOR AND OPPRESSED TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THEIR OPPRESSORS. THE JESUITS DISAGREED NOTING THEIR OPPOSITION TO COMMUNISM AND THEIR DISAPPROVAL BUT UNDERSTANDING OF MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE THEY SEE IN EL SALVADOR.

MEETING WITH COL. ELENA FUENTES (SMALL GROUP)

25. UPON ARRIVAL AT 1ST BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS FOR A MEETING WITH COL. ELENA FUENTES, CODEL MEMBERS WERE GREETED BY UNIFORMED AMPUTEE SOLDIERS SITTING NEAR HIS OFFICE. CONG. STUDDS NOTED THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS WAS NOT LOST ON THE GROUP. STUDDS ASKED THE COLONEL TO EXPLAIN JOYA MARTINEZ' CHARGES AND TO CLARIFY DETAILS AND ADDRESS HIS ACCUSATIONS. ELENA FUENTES STATED THAT JOYA IS A MURDERER AND TRAITOR WHO EXCEEDED HIS AUTHORITY. HE EXPLAINED AWAY HIS REPORTING OF THE "FALLING OFF THE TRUCK" INCIDENT AS PASSING ON THE REPORT GIVEN BY JOYA MARTINEZ. THE COLONEL SAID THAT JOYA TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO TORTURE AND KILL THE TWO PRISONERS.

26. MANY QUESTIONS CONCERNED THE TIMING (WHEN DID YOU KNOW; HOW DID YOU FIND OUT; ETC) OF THE ACCUSATIONS. ELENA FUENTES ADDRESSED THE QUESTIONS CALMLY AND DIRECTLY AND OFFERED TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THE BRIGADE'S REPORTS ON THE INCIDENT. FYI: WE HAVE REQUESTED THESE REPORTS AND WILL FORWARD THEM ASAP.

PRESS CONFERENCE

27. PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE ON FEBRUARY 14, THE CODEL HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CAMINO REAL HOTEL FOR SALVADORAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS. READING FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT, CONG. MOAKLEY SAID THE CODEL WAS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION TO DATE AND HOPED THAT PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE. THE STATEMENT CONDEMNED VIOLENCE FROM THE FMLN AND THE GOES AND CALLED FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR (ENTIRE CODEL)

28. IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14 MOST MEMBERS OF THE CODEL STATED THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN VERY PRODUCTIVE. WHILE IMPRESSED WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE JESUIT INVESTIGATION, THEY BELIEVED THAT IT SHOULD

CONTINUE BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT DOUBTS REGARDING HIGHER LEVEL INVOLVEMENT. QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT THE ROLES OF COL. AVILES AND MAJ. BUCKLAND, ESPECIALLY ABOUT WHY IT TOOK BUCKLAND SO LONG TO RELATE WHAT HE KNEW. CODEL MEMBERS WERE PUZZLED AS TO WHY THE LETTER FROM COL. MENJIVAR TO GENERAL LARIOS WITH THE BUCKLAND INFORMATION COULD NOT BE PASSED TO CODEL WHEN IT HAD BEEN SENT TO SALVADORAN MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. FYI: CODEL RECEIVED A COPY OF LETTER FROM COL. RIVAS (SIU).

29. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE JOYA MARTINEZ CASE, THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN EXTRADITION REQUESTS AND STATED THAT THE GOES HAD FILED A REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION OF JOYA MARTINEZ WHICH WAS BEING TRANSLATED.

30. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE AIR FORCE ROCKETING OF A HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE OF CORRAL DE PIEDRA AND ITS DENIAL OF THIS ACTION. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT ARE A RECURRING PROBLEM. A NUMBER OF CODEL MEMBERS THEN MENTIONED THAT THE EMBASSY DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS CASES AS QUICKLY AS THE CONGRESS WOULD LIKE. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT WE FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO RESPOND AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE, WHICH NECESSARILY MEANS CAUTIOUSLY AND, UNFORTUNATELY, NOT AS RAPIDLY AS THE MEDIA.

31. CONG. MILLER NOTED THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS APPEAR TO HAVE A BIAS AGAINST RELIGIOUS WORKERS. THIS CHARGE WAS STRONGLY DENIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED, THE FMLN KNOWS HOW TO USE VARIOUS GROUPS TO ITS ADVANTAGE AND IS ABLE TO PURSUE A NUMBER OF AGENDAS AT THE SAME TIME. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT IF WE THINK THE FMLN IS USING "FRONTS" WE SAY SO AND THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO ONE ON THE EMBASSY STAFF HAS LIED OR SHAVED INFORMATION TO THE CODEL. CONG. MILLER RESPONDED THAT HE HAS BEEN COMING TO SALVADOR FOR 10 YEARS AND THAT HE HAS BEEN LIED TO BY THE USG REPEATEDLY.

32. CONG. MCHUGH SUGGESTED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE NUMBER AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES/INQUIRIES TO WHICH THE EMBASSY MUST RESPOND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ADDITIONAL OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PORTFOLIO. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT PRESSURES FROM WASHINGTON ARE TO REDUCE STAFF LEVELS, AND ASKED THAT MCHUGH MAKE THAT SUGGESTION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

33. COMMENT: THE CODEL'S MEETINGS IMPRESSED THEM WITH THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE JESUIT CASE IS TAKEN BY THE GOES. HOWEVER, QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE ROLE OF OFFICERS HIGHER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND THAN COL. BENAVIDES; THE REASONS WHY BUCKLAND WAITED SO LONG TO BRING SO IMPORTANT A MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS; AND THE DISCUSSIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE HIGH COMMAND ON NOVEMBER 15 AND 16. END COMMENT.

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