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UNCLASSIFIED Department of States:

INCOMING TELEGRAM

SAN SA 14986 2#1655Z

1259 ARA7839

ET. IN A SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH USIS, FR. TOJEIRA EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE. WALKERS

FR AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDE INTEDIATE 3679 USIA WASHDE INMEDIATE 3896

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 14986

STATE FOR ARA/P, ARA/CEN, PA USIA FOR P/G, P/PFL, P/M, AR

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, ES SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ATTEMOS ELLAGURIA FUNERA

- 1. AMBASSADOR AND PAO ATTENDED FUNERAL MASS FOR FR. IGMACIO ELLACURIA AND MIS FIVE JESUIT COLLEAGUES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, THAT WAS HELD IN THE CHAPEL OF THE UNIVERSIDAD CENTROAMERICANA DUGA). CMAPEL WAS OVERFLOWING WITH FRIENDS, RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES, STUDENTS, PRESIDENT AND MRS. CRISTIARI, OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOES, THE DIPLOMATIC SORPS, AND A SWARM OF JOURNALISTS.
- 2. MOOD OF CROVD WAS SOBER BUT NOT DESPONDENT AS CHAPEL WAS FILLED WITH MUSIC OF NYMMS ACCOMPANIES ST GUITARS, REFLECTING THE "POPULAR" ORIENTATION OF MOST OF THE CELEBRANTS.
- 3. WORDS OF PRAISE AND SORROW WERE CITETION BY WARIOUS RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROVINCIAL GLEADER) OF THE JESUIT ORDER IN CENTRAL AMERICA, FR. JOSE MARIA TOJEIRA, ARCHEISMOP RIVERA DAMAS, PAPAL NUNCIO, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JESUIT ORDER FROM SPAIN, AND LUTHERAN BISHOP MEDIPOD GOTEZ.
 - 4. BISHOP MEDARDO GOMEZ OFFERED MOST AGGRESSIVE AND STRIDENT EULOGY, CHARACTERIZED BY HIS STATEMENT THAT "THIS SIN WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN."

 5. MOST HOPEFUL, AND POSITIVE, EULOGY WAS DELIVERED. BY FR. MARIA TOJEIRA, WHEN HE MOTED THAT "THESE NEW MAYE QUESTED FOR TRUTH THEIR WHOLE LIVES...THEIR DEATHS WILL HOT END THIS QUEST, NOR VILL IT END THEIR WORK. UNIVERSIDAD CENTROMPERICAMA WILL GO UM "RESPONSE WAS A PROLONGED STANDING CVATIGN FROM THE ASSEMBLED THRONG.
 - 6. OTHER MOMENT OF DRAMA WAS THE SURPRISE OF LEAST TO US AS WE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS OUT OF EL SALVADOR) APPEARANCE OF RUBEN LAMORA HEAR THE END OF THE SERVICE. ZAMORA'S SUDDEN ENTRANCE FROM A SIDE DOOR, HIS SLOV PROGRESS AS HE PAISED EACH COFFIN AND PAUSED A MOMENT, AND THEN TOON UP A POSITION HEAP THE FRONT OF THE CHAPEL, WHERE AMBASSADOR VIALKER AND HE SHOOK MANDS AND PASSED A FEW WORDS, WAS GREETED WITH ENTHUSIASTIC DVATION ALMOST EQUAL TO TOJEIRA'S.
 - 7. SIZE OF CROWD WAS A GENUINE EXPRESSION OF THE RESPECT, AND EVEN AFFECTION, ELLACURIA AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD GARMERED WITHIN EL SALVADOR, AND COTHE REVULSION THAT MANY FEEL OVER THE BRUTALITY AND BARBARITY OF THEIR MURDER.

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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 15925

ROME FOR VATICAN

MEXICO FOR LEGATT

STATE FOR ARA, PA

E.O. 12356: DECL: NA TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, ES SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE ON ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR THAT USG COERCED WITHESS TO JESUIT KILLINGS

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS READ TO THE PRESS BY PAO ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR WALKER ON DECEMBER 18:

I AM SADDENED THAT THE ARCHBISHOP DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND HE ARE IN THE SAME QUEST FOR THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED TO, AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR, THE MURDER OF FR. ELLACURIA, HIS COLLEAGUES, AND TWO OTHER CIVILIANS. FROM THE MOMENT THAT THIS OUTRAGE OCCURED, THERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT MANY MISINFORMED AND UNSUBSTANTIATED STATEMENTS OFFERED BY PERSONS IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY. THE VERSION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY IN FLORIDA FROM A WITNESS, THAT WAS PROVIDED TO THE ARCHBISHOP, IS INCORRECT.

- 2. SUGGENTED POINTS FOR GUIDANCE:
- THE USG HAS MADE ITS COMMITMENT TO FIND THE KILLERS OF FR. ELLACURIA ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.
- WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OFFICIAL CONDUCT OF THIS INVESTIGATION.
- THE USG UNDERSTANDS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS CASE SHOULD IT NOT BE EXPEDITIOUSLY SOLVED, AND THOSE RESPONSILBE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THE USG HAS MADE THIS CLEAR TO PRESIDENT CRISTIANI AND HIS GOVERNMENT.
- GIVEN THIS COMMITMENT, IT MAKES NO SENSE THAT THE

SAN SA 15925 BB OF B3 118215Z 886881 USG WOULD IRY TO DISCREDIT A WITNESS WHO MIGHT PROVIDE INFORMATION TO FURTHER THIS INVESTIGATION.

IN THE PARTICULAR INSTANCE, THE EMBASSY, SPECIFICALLY AMBASSADOR WALKER, COOPERATED WITH THE CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR, TO BRING THIS WITNESS TO SANCTUARY IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS ASSISTANCE, WHICH INCLUDED EXIT FROM EL SALVADOR (IN COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH AND SPANISH AUTHORITIES), EASE OF ENTRY INTO THE US (WHERE SHE REQUESTED SANCTUARY), AND SECURITY AND ACCOMADATION DURING HER FIRST TEN DAYS, WAS PUT TOGETHER ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE.

- THE USG IS COMMITTED TO FINDING THE TRUTH, NOT TO ANY PREDETERMINED SINGLE LINE OF INQUIRY.
- 3 SUGGESTIONS FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
- Q: TWHY WAS LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATE?
- A: MRS. CERNA HERSELF ASKED TO COME TO THE U.S. IT WAS WHAT SHE WANTED.
- Q: DID AN EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANY HER ON THE FLIGHT TO FLORIDA?
- YES. THE EMBASSY LEGAL OFFICER AND AN FB! AGENT, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE FRENCH MINISTER WHOSE AIRCRAFT WAS USED, ACCOMPANIED HER. WHO CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEWS OF MRS. CERNA?
- A: THEY WERE CONDUCTED BY THE FBI IN COOPERATION WITH A SALVADORAN INVESTIGATOR IN MIAMI.
- Q: WHO WAS THE SALVADORAN OFFICIAL PRESENT?
- A: THE HEAD OF THE SALVADORAN SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE

UNIT, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, WYS PRESENT. HE TRAVELED TO FLORIDA ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.

- IS HE A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES?
- YES, HE IS AN OFFICER, A LT. COL., IN THE ARMY. HE WAS NOT IN UNIFORM.
- WHY WAS HE PRESENT?
- TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED DURING FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN EL SALVADOR. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRAIL IN EL SALVADOR.
- DID MRS, CERNA HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT DURING THE QUESTIONING?
- NO. MRS. CERNA IS NOT A SUSPECT. THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW WAS TO DETERMINE AS MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO HELP WITH THE INVESTIGATION.
- Q: WAS SHE POLYGRAPHED?
- A: YES, OVER A PERIOD OF THREE DAYS, SHE TOOK AT LEAST SIX POLYGRAPH TESTS.

Q: WHY SIX TESTS?



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a: BECAUSE SHE OFFERED THREE DISTINCT VERSIONS OF WHAT SHE HEARD AND OBSERVED THE EVENING THAT THE CRIME OCCURRED.

TO YOU CONCLUDE SHE WAS LYING?

- A: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF LYING. THE WITNESS MAY HAVE BEEN NERVOUS BECAUSE OF THE ENTIRE PROCEDURE, AS WELL AS THE EFFECT OF TRAVELING TO A NEW COUNTRY, MEETING, WITH OFFICIALS, ETC. ALL THAT ONE CAN CONCLUDE IS THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH VERSION OF EVENTS SHE OFFERED IS THE MORE ACCURATE.
- A: WAS SHE THREATENED OR INTIMIDATED TO CHANGE HER TESTIMONY?
- Q: ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE PURPOSE OF THE LEGAL OFFICER ACCOMPANYING HER ON THE AIRCRAFT, AND THE PROCEDURES THAT FOLLOWED, WAS TO MAKE HER AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE.
- A: ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU BELIEVE, OR NOT BELIEVE, HER TESTIMONY?
- A: IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF BELIEVING OR NOT BELIEVING. EVEN THE MOST DETAILED OF THE VERSIONS SHE OFFERED PROVIDES FEW NEW LEADS. SHE IS NOT ON TRIAL. SHE IS A COOPERATING WITNESS. THE PURPOSE WAS TO OBTAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS SHE MIGHT HAVE, TO ALLOW THE INVESTIGATION TO PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
- Q: WHO TOOK CARE OF HER IN MIAMI?
- A: THE USG PROVIDED HER WITH FULL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION DURING HER FIRST TEN DAYS IN MIAMI.
- Q: WAS SHE THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION?
- A: ABSOLUTELY NOT. SHE WAS PROVIDED HUMANITARIAN PAROLE INTO THE U.S. FOR ONE YEAR, THE NORMAL PERIOD. THEREFORE, SHE IS NOT SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION, AND THIS WAS MADE CLEAR TO HER.
- Q: DID MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY ACCOMPANY HER?
- A: YES. HER HUSBAND AND HER DAUGHTER.
 Q: WHEN DID THE USG MAKE CONTACT WITH CHURCH AUTHORITIES IN MIAM!?
- A: UPON HER ARRIVAL AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SHE WAS MET BY CHURCH AUTHORITIES.
- Q: DO YOU THINK THAT SHE WAS "COACHED?"
- A: WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PARTS OF THE TESTIMONY SHE GAVE BEFORE A JUDGE IN SAN SALVADOR HAD BEEN REHEARSED. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE INFORMATION IS INCORRECT; MERELY THAT SOMEONE COACHED HER IN HER RESPONSES.
- Q: BY WHO?
- A: NO COMMENT.

WALKER

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UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

bhow. 2 INCOMING TELEGRAM

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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 14827

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: REPORTS THAT SIX JESUITS, INCLUDING UCA RECTOR ELLACURIA, KILLED

- 1. MEDIA AND CHURCH SOURCES REPORTS INDICATE THAT FATHER ELLACURIA, RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA), AND FIVE OTHER JESUIT FATHERS WERE KILLED IN THEIR UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 15 BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS: ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHICH CONFIRMED THE DEATHS THE ATTROCES THE ATTACKERS ENTERED THROUGH A GATE NEAR THE RESIDENCE, AND STRAFED THE BUILDING WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE.
- THOSE BELIEVED KILLED ARE:

FATHER SEGUNDO MONTES, HEAD OF UCA'S CENTER FOR HUMAN --RIGHTS FATHER IGNACIO MARTIN BARO, VICE RECTOR OF THE FATHER ARMANDO LOPEZ --UNIVERSITY FATHER JUAN RAMIRO ROMERO FATHER LOPEZ Y LOPEZ

ALSO KILLED WERE TWO FEMALES, DESCRIBED VARIOUSLY AS THE COOK AND HER DAUGHTER OR THE WIFE AND DAUGHTER OF THE GUARD.

COMMENT: ELLACURIA WAS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE ONGOING POLITICAL DEBATE, GREATLY RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLECTUAL STRENGTHS WHILE VIEWED WITH HIS INTELLECTUAL STHENGTHS WHILE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION BY SOME SECTORS FOR HIS CLEARLY LEFTIST VIEWS. UCA, THE MOST BALANCED AND RESPECTED OF THE CAPTIOL'S UNIVERSITIES, HOUSES SEVERAL INSTITUTES AND CAPTIOL'S UNIVERSITIES, HOUSES SEVERAL INSTITUTES AND SPONSORS PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE AMONG THE MOST ACERBIC SPONSORS PUBLICATIONS THAT AMONG THE PUBLICATIONS THAT AMONG THE MOST AMONG THE MOST AMONG THE MOST AMONG THE MOST AMO CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE CASE. EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE SCENE AND THE SIU HAS ALREADY BEGUN LOOKING DEPORTMENTS OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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END INFORMAL TRANSLATION

3. SPANISH TEXT OF APPLICABLE PORTION OF THE HOMILY:

BEGIN TEXT:

....DE FUENTES ECLESIASTICAS FIDEDIGNAS FUI INFORMADO EN MIAMI EL LUNES 4 DE DICIEMBRE DE QUE LA TESTIGO LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA MUJER TRABAJADORA Y SENCILLA ENCARGADA DE LA LIMPIEZA DE LA RECTORIA DE LA UCA Y QUE CON ENTEREZA AND LIBREMENTE TESTIFICO DE LO QUE HABIA VISTO Y OIDO LA NOCHE DE LA NEFASTA MATANZA, EN VES DE SER PROTEGIDA COMO LO HABIAN PROMETIDO LOS PERSONEROS DE LA EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN EL SALVADOR, FUE SOMETIDA EN AQUEL PAIS A UN AUTENTICO LAVADO DE CEREBRO Y AL CHANTAJE DE QUE SERIA DEPORTADA SINO DECIA LA VERDAD, SEGUN EL ABOGADO DE LOS JESUITAS, SCOTT GREATHEAD EL THTERROGATORIO A QUE LA SRA. DE CERNA FUE SOMETIDA, FUE AGRESIVO Y VIOLENTO, DESPUES DE ESTE TORMENTO PSICOLOGICO LA SRA. DE CERNA VACILO Y RETRACTO LO DECLARADO EN EL SALVADOR, AFORTUNADAMENTE LIBRE YA DE LA PRESION DE SUS PROTECTORES ENTRE COMILLAS HA VUELTO POR LOS FUEROS DE LA VERDAD.

END APPLICABLE PORTION OF THE HOMILY.

4. THE ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENTS ARE AT BEST ILL-INFORMED. SEPTELS REPORT ON MS. DE CERNA'S TRIP TO THE U.S. WITH THE EMBASSY L/O, AND SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE. WALKER

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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 15933

ROME FOR VATICAN

FOR A/S ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:NA TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, ES

SUBJECT: ARCHIBISHOPS' HOMILY ALLEGES USG THREATENED AND BRAINWASHED CHURCH WITNESS TO JESUIT KILLINGS

- I. IN HIS DECEMBER 18 HOMILY ARCHBISHOP RIVERA DAMAS WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE USG'S HANDLING OF LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, THE CHURCH'S WITNESS IN THE CASE OF THE JESUIT KILLINGS. RIVERA DAMAS CHARGED THAT THE CHURCH'S WITNESS, WHO IN EL SALVADOR HAD SAID THAT "ARMED SOLDIERS" HAD COMMITTED THE KILLINGS, HAD BEEN INTIMIDATED INTO CHANGING HER TESTIMONY WHEN QUESTIONED BY USG OFFICIALS. RIVERA DAMAS ACCUSED THE USG OF "AGGRESSIVE AND VIOLENT INTERROGATION," "BRAINWASHING," AND "PSYCHOLOGICAL TORMENT" TO GET THE WITNESS TO RECANT. HE CONCLUDED SAYING THAT NOW THAT THE WITNESS WAS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH IN THE U.S., SHE HAD RETURNED. TO THE TRUE" VERSION OF THE EVENTS.
- 2. FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF THE HOMILY AS WELL AS THE SPANISH TEXT OF THE SAME.
 BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

...ON DECEMBER 4TH, RELIABLE CHURCH SOURCES TOLD ME IN MIAMI THAT THE WITNESS (OF THE JESUIT KILLINGS), LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, A SIMPLE HARDWORKING CLEANING WOMAN IN THE UCA WHO FREELY TESTIFIED AS TO WHAT SHE SAW AND HEARD THE NIGHT OF THE HEARD BY OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR WAS SUBJECTED, IN THAT COUNTRY, TO AN ACTUAL BRAINWASHING AND TO THREATS OF DEPORTATION UNLESS SHE DICLD THE TRUTH. ACCORDING TO THE JESUIT'S LAWYER (IN MIAMI), SCOTT GREATHEAD HER INTERROCATION WAS ACRESSIVE AND VIOLENT. AFTER THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL TORMENT, MRS. CERNA WAVERED AND RETRACTED WHAT SHE HAD DECLARED IN EL SALVADOR. FOURTUNELY, FREE OF THE PRESSSURE OF HER QUOTE PROTECTORS UNQUUTE, SHE HAS NOW RETURNED TO THE TRUTH.

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S. COMMENT: TOJETRA'S PUBLIC DEFENSE REVEALS THE EXTREME SENS I JULY THAT MANY AT THE UCA FEEL OVER SUCH CHARGES AGAINST THE DEAD PRIESTS AND THE THREAT THAT MANY CONTINUE TO FEEL EXISTS AGAINST THEM. AT LEAST ONE UCA PROFESSOR TOLD POLOFF THAT THERE IS A CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE EXTREME RIGHT, INCLUDING ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, TO INTIMIDATE AND SILENCE THE PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE UCA. APPARENTLY, THESE TWO PRENSA GRAFICA EDITORIALS HIT A VERY SENSITIVE NERVE.

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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 00036

ROME PASS TO THE VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL/OADR TAGS: PHUM, ES SUBJECT: JESUITS RESPOND TO OP-ED CHARGES

- 1. SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 28 THE PRENSA GRAFICA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM JESUIT PROVINCIAL JOSE MARIA TOJEIRA. IN THE LETTER HE RESPONDS TO TWO EDITORIAL PIECES IN THE DECEMBER 21 PRENSA GRAFICA EDITION WHICH ACCUSED THE PRIESTS OF BEING GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZERS AND OF A CRITICISM OF "PRIVATE" INVESTIGATIONS OF THEIR MURDERS. TOJEIRA'S LETTER VIGOROUSLY ANSWERED THE CHARGES THAT THE MURDERED PRIESTS WERE NEO-MARXISTS AND THAT THE ORDER DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE THEIR MURDERS. END SUMMARY
- TOJETRA COUNTERED PUBLISHED CHARGES IN THE DECEMBER 21 PRENSA GRAFICA EDITION THAT THE MURDERED PRIESTS WERE MARXIST GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZERS BY STATING THAT THEIR MISSION IN EL SALVADOR HAD BEEN ONE OF "SEEKING TO MEDIATE IN AN EFFORT TO FIND PEACE WITH JUSTICE." IN THAT ROLE, HE SAID, THE DEAD PRIESTS HAD TRIED TO TALK WITH DIFFERENT SECTORS IN FINALLY HE DEBUNKS THE CHARGE THE THE CONFLICT. FATHER ELLACURIA WAS A MARXIST BY POINTING OUT THAT ELLACURIA'S PHILOSOPHICAL BACKGROUND EMANTED FROM THE TEACHINGS OF THE SPANISH PHILOSOPHER ZUBIRI. THIS "ZUBIRIAN" INCLINATION WAS WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY AND TO ALLEGE THAT ELLACURIA WAS A MARXIST IS TO REVEAL IGNORANCE AND LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF HIS INTELLECTUAL POSITIONS.
- 3. ACCORDING TO TOJEIRA'S LETTER, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA) IS NOT AN INTELLECTUAL CENTER FOR THE GUERRILLA CAUSE, BUT A UNIVERSITY THAT "COURAGEOUSLY FOLLOWS THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL DOCTRINE". TOJEIRA CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT SIMILAR STATEMENTS WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA BEFORE THE DEATHS OF THE JESUITS "PARTLY PROMOTED THEIR MURDER" AND "THEREFORE WE CONSIDER THEIR REPETITION TO BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER."
- 4. TOJETRA SAID THAT IN A CASE LIKE THIS ONE (THE JESUIT'S MURDERS) THE AGGRIEVED PARTY HAS RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE FULLY AND THAT "NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PINS, KJUS. ES SUBJECT: JESUIT MURDERS - PROGRESS REPORT NO. 13

- 1. THIS IS THE THIRTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE JESUIT KILLINGS. THIS REPORT COVERS THE DEVELOPMENTS OF JANUARY 3-JANUARY 4.
- 2. THE JUDGE AND PROSECUTORS REVIEWED THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY COL. RENE EMILIO PONCE, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, ON THE DISPOSITION OF FORCES ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 15/16. NEXT WEEK, THEY WILL CALL SOLDIERS FROM THE UNITS NAMED IN COL. PONCE'S REPORT TO GIVE THEIR OFFICIAL TESTIMONY. THE COURT HAS BEGUN TO RECEIVE THE TESTIMONY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) AND IS INCORPORATING SAME INTO THE OFFICIAL COURT RECORD.

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- 6. PENDING APPOINTMENTS:
- -- ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON
- -- A COMBINED MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP RIVERIA Y DAMAS, MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, FATHER TOJIERA, FATHER ESTRADA.
- -- PRESIDENT ALFREDO CRISTIANI.
- -- A MEETING WITH MS. JEHERA RONE, AMERICAS WATCH, IS NOT POSSIBLE. SHE IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER STAFFDEL LEAVES.
- 7. SHOULD ANY OF THESE PENDING APPOINTMENTS COME THROUGH AT THE LAST MINUTE, WE WILL FIT THEM INTO THE STAFFDEL'S ---SCHEDULE.
- 8. AS PER REFTEL 4, STAFFDEL CAN GO TO ANY MEETINGS THEY WANT WITHOUT ANY EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENT. EMBASSY SEES NO PROBLEM WITH MEETING ANY OF THE REQUESTS MADE IN REFTELS 2 AND 3.
- 9. PLEASE SEND FISCAL DATA SOONEST.
- 18. PLEASE SEND MILITARY AIR CLEARANCE MESSAGE ASAP. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF THERE ARE ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE PARTY OR CHANGES IN ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIMES.
- 11. PLEASE CALL RICHARD J. CHIDESTER, LEGAL OFFICE (OFFICE TEL: 583/26-7188, EXT. 2382, DIRECT LINE: 583/266736, HOME PHONE 583/23-5484) WITH ANY CHANGES OR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. (Protect) WALKER

EMMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 88188

DEPT FOR H AND ARA/CEN/ES NAVY FOR OLA GERALD MORE, MILITARY LIAISON

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: OREP, ASEC, ES SUBJECT: STAFFDEL O'NEIL - NOTIONAL SCHEDULE

REF: 1) STATE 418277, 2) TELCON MEJIA-MORE 81/84/89, 3: TELCON CHIDESTER-MORE 81/85/89, 4) TELCON MOAKLEY-AMBASSADOR 81/85/89

- 1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. PLEASE SEE PARAS 9-11.
- 2. THE FOLLOWING IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR STAFFDEL O'NEIL BASED ON REFTELS 1,2 AND 3.
- 3. MONDAY, JANUARY 8,1998

ARRIVE AT ILOPANGO AIR BASE. CONTROL OFFICER 1128 WILL MEET AND GREET.

1239 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM

1488 LUNCH WITH LEGAL OFFICER

BRIEFING AT SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT. CONTROL 1688 OFFICER WILL ATTEND.

1888 RETURN TO HOTEL TO PREPARE FOR DINNER

DINNER AT RESIDENCE OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION 1930

4. TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998

MEETING WITH MILITARY LEADERS AT ESTADO MAYOR 8988

MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL IN HIS OFFICE 1100

1388 LUNCH WITH RICHARD CHIDESTER AT CAMINO REAL

MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT 1588 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN HIS OFFICE

5. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1998

MEETING WITH JUDGE ZAMORA IN HIS OFFICE 8889

MEETING WITH ECON/R 1999

LUNCH WITH DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE 1200

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI 1400

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EARCS



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SAN SA 88295 188844Z 81
JUDICIAL PROCESS WILL FORTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
AND GIVE THE COUNTRY A MORE POSITIVE IMAGE IN THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE ADDED THAT THE RESULTS
OF THE INVESTIGATION SHOULD SERVE TO ESTABLISH
GREATER CONTROL OF THE ESAF.

4. OFFICIAL REACTION FROM THE JESUIT COMMUNITY WAS QUICK AS WELL. FATHER JOSEPH GERHARD, SPOKESMAN FOR THE JESUITS IN ROME, INDICATED THAT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN EL SALVADOR, WERE GLAD THAT PRESIDENT CRISTIANI HAD RECOGNIZED THAT MEMBERS OF THE ESAF HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDERS. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCLOSURE CONFIRMED SUCH EARLIER JESUIT SUSPICIONS.

S. ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF COL. RENE EMILIO
PONCE ANNOUNCED, JANUARY 8, THAT 47 SOLDIERS AND TWO
OFFICERS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO QUARTERS TO AWAIT
FURTHER QUESTIONING AFTER EVIDENCE WAS UNCOVERED
LINKING THEM TO THE JESUIT MURDERS. PONCE SAID THAT
IT WAS TOO EARLY TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON THE SOLDIERS
AND THAT HE WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL ALL OF THEIR
TESTIMONY HAD BEEN HEARD. PONCE ADDED THAT AS OF YET
THE EVIDENCE DID NOT POINT TO ONE SINGLE PERSON.
WALKER

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E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, ES

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES IDENTIFICATION OF
HILITARY SUSPECTS IN JESUIT CASE; REACTION
IS POSITIVE

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REF: SAN SALVADOR 215

I. SUMMARY: IN A TELEVISED SPEECH JANUARY 7, PRESIDENT CRISTIANI ANNOUNCED THAT 47 SOLDIERS AND TWO OFFICERS WERE BEING HELD FOR QUESTIONING RECARDING THE JESUIT MURDERS. REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS SWIFT AND POSITIVE. PDC SECGEN FIDEL CHAVEZ MENA SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION AND HOPED FOR STRONGER CONTROLS ON THE MILITARY. JESUIT LEADERS IN ROME WERE RELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT CRISTIANI RECOGNIZED THE ROLE OF THE ESAF IN THE CRIME. ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF COL. RENE EMILIO. PONCE CONFIRMED THAT THE SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE BEING HELD PENDING FURTHER QUESTIONING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A BRIEF JANUARY 7 TELEVISED MESSAGE, PRESIDENT CRISTIANI ANNOUNCED THAT EVIDENCE HAD BEEN UNCOVERED LINKING SOME ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO THE NOVEMBER 16 MURDERS OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, THEIR COOK, AND THE COOK'S YOUNG DAUGHTER. (THE BREAK IN THE CASE CAME THROUGH EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE LEFT AT THE SCENE -- SEE REFTEL.) HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE FINDINGS, A SPECIAL HONOR TRIBUNAL MADE UP OF DISTINGUISHED SALVADORAN JURISTS AND HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICIALS WOULD BE CONVOKED TO INSURE THE PURITY OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS.

3. PUBLIC REACTION TO PRESIDENT CRISTIANI'S SPEECH HAS BEEN SWIFT AND POSITIVE. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) SECGEN FIDEL CHAVEZ MENA ISSUED A STATEMENT, JANUARY 8, SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CASE. CHAVEZ MENA SAID THAT ACHIEVING A RESOLUTION TO THE CASE THROUGH THE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PINS, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT MURDERS - PRESIDENT CRISTIANI TO
- ANNOUNCE UP TO TEN ARRESTS

- . ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) NOW HAS IDENTIFIED ALL MURDER WEAPONS AND THE PEOPLE WHO USED THEM TO MURDER THE SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, THEIR HOUSEKEEPER, AND HER 15-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 15/16, 1989.
- 3. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI IS EXPECTED TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THIS EVENING OF UP TO TEN ARRESTS IN THE CASE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AMONG THOSE ARRESTED ARE FOUR TRIGGERMEN, TWO LIEUTENANTS, AND THE COLONEL WHO ALLEGEDLY GAVE THE ORDER THAT LED TO THE MURDERS. WALKER

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E.O. 12356: DECL: CADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV. ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: CRISTIANI PRESS CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT CRISTIANI ADDRESSED THE NATION TODAY AT 1500 HRS TO REVEAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE JESUIT MURDERS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE INVESTIGATION TO DATE AS ONE PHASE IN A PROCESS WHICH WILL INCLUDE CONSIGNING ACCUSED TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS FOR A DETERMINATION OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE. HE DESCRIBED THE FORMATION OF THE MILITARY SPECIAL HONOR BOARD AND ANNOUNCED IT HAD FINISHED ITS WORK AND NAMED NINE MILITARY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN FOR CONSIGNMENT TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS. THE NINE ARE FROM THE ATLACATL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE SUB. LIEUTENANT WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MILITARY SCHOOL; THE ACCUSED

- 1. COL. GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENEVIDES MORENO. COMMANDANT OF THE MILITARY SCHOOL
- Z. LT. SHJUY RENE MENDOZA VALLECIOS
- 3. LT. JOSE RICARDO ESPINOZA GUERRA
- 4. SUB. LT. GONZALO GUEVARRA CERRITOS
- 5. SUB. LT. ANTONIO RAMIRO AVALOS VARGAS
- 6. SUB. LT. TOMAS ZAPATE CASTILLO
- 7. CPL. ANGEL PEREZ VASQUEZ
- 8. PVT. OSCAR ARMANDO AMAYA GREMALDI
- 9. PVT. JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASENCIO
- 2. OF THE NINE, EIGHT ARE IN CUSTODY AND ONE, PRIVATE JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASENCIO, IS REPORTED TO HAVE DESERTED AT THE END OF DECEMBER. THE PRESIDENT ALSO NAMED THE COMMISSION ON INVESTIGATIONS. CIHD, AS AN AUXILIARY ORGAN OF THE CIVILIAN COURT TO COLLECT AND FRESENT EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROSECUTION.
- 3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CIVILIAN COURT HAS THREE DAYS NOW TO DECIDE WHETHER THE CASE HAS MERIT AND PROCEED WITH A PROSECUTION OR TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS.

WALKER

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"THE GROUP DOES NOT CARRY THE SIN OF THE INDIVIDUAL"

"IT WAS A MATTER OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL TO INVESTIGATE AND TRY (THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR)) THE KILLINGS OF THE SIX SPANISH JESUITS AND THEIR DOMESTIC HELP, AS IS THE CONTINUING PERSECUTION OF ORGANIZED CRIMINALITY AND THE CLARIFICATION, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS AND THE DESTRUCTION THAT HAS VICTIMIZED THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE OVER THE LAST 2B YEARS."

"THE FACT THAT THE NAMES OF THOSE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE MASSACRE ARE NOW KNOWN IS AN ACHIEVEMENT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE NATION. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF ALL CITIZENS FOR THE DILIGENCE HE HAS SHOWN IN THIS INVESTIGATION."

"THE TIME HAS COME TO GO BACK TO THE JURISDICTION OF LAW AND REBUILD PUBLIC MORALITY. THE TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UCA ((UNIVERSIDAD CENTROAMERICANAI) MASSACRE SHOULD GO SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE ERADICATION OF THE TERRORIST MOVEMENTS. THAT DOES NOT EXCLUDE OFFERING, TO THOSE SEDITIOUS ELEMENTS NOT GUILTY OF BLOOD CRIMES, THEIR INCORPORATION INTO THE CIVILIAN SOCIETY ONCE THEY RENOUNCE VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO OBTAIN POWER."

C...) THE TRIAL IS AGAINST THE INDIVIDUALS
RESPONSIBLE FOR A TERRIBLE CRIME, NOT AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT OR AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES. TO PRETEND
THE CONTRARY AND ARGUE THAT WHEN A GROUP OF OFFICERS
AND SOLDIERS FALL INTO CRIME, THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE
AS A WHOLE BECOME HOSTAGE TO THEIR ACTS, CONSTITUTES
A CONCEPTUAL AND HISTORIC PERVERSITY.... THE

HORRIBLE PERSECUTIONS AND MASSACRES PERPETRATED BY THE NAZIS OF HITLER OR THE COMMUNISTS DERIVED FROM JUST SUCH A TENDENCY TO MAKE GUILTY AN ENTIRE CLASS OR NATION OF THE REAL OR IMAGINED WRONGS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. THAT CONCEPTUAL ABERRATION LED TO THE MURDER AND ELIMINATION OF HUNDREDS OF JEWS, RUSSIANS, AND CHINESE..." JACOBS

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E.O. 12356: N/A SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: JESUIT CASE

- 1. HEADLINES AND EXCERPTS FOLLOW FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE ARRAIGNMENT OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THE SIX JESUIT PRIESTS.
- 2. JAN 17 LEADING DAILY "LA PRENSA GRAFICA" (CONSERVATIVE, 185,888):

EDITOPIAL'S HEADLINE: "NAMES, AT LAST"

"AFTER A TENSE WAIT SINCE PRESIDENT CRISTIANI
PUBLICLY STATED THAT THE INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE INVOLVED IN THE
KILLINGS OF THE JESUITS... ((CRISTIANI)) READ A
STATEMENT WHICH CONTAINED THE NAMES OF THOSE
INVOLVED: A COLONEL, TWO LIEUTENANTS, A SECOND
LIEUTENANT, TWO SARGEANTS, A CORPORAL AND TWO
SOLDIERS."

(...) "THE PRESIDENT'S CONCRETE ANNOUNCEMENT TOOK PLACE AFTER MANY SPECULATIONS... AND ALSO AFTER THE VISIT TO THE COUNTRY OF SENATORS DODD AND WARNER, WHO...RECOGNIZED THE WILL SHOWN BY THE PRESIDENT IN SOLVING THE CRIME, AND PRAISED HIS COURAGE."

"THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE JESUIT CASE IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. SOME WILL SAY THAT THAT ATTITUDE IS A PRODUCT OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE AND OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE (GOREIGNE) AID. OTHERS COULD SAY THAT THERE IS A ANOTHER LAYER (IOF FACTS IN THE CRIME) THAT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED... BUT THE FACT IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INVESTIGATION, THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, IS ONLY 'A PHASE OF THE INVESTIGATION', AND THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS NEVEP HAPPENED BEFORE IN THE COUNTRY. THAT HAS TO CREATE TRUST IN OUR INSTITUTIONS."

3. SECOND LEADING DAILY "EL DIAPIO DE HO!" - QUITPA CONSERVATIVE: 27/882 : DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE TWENTY-FOUR

- 1. DEFENSE LAWYERS TODAY (JANUARY 22) FILED A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION DEMANDING THE RELEASE OF ALL EIGHT PRISONERS ON THE GROUND THAT THE ORDER OF PROVISIONAL DETENTION WAS NOT FILED WITHIN THE REQUIRED 72 HOURS. ALSO, THE RELEASE OF COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO, IN PARTICULAR, WAS DEMANDED ON THE ADDITIONAL GROUND THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE CRIME BY ACCOMPLICES AND UNDER SALVADORAN LAW ACCOMPLICES CANNOT TESTIFY AGAINST EACH OTHER.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THE DEFENSE LAWYERS, THE JUDGE MUST NOW INFORM THE PROSECUTORS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23) OF THE DEFENSE'S MOTION. THE JUDGE MUST THEN ASK THE PROSECUTORS FOR THEIR COUNTERARGUMENTS AND RULE ON THE DEFENSE'S MOTION WITHIN 72 HOURS (JANUARY 26).
- 3. BOTH THE DEFENSE AND THE PROSECUTION CAN APPEAL THE JUDGE'S DECISION TO THE APPEALS COURT (CHAMBER OF THE SECOND INSTANCE, CAMARA DE LA SEGUNDA INSTANCIA). THE APPEALS COURT THEN HAS ANOTHER 72 HOURS IN WHICH TO MAKE THEIR DECISION. SHOULD THE DEFENSE'S MOTION SUCCEED, THE PRISONERS WOULD BE FREED, BUT THE TRIAL WOULD GO FORWARD ANYWAY.

 4. ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, COL. BENAVIDES IS BEING HELD BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES.
- 5. FATHER JOSE MARIA TOJIERA, THE PROVINCIAL JESUIT, REACTED TO THE JUDGE'S PLACING EIGHT SOLDIERS UNDER PROVISIONAL DETENTION BY SAYING: "WE BELIEVE THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS NOT OVER AND THERE SHOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO HIGHER-LEVEL COMPLICITY IN THE PLANNING OF THE MURDERS. WE FIND IT STRANGE THAT ONLY ONE COLONEL COULD DECIDE TO COMMIT THIS KIND OF CRIME, ESPECIALLY A COLONEL WITH A REPUTATION FOR CAUTION." HE ADDED THAT THERE IS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT PROOF IN THE SOLDIERS' TESTIMONY AND BALLISTICS EVIDENCE TO PROVE HIGHER-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT. (COMMENT: FATHER TOJIERA HAS BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY THE SIU ON THE INVESTIGATION; HE HAS NOT SHARED WITH US ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM THAT THERE IS

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS. PGOV. KJUS. ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE TWENTY-FIVE

- 1. THROUGH ITS CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCAST, THE FARABUNDO MARTI FRONT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (EL FRENTE FARABUNDO MARTI PARA LA LIBERACION NACIONAL, FMLN) REACTED TO JUDGE ZAMORA'S PLACING OF EIGHT SOLDIERS UNDER PROVISIONAL DETENTION.
- 2. THE REBEL RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO BRING THE JESUIT CASE TO TRIAL, BUT ONLY TO ASSURE THE CONTINUANCE OF MILITARY AID AND NOT TO "UNCAP THE SEWER OF THE SALVADORAN ARMY'S COMPLICITY IN THE CRIME."

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CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH CRIMES, AND IT IS
ALSO OBLIGATED TO PUNISH THOSE IN ITS RANKS WHO HAVE
COMMITTED ANY OTHER CRIMES, EVENTHOUGH IT HAS NOT
PUBLICLY TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM."

7. (...) "VARIOUS LOCAL OPPOSITION LEADERS AND FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IF PRESIDENT CRISTIANI CONDUCTS THE INVESTIGATIONS UNTIL THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES ARE TRIED AND PUNISHED, HE WOULD HAVE GRABBED FROM THE FMLN ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL BANNERS OF STRUGGLE. THIS IS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF WHY WE STATE THAT THE FMLN REPRESENTS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THE SO-CALLED SALVADORAN DEMOCRACY. TO THE EXTENT THAT CRISTIANI'S GOVERNMENT ALLOWS THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MILITARY'S EXCESSES UNDER THE PRETEXT OF COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFICIENCY, THE FMLN'S STRUGGLE WILL HAVE GREATER REASON OF BEING, GREATER POPULAR SUPPORT AND, THEREFORE, GREATER HISTORICAL VALIDITY. 'A CONTRARIIS', NOTHING CAN BE AS LETHAL TO THE INSURGENT PROJECT AS A GOVERNMENT THAT, ASIDE FROM HAVING BEEN ELECTED LEGITIMATELY, MANIFESTS IN ITS ACTIONS A SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER DEMANDS OF DEMOCRACY." JACOBS

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL. PINS, PGOV, KJUS. ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE TWENTY-EIGHT

1. GOMPTERMITTAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA DID NOT RENDER A DECISION TODAY (JANUARY 26) ON THE DEFENSE'S MOTION TO REVOKE THE PROVISIONAL DETENTION AGAINST THE ACCUSED. HE IS NOW EXPECTED TO DO SO ON JANUARY 29. SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT MAURICIO GUTIERREZ CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS SPOKEN WITH ZAMORA AND BELIEVES THAT HE WILL DENY THE MOTION AND THE ACCUSED WILL REMAIN IN CUSTODY.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV. FJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE TWENTY-NINE

- I. (U) LATE AFTERNOON ON JANUARY 26, JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA DENIED THE DEFENSE'S MOTION TO REVOKE THE PROVISIONAL DETENTION AGAINST THE EIGHT ACCUSED. THE JUDGE ALSO SUSTAINED HIS DETENTION ORDER AGAINST THE ACCUSED AND ORDERED THAT OTHER WITNESSES BE BROUGHT TO TESTIFY BEFORE HIS COURT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS SAID THAT THEY WOULD NEXT ASK JUDGE ZAMORA TO DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST THEIR CLIENTS.
- 2. (U) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "LA PRENSA GRAFICA."

 EX-MAJOR ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON, HONORARY PRESIDENT OF
 THE NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY (ARENA), DECLARED
 THAT "THERE ARE NO MILITARY MEN OF HIGHER RANK
 INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS." HE ADDED
 THAT PRESIDENT CRISTIANI. THE HIGH COMMAND. AND THE
 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) HAVE SHOWN A TRUE
 INTEREST IN CLARIFYING A CASE "THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE
 OCCURRED."
- 3. C. TOMORROW (JANUARY 30) THE DCM, THE LEGAL OFFICER, AND THE TDY INVESTIGATOR WILL MEET WITH JESUIT FATHER MIGUEL ESTRADA, RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA.
- 4. (C) ON WEDNESDAY. (JANUARY 31), THE LEGAL OFFICER WILL MEET WITH THE JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA TO TALK ABOUT THE JESUIT CASE. WALKER

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES

SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-ONE

JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA AND THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUE TO RE-INTERVIEW SUSPECTS AND WITNESSES AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF INCORPORATING TESTIMONY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) INTO THE OFFICIAL JUDICIAL RECORD.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-THREE

- 1. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA AND THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUE TO TAKE JUDICIAL DECLARATIONS FROM AT LEAST TWO PERSONS PER DAY FROM A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 180 WITNESSES.
- 2. POLOFF REPORTS THAT SOMETIME IN THE LAST
 WEEK, THE THREE LIEUTENANTS ACCUSED IN THE CASE WERE
 MOVED FROM NATIONAL POLICE TO TREASURY POLICE
 DETENTION. POLOFF PLACES NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ON
 THIS TRANSFER, BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE.
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1538 PRIVATE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR

1630 BRIEFING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS

1800 BREAK

1839 DINNER HOSTED BY CODEL FOR COUNTRY TEAM

2838 DEPART FOR HOTEL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY12

MORNING: MEETING AT UCA (AS PER REFTEL, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT MORNING PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE CODEL AND LOCAL JESUIT OFFICIALS.)

1288 OPEN LUNCH

(Protect)

1388 MEETING WITH LTC. RIVAS OF SIU (SITE TO BE DETERMINED

1438 - 1688 MEETING WITH COLS PONCE AND ZEPEDA (PROBABLY AT ESTADO MAYOR

1638 - 1888 TIME AVAILABLE FOR OTHER MEETINGS IF DESIRED BY CODEL.

1988 RECEPTION WITH POLITICAL LEADERS

2188 RECEPTION ENDS; RETURN TO HOTEL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY13

8838 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI

1888 MEETING WITH CRISTIANI ENDS. CODEL BREAKS INTO SMALL GROUPS AND PROCEES TO SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH:

JUDGE ZAMORA;

ATTORNEY GENERAL COLORADO;

COL. ELENA FUENTES; AND

(IF POSSIBLE) COL. BENAVIDES' ATTORNEY.

123Ø OPEN LUNCH

1488 MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS

1538 CODEL BREAKS INTO SMALL GROUPS TO MYET WITH:

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEBATE COMMISSION;

FMLN DEFECTORS:

VARIOUS CHURCH GROUPS.

EVENING: TIME SET ASIDE FOR PRIVATE MEETINGS THE CODEL MAY WISH TO HOLD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY14

8988 PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR

1838 FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH JESUITS

1200 OPEN LUNCH

1488 PRESS CONFERENCE

1515 DEPART FOR AIRPORT

1688 WHEELS UP.

DEPT FOR H/ARA PEREZ

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: OREP, APER, ES SUBJECT: CODEL MOAKLEY VISIT

PEF: A. STATE 33384, B. JACOBS-PEREZ TELCONS

EMBASSY WELCOMES VIST OF CODEL MOAKLEY FROM FEBRUARY 11 - 14. CONTROL OFFICERS ARE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SUSAN LACOBS 26-7188 EXT. 2383 (0): 26-6736 (0) AND 98-1349 38) AND POLITICAL OFFICER PHIL CHICOLA 26-7180 EXT. 2305 AND 23-3810 (H). WHEN DIALING FROM THE UNITED STATES, ALL NUMBERS SHOULD BE PRECEEDED BY 011-503.

RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AT CAMINO REAL HOTEL, ABOUT FIVE MINUTES FROM THE EMBASSY. THE ROOM RATE IS USD 46 FOR A SINGLE. CODEL WILL BE HOUSED IN ONE FLOOR AND PART OF ANOTHER. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDED SECURITY TO THOSE FLOORS ON A 24 HOUR BASIS. IN VIEW OF THE TRAFFIC INVOLVED IN THE CONTROL ROOM, WE SUGGEST THAT CODEL RENT A SEPARATE ROOM IN WHICH TO HOLD PRIVATE MEETINGS. DUE TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, THE CODEL WILL ALSO HAVE TO FUND A ROOM FOR SECURITY GUARDS.

3. EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO HOST A RECEPTION IN CODEL'S HONOR FOR SALVADORAN POLITICIANS EVENING OF FEBRUARY 12. WE ASSUME THAT CODEL WILL HOST COUNTRY TEAM DINNER ON FEBRUARY 11 SINCE U.S. LAW PROHIBITS THE USE OF EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONAL FUNDS TO COVER DINNERS AT WHICH ALL GUESTS ARE AMERICANS.

SHOULD SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SERVICES BE REQUIRED, EMBASSY HAS 15 HEADSETS. LOCAL EQUIPMENT IS NOT/NOT COMPATIBLE WITH EMBASSY EQUIPMENT SO IF MORE THAN 15 SETS ARE NEEDED, ALL EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE TO BE RENTED. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TRANSLATORS AVAILABLE WHO' DO EXCELLENT CONSECUTIVE TRANSLATION. IF THEIR SERVICES ARE NEEDED, WE WILL HAVE TO "BOOK" ASAP AS THEY ARE IN GREAT DEMAND.

EMBASSY NEEDS CODEL FUND CITE TO COVER TRANSPORTATION COSTS, MEALS, AND TRANSLATION SERVICES. PLEASE ADVISE IF CODEL WISHES EMBASSY TO PAY FOR THE HOTEL ROOMS DIRECTLY OUT OF THE CODEL'S FUND CITE.

6. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOLLOWS: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY11

1338 CODEL ARRIVES; MET BY AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS

ARRIVE CAMINO REAL HOTEL. CHECK-IN AND DOWN TIME. CODEL MEMBERS WILL BE PRE-REGISTERED.

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T. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL C. CODEL MEMBERS SHOULD BE ESCORTED AT ALL TIMES BY EMBASSY SECURITY PERSONNEL. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE, ASAP, CODEL'S READ-OUT OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION ON ANY OTHER POSSIBLE MEETINGS. COCEL WISHES TO HAVE. WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHETHER THE COCEL MEMBERS WILL HAVE DECIDED, BY THE TIME IT ARRIVES WHO WILL GO TO WHAT MEETING, IN THOSE INSTANCES WHEN THE CODEL WILL BREAK-UP INTO SMALL GROUPS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER CODEL WISHES EMBASSY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS LISTED IN NOTIONAL SCHEDULE OR IF CODEL WILL MAKE APPOINTMENTS ON ITS OWN.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCLASSIFIED ARA/NEA REARCS

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5728 DIRFBI WASHDC PRIORITY

SAN SALVADOR Ø1844

FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-SIX

- 1. ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. NEITHER THE JUDGE NOR THE PROSECUTORS WORKED ON THE CASE TODAY. ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTORS, THEY AND THE JUDGE USUALLY WORK ON THE CASE THREE DAYS A WEEK.
- 3. LEGAL OFFICER WILL MEET WITH COL. BENAVIDES'
 DEFENSE LAWYER ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SAN SALVADOR Ø1911

FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON & putis file

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-SEVEN

- L ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. LEGAL OFFICE ASSEMBLED A CHRONOLOGY OF EMBASSY ACTIONS IN REGARDS TO THE JESUIT CASE INVESTIGATION.
- 3. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. WALKER

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES

SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-EIGHT

THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. WALKER

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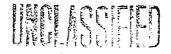
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE THIRTY-NINE

COMPONENTE - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON FEBRUARY 12, THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) BRIEFED CODEL MOAKLEY ON ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE JESUIT CASE. QUESTIONING FOCUSSED ON THE NOVEMBER 15 MEETING OF THE HIGH COMMAND AND THE NOVEMBER 16 MEETING OF THE DNI. THERE WAS ALSO STRONG QUESTIONING ABOUT THE 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 LT. COL. RIVAS TO TAKE A POLYGRAPH. LT. COL. RIVAS SAID HE WOULD TAKE A POLYGRAPH IF ORDERED TO BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. WALKER

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FORTY

THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE TODAY (FEBRUARY 13).

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FORTY-TWO

THERE WERE NO NEW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE TODAY (FEBRAURY 16).
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DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FORTY-THREE

THERE WERE NO NEW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE TODAY (FEBRAURY 20).

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FORTY-EIGHT

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JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA AND THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUE TO TAKE JUDICIAL DECLARATIONS FROM THREE TO FOUR PERSONS PER DAY FROM A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 180 PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDGE, THEY HAVING BEEN WORKING ON THE CASE EVERY DAY OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

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SAN-SA 92855 88 OF 85 821458Z 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 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.)

AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 13 (SEE REFTEL 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 DAG. HE ARGUED AGAINST CUTTING OR CONDITIONING AID SOLELY ON THE OUTCOME OF A SINGLE CASE.
 - 18. 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 C 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.

INITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR --

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PREL, OVIP, ES SUBJECT: CODEL MOAKLEY WRAP-UP

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 2843; 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 COMMITED BY THE FMLM 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 38 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 CARMED FORCES PRESS OFFICE) DIRECTOR MAJOR MAURICIO CHAVEZ CACERES TO GIVE HIS VERSION OF THAT EVENING'S EVENTS. MAJ. CHAVEZ ECHOED PONCE'S EXPLANATION.
- 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 CENTIRE

5. THE DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT LT. COLONEL MANUEL ANTONIO RIVAS MEJIA BRIEFED CODEL MOAKLEY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARA/NEA REARCS

PAGE 82 OF 83 SAN SA 82855 88 OF 85 821458Z MEETING WITH FMLN DEFECTORS (SMALL GROUP)

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- 12. SOME MEMBERS OF THE CODEL MET WITH TWO CAPTURED FMLN FIGHTERS AT NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THEY ASKED 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:
- --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. HORE SOPHISTICATED ARMS ARE BROUGHT IN BY SMALL PLANE. CUBA PLAYS THE LEAD ROLE IN PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE FMLM.
- --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 DANIEL SANCHEZ, 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)

- 28. 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 1988S 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

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PAGE 83 OF 83 SAN SA 82855 88 OF 85 8214582 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.

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 MARIA 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. ELEMA 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 FMLM AND THE GOES AND CALLED FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

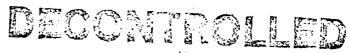
PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING WITH AMBASSADOR (ENTIRE CODEL)

SAN SA 02855 00 OF 05 021458Z

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.
- 38. 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 FHLM 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.

WALKER



DEPARTMENT OF STATEUR REARCS

SAN SA 80839 2880422
SOLORZANO, RICARDO ZELAYA LARREYNAGA, JORGE FIGEAC,
JULIO CESAR MURICIA, AND SOTERO CONSUETT DIAZ. THE
DEFENSE ATTORNEYS ARE DR. JOSE OSCAR CABALLERO
PENATE, DR. JOSE ADALFREDO SALGADO, DR. EULIGIO
RODRIGUEZ BARAHONA, DR. JOSE RAUL MENDEZ CASTRO.

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7. (U) ACCORDING TO THE JUDGE, THE ONLY ACCUSED NOT IN CUSTODY IS PRIVATE JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASCENCIO, A SOLDIER IN THE ATLACATL BATTALION. HE APPARENTLY DESERTED FROM THE ARMY IN DECEMBER AND IS BEING SOUGHT BY THE SECURITY FORCES.
WALKER

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O 200039Z JAN 90 ZFF4 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5183 DIRFB! WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N C I D C N T I A SAN SALVADOR 00839

FB! FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE TWENTY-THREE

- 1. (U) ON JANUARY 19, 1998, JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO HOLD ALL EIGHT PRISONERS, INCLUDING COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO, UNDER PROVISIONAL DETENTION.
- 2. THIS MORNING (JANUARY 19), GENERAL LARIOS AND COLONEL PONCE BRIEFED A LARGE GROUP OF OFFICERS OF VARYING RANKS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE JESUIT CASE.
- 3. (U) WITH TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY JUDGE ZAMORA, THE INQUIRY PERIOD (TERMINO DE INQUERIR) OR PRETRIAL INVESTIGATION, THE FIRST PHASE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, HAS COME TO AN END.
- 4. (U) THE CASE AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS IS NOW IN THE INSTRUCTION STAGE (FASE DE INSTRUCCION), THE SECOND PHASE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. ACCORDING TO SALVADORAN LAW, MOVING INTO THIS PHASE MEANS THAT THE JUDGE HAS VERIFIED THAT A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED AND DETERMINED THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH A PRIMA FACIE CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED.
- S. (U) AS A RESULT OF THE JUDGE'S FINDINGS, THE DEFENDANTS ARE PLACED UNDER PROVISIONAL DETENTION, BUT MAY REQUEST BAIL. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE JUDGE MAY REQUEST FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO ACCUMULATE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT RAISING THE CASE TO THE TRIAL (PLENARIO) STAGE. THIS WOULD BE THE ROUGH EQUIVALENT OF RETURNING THE INDICTMENT AGAINST THE ACCUSED AND BINDING THEM OVER FOR TRIAL.
- 5. (U) THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE SETS A 128-DAY DEADLINE (IN THIS CASE, UNTIL MAY 19, 1998) ON THE INSTRUCTION STAGE PROCESS (ARTICLE 123). IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THE 128-DAY DEADLINE IS OFTEN EXCEEDED. FURTHERMORE, BOTH THE PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENSE MAY APPEAL THE JUDGE'S DECISION TO TAKE THE CASE TO TRIAL.
- 6. (U) ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, THE SPECIAL PROSECUTORS IN THE CASE ARE SAUL ZELAYA CASTILLO, EDUARDO PINEDA VALENZUELA, ALVARO HENRY CAMPOS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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12356: DECL: OADR PHUM, PGOV, ES PREL. TAGS: BENAVIDES AT THE BEACH SUBJECT:

X - ENTIRE TEXT

- A WOMAN IDENTIFYING HERSELF AS MRS SUMMARY: BENAVIDES, WIFE OF COL. GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO, UNDER DETENTION FOR SUSPECTED COMPLICITY IN THE JESUIT MURDERS, TELEPHONED EMBASSY ON 3/2 TO COMPLAIN ABOUT STORIES IMPLYING THAT HER HUSBAND HAD SPENT TIME AT THE BEACH. END SUMMARY.
- 3. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 3, USIS' SENIOR FSN PRESS ASSISTANT WAS IN THE EMBASSY WHEN HE RECEIVED A THE TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN. CALLER QUESTIONED THE AUTHENTICITY OF REPORTS THAT COL. BENAVIDES, WHO IS DETAINED FOR POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS, HAD BEEN SIGHTED AT A BEACH RESORT THAT IS OPERATED BY THE MILITARY PENSION FUND.
- THE WOMAN THEN IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS MRS. BENAVIDES AND SAID THAT HER HUSBAND HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE HIS DETENTION QUARTERS SINCE PLACED UNDER ARREST. SHE ADDED THAT THE NEWS DIRECTOR OF A LOCAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION NETWORK HAD TOLD HER THAT THE REPORTS OF HER HUSBAND'S PURPORTED VISITS TO THE BEACH HAD COME FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.
- THE FSN EXPLAINED TO HER THAT THE ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN REPORTED IN A DOUGLAS FARAH STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST, AND HAD NOT COME FROM THE EMBASSY.
 ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE CALLER
 WAS INDEED MRS. BENAVIDES, WE HAVE NOT MADE AN EFFORT TO CONFIRM THIS.

COMMENT

WE NOTE THAT EVEN THE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THE STORY OF COL. BENAVIDES TRIP TO BEACH OFFERED IT AS SECOND-HAND INFORMATION, AND WE HAVE NEVER HAD ANY INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF ITS ACCURACY.

WALKER



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARA/NEA REARCS

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R 302348Z MAR 90 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7152 INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, ES
SUBJECT: MARCH 29 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION: NO
MOVEMENT ON AMNESTY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3786

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DID NOT TAKE UP THE AMNESTY BILL FOR 2000 SALVADORAN SOLDIERS (REFTEL). THE BILL REMAINS IN COMMITTEE WHERE, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, IT IS EXPECTED TO SIT UNTIL SOMEONE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT CRISTIANI TOLD REPORTERS MARCH 27 THAT THE GOES DOES NOT SUPPORT THE CONTROVERSIAL MEASURE. HE ADDED THAT THE BILL DID NOT ORIGINATE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO SPEAK OF THIS TYPE OF AMNESTY AT THIS TIME, AND IN NO CASE FOR THOSE ACCUSED OF THE JESUIT MURDERS.

WALKER

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FIFTY-ONE

JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA AND THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUE TO TAKE JUDICIAL DECLARATIONS FROM THREE TO FOUR PERSONS PER DAY FROM A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 180 PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDGE, THEY HAVING BEEN WORKING ON THE CASE EVERY DAY OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

WALKER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARA/NEA REARCS

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FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA
DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FIFTY-TWO

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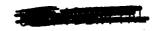
FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, -PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES

SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FIFTY-THREE

JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA AND THE PROSECUTORS CONTINUE TO TAKE JUDICIAL DECLARATIONS FROM THREE TO FOUR PERSONS PER DAY FROM A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 180 PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTORS AND THE JUDGE, THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THE CASE EVERY DAY OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS. WALKER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR



DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARA/NEA REARCS

TO SECSIA DIRFBI WASHDC IN....

INTEL SAN SALVADOR #3300

FEI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA DEPT FOR ARA/CEN, ARA AS ARONSON

E. C. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PINS, PGOV, KJUS, ES SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE: UPDATE FIFTY-FOUR

- 1. CONFIDENTE ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. ACCORDING TO A RUMOR WHICH HAS BEEN FLOATING AROUND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN SAN SALVADOR, AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS MADE YESTERDAY (MARCH 7) AGAINST JUDGE RICARDO ZAMORA RUIZ, THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE JESUIT CASE.
- 3. AFTER BEING APPRISED OF THIS RUMOR BY THE EMBASSY, MAURICIO EDUARDO COLORADO, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND ARNOLDO ALVAREZ, THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CALLED ON ZAMORA TODAY. ALVAREZ
 REPORTS THAT ZAMORA CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT AN
 ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS LIFE HAD BEEN MADE. WALKER

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'AGE 22 SAN SA 14955 1621492

INIVERSITY IN SAM SALVADOR.

- SEGUNDO MONTES, DIRECTOR OF UCA'S INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
- IGNACIO MARTIN-PARO, UCA'S VICE RECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF UCA'S INSTITUTE OF INVESTIGATIONS.
- AMAID LOPEZ, THEOLOGY PROFESSOR AT UCA AND FORMER RECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAM UNIVERSITY IN MANAGUA.
- JOAQUIN LOPEZ Y LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE ARCHBISHOPPIC'S "FE Y ALEGRIA" (FAITH AND PAPPINESS) 'ENTER.
- ANOTHER THEOLOGIAN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARCHBISHOPRIC IDENTIFIED SOLFLY AS "MORENO." - A FEMALE COOK AND HER DAUGHTER (UNIDENTIFIED) WERE
- ALSO KILLED.

CHICHESTER LOIS
SS SAN SALVADOR 14855

03/27/90 155619 PPINTEP: KC

CONCEF AND POLITICAL ASSISTANT WENT TO UCA JESUIT RESIDENCE MOPNING OF NOVEMBER 16. THE BODIES IDENTIFIED AS ELLACURIA, MONTES, 'ARTIN-FARO, AND LOPEZ, IN THE RESIDENCE GARDEN. REPORTER AND ONE AMOIT JESUIT TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE CREASURY POLICE HAD BEEN SURROUNDING UCA SINCE JOVEMBER 11. THEY SAID THE TREASURY POLICE HAD SEARCHED THE JESUIT RESIDENCE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER .4/15. AT APPROXIMATELY 0230-0300 LOCAL NOVEMBER 16. THEY ADDED. THIRTY UNIFORMED ARMED MEN USED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE TO BLOW-OPEN AN ENTRANCE TO THE TESUIT RESIDENCE. ONE UCA PROFESSOR TOLD POL 'ONFIDENTIAL LAITMEGITAC! AGE 23 SAN SA 14955 1621497 ISSISTANT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT STVEN ARMED MEN HAD INTERED THE RESIDENCE PETWEEN 2232 AND 2302. ESUIT BROUGHT THE NEWS OF THE KILLINGS TO THE RCHEISHOPRIC AFTER CURFEW WAS LIFTED (0600) LOCAL CVEMBER 16. TMEASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON FYEWITHESSES TO 'HE KILLINGS.

HE KILLINGS. IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT EXTREMISTS ON LITHER THE RIGHT OR LEFT MAY SE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE URIERS. ELLACURIA, A LEADING LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL HO OFTEN SYMPHATHIZED WITH FMLM POSITIONS (SEVERAL MIN LEADERS HAD STUDIED UNDER ELLACURIA AT UCA). OULD BE A TARGET FOR RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS. WE ANNOT DISCOUNT, HOWEVER, THAT FMLN EXTREMISTS MAY

AVE MUPDERED ELLACURIA ET AL IN ORDER TO SALVAGE HEIR HOPED-FOR POPULAR UTRISING. ALSO, ELLACURIA AP RECENTLY PUBLICALLY DISAPPROVED OF EMIN POSITIONS ND EVEN GRUDGINGLY APPROVED OF SOME OF CRISTIANI'S OLICIES. ALKER

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FR MEMBESSY SAN TO SECSTATE WASHOC IMPEDIATE 3595 ALAHETAND YEZAMETHALA MEMBASSY MANAGUA SZOL KAZ YZZABELENA KTENDIOUDET YZZKETEN METRASSE HADRID SHOR VEZLENAM METERSTY HEXICO AMENGASSY CARACAS PSCINCSO QUARRY NTS PR

PORE FOR THE WATICAN; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

SAN SALVADOR 14988

E.D. 12356: DECL: DADR TASS: PGDY, PHUM, PREL, ES SUBJECT: REACTION TO ELLACURIA ASSASSINATION

MEF: SAM SALVADOR 14855 MOTAL)

L SUMMARY: PRESIDENT CRISITIANI CONDENNED THE KILLING OF ELLACURIA AND SEVEN OTHERS AND ORDERED AM MEDIATE INVESTIGATION. THE GOES ISSUED A COMPRINCIPLE CONDERNING THE ASSASSINATION. THE ESAF REPORTEDLY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE BLANING THE FININ FOR THE CRIME. THE FILM CHARGED THAT SPECIAL FORCES CARRIED OUT THE KILINGS. THERE ARE REPORTS OF ETENITHESSES TO THE CRIME BUT NONE HAS YET COME FERTEL A TEAM OF THREE AMOIT SPECIALISTS ARE EXAMINING THE VICTIMS' BODIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SJ) PRESIDENT CRISTIANI DENOUNCED THE KILLINGS AT A BOVEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE AND SAID THAT HE HAD CURERED THE INTEDIATE INVESTIGATION. HE CALLED THE PERPETRIFORS, REGARDLESS OF WHICH EXTREME THEY ELFRESENT, "TERRORISTS." CRISTIANI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THEFE HAY BE AN EVENITHESS TO THE GRIME, BUT THAT THE EYEVITHESS HAD NOT YET BEEN LOCATED. CRISTIANE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE SESUIT PROVINCIAL, JOSE MARIA TOJETRA, AND SAID THAT THE COES WAS DETERMINED TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE THE COUGHLY. HE SAID THAT THE PROVINCIAL AGREED TO COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION. THE PRESIDENT AGREED WITH EARLISER REMARKS BY SAN SALVADOR ARCHBISHOP RIVER'S DAMES THAT NO ONE SHOULD POLITICIZE THE CASE THE ACCUSING MARIOUS PARTIES, ORGANIZATIONS, OR INSERTIONAL SEFORE THE FACTS ARE KNOWN. MOTE: FATTLE TOLETIES PEPORTEBLY STATED THAT HE SHARED WINCRA BACTAS" OPINION THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELEADUREM SHOOTING WERE THE SAME MEN WHO ASSASSINATED ASCHBIDZOF GSCAR ROMERO IN 1988.)

OF THE SOES ISTUED A COMMUNIQUE NOVEMBER 16 ECAMPETALISM THE MOMERISER IS ASSASSINATION OF IGNACIO

SAN SA 14380 80 OF 82 1880252 ELLAGURIA, JESUIT RECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, FIVE OTHER JESUITS, AND TWO OTHERS. THE COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED THE ASSASSINATION AS SAVAGE AND A FLAGRARY VIOLATION OF NUMAN RIGHTS. THE GOES ANNOUNCED IT HAD LAUNCHED AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE. GIOTE: THE USG-FUNDED NATIONAL POLICE'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIM) PERFORMED AN AUTOPOSY ON THE VICTIMS NOVEMBER 16. THE GOES REASONED THAT THE ASSASSINATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT TO DESTABILIZE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND FURTHER INCREASE THE ATMOSPHERE OF ANGUISH CREATED BY THE FILE OFFERSIVE.

- 4. QUI LOCAL PRESS REPORTED A ESAF COMMUNIQUE WHICH BLAMED THE KILLINGS ON THE FILM. ACCORING TO THE REPORT, THE ESAF EMPHATICALLY CONDEMNED THE KILLINGS, REJECTED ANY CLAIMS THAT THE MILITARY WAS INVOLVED IN THE CRIME, AND APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NOT TO BE TAKEN IN BY THE FIRM'S UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS.
- 5. (U) RADIO VENCEPENOS CLAIMED THAT REPORTS FROM SAN SALVADOR CONFIRMED THAT SPECIAL FORCES FROM THE ARMED FORCES JOINT GENERAL STAFF KILLED THE GROUP. THE BROADCAST CALLED UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO WERE MAINTAINING THE "MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" IN EL SALVADOR TO HOBILIZE INTEDIATELY TO DEMAND THAT THE USG STOP SUPPORTING THE DEATH SQUADS. THE REPORT ALSO INVITED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO VIEW TELEVISION SCENES OF U.S. -MADE A-37 AIRPLANES DROPPING BOMBS ON DEFENSELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE FIRM'S NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY RADIO CLAIMED THAT THE ESAF MURDERED THE EIGHT IN AN ACT OF DESPERATION AND HELD ESAF CHIEF OF STAFF EMILIO PONCE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE. THE FREM CALLED UPON THE ENTIRE SALVADORAN NATION TO JOIN THE COMBAT AGAINST THE GOES AND CALLED FOR THE FORMATION OF PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES TO ORGANIZE REBELLION IN EVERY CITY, TOWN, AND VILLAGE IN EL SAL VADOR.
 - 6. (C) THREE AMOUNT SPECIALISTS, ONE PATHOLOGIST AND ONE RADIOLOGIST FROM THE COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE, AND ONE FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST, WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING A MEDICAL/HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, ARRIVED IN SAN SALVADOR HOVEHBER 17. THEY PERFORMED A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE VICTIMS' BODIES AND ARE EXAMINING THE AUTOPSY REPORT. EMBASSY WILL REPORT THEIR FINDINGS. WE-HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF EYEVITHE TES TO THE KILLINGS; HOME HAS YET COME FORTH.
 - 7. IC) COMMENT: WITH ACCUSATIONS FLYING BACK AND FORTH, WE ONCE AGAIN HAVE A CASE OF THE RIGHT SLATING THE LEFT AND THE LEFT BLAMING THE RIGHT. EMBASSY IS DETERMINED TO EXHAUST ALL RESOURCES IN PUSHING FOR A THOROUGH AND PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATION.

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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR

SUBJECT: BISHOPS ON FMLN OFFENSIVE AND

FILLING OF THE JESUITS

FOLLOWING HIS USUAL PRACTICE OF DAMNING BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER 19 HOMILY. ARCHBISHOP RIVERA DURING HIS NOVEMBER 19 HOMILY. ARCHBISHOP RIVERA DANAS COLLED THE FMLN OFFENSIVE INJUSTIFIABLE AND CHARLOTERIZED THE REACTION OF THE ARMED FORCES AS CHARACTERIZED THE REACTION OF THE ARMED FORCES AS EXCESSIVE. FIVERA DAMAS STATED THAT THE EXCESSIVE TO THE FILLINGS OF UCA RECTOR THE STATE THAT THE EXCHANGE AND THE HIGH THE STATEST AND THE HIGH TO THE STATEST AND THE INVESTIBATION

2. (U) SAN SALVADOR AUXILIARY BISHOP FOSA CHAVEZ STATED NOVEMBER 13 THAT THE CHURCH HAD OBTAINED OFFICIAL WORD FROM "BOTH SIDES" ACCEPTING CHURCH HE ADDED THAT CHURCH OFFICIALS HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI NOVEMBER 18 TO DISCUSS THE MEDIATION. RCSA CHAVEZ SAID THAT EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. CHURCH OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH VISITING OAS SECRETARY GENERAL BAENA SOARES TO DISCUSS FORMULATING A JOINT MEDIATION EFFORT.

COMMENT: GIVEN GOES OPPOSITION TO A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY GOES AGREEMENT TO CHURCH MEDIATION COULD REFER TO CHURCH EFFORTS AT GETTING THE DIALOGUE BACK ON TRACK FOR THE CARACAS TALKS, AS OPPOSED TO A CEASE-FIRE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4904

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PHUM, PINS, ES

SUBJECT: THREE ARRESTED IN JESUIT MURDER CASE

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT

- 2. THREE MEMBERS OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED UNDER SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE NOVEMBER 16 JESUIT MURDERS. TWO, 2ND LT GONZALO GUEVARA CERRITOS AND 1LT JOSE RICARDO ESPINOZA GUERRA, ARE OFFICERS IN COMMAND OF THE SPECIAL FORCES GROUP OF THE ATLACATL IMMEDIATE REACTION BATALLION. THE THIRD, 1LT YUSHSY RENE MENDOZA VALLECILLOS, IS A SECTION COMMANDER AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY. ALL ARE BEING HELD AT THE NATIONAL POLICE. ACCORDING TO ARMED FORCES CHIEF COL RENE EMILIO PONCE, BALLISTICS AND HANDWRITING EVIDENCE DEVELOPED DURING THE INVESTIGATION IMPLICATE THE THREE IN THE CRIME. THE ATLACATL OFFICERS ARE THOSE WHO CONDUCTED THE SEARCH OF THE UCA ON NOVEMBER 13.
- 3. THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT MORE ARRESTS WILL FOLLOW SOON. WHILE TROUBLED BY THE EVENTS. THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO GIVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO A FULL AND EXPEDITIOUS INVESTIGATION.

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