

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03634 111828Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 ARA-16 NSAE-00 HA-08
L-03 PM-08 PA-01 RP-10 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06
SNP-01 PRS-01 /108 W

-----103047 120240Z /61

RELEASED IN FULL

R 111825Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1679
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 03634

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, PREL, ES, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN PLANS TO RESETTLE EL SALVADORAN
- AMNESTY RECIPIENTS AND WAR ORPHANS

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 3997, B) OTTAWA 403,
- C) TEGUCIGALPA 3378, D) TEGUCIGALPA 3057

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. DURING MAY 9 CONVERSATION CENTERING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, EMBOFF RAISED THE TOPIC OF CANADIAN RESETTLEMENT OF EL SALVADORAN AMNESTY RECIPIENTS AND WAR ORPHANS WITH JULIE LORANGER, EXTAFF DIRECTOR OF UN SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. LORANGER RECENTLY HAD COMPLETED A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN HONDURAS (FIVE DAYS) AND DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS IN GUATEMALA (24 HOURS) AND EL SALVADOR (FIVE DAYS).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03634 111828Z

3. THE GOC HAS IN MIND TWO PROGRAMS: ONE FOR WAR ORPHANS AND ONE FOR AMNESTY RECIPIENTS. AS ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL, GOC EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER LLOYD AXWORTHY, DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA (REF B), MADE GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT SALVADORAN WAR ORPHANS COMING TO CANADA FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD. HE PROPOSED GIVING THE YOUNGSTERS VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND, AFTER THE SITUATION HOPEFULLY STABILIZED IN EL SALVADOR, THEY COULD CHOSE TO RETURN OR TO REMAIN IN

CANADA. WHILE SOME PARTICULAR CASES MAY HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY GOC REFUGEE OFFICIALS TO DATE, AN ORGANIZED PROGRAM HAS NEVER MATERIALIZED. LORANGER SAID THAT NGO'S HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE NOTION, PREFERRING TO KEEP THE WAR ORPHANS IN FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS WITH THE PROSPECT OF RETURNING HOME. PLANS FOR ANY COORDINATED EFFORT TO RESETTLE WAR ORPHANS IN CANADA, LORANGER CONCLUDED, ARE STILL VERY MUCH IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGE.

4. CONCERNING AMNESTY RECIPIENTS, LORANGER SAID THE GOC HAD APPROACHED THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RESETTLING A SELECT GROUP IN CANADA. THE GOES WAS RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA BUT NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS WERE DISCUSSED. GOC ACCEPTANCE OF ANY PRISONERS RELEASED THROUGH AN AMNESTY, LORANGER SAID, WOULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON THESE INDIVIDUALS THE EL SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE. CANADA INTENDED TO BE SELECTIVE AND NOT GET STUCK WITH UNDESIRABLES. THE GOC INTENDED TO PURSUE THE MATTER AND, IN GENERAL TERMS, WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT COULD BE MADE TO RESETTLE A SMALL NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED THROUGH THE AMNESTY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03634 111828Z

5. IN A GENERAL COMMENTARY ON HER TRIP, LORANGER SAID THE UNHCR WAS DOING A GOOD JOB IN HONDURAS "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES." ALTHOUGH THE GOC BELIEVES THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT REMAINS THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THE REFUGEES' DIFFICULTIES, GOC COOPERATION WITH THE UNHCR HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. THE PERCEPTION AMONG SOME OF THE LOCAL POPULACE THAT THE REFUGEES IN HONDURAS WERE BETTER TREATED THAN THEY CONTINUED TO BE A SOURCE OF FRICTION. THE REFUGEES IN HONDURAS, SHE CONTINUED, WERE CERTAINLY BETTER OFF THAN THE DISPLACED PERSONS IN EL SALVADOR NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE. CANADA VIRTUALLY CUT OFF ITS AID PROGRAM TO EL SALVADOR YEARS AGO. THE ONLY GOC HELP AVAILABLE FOR THESE DISPLACED PERSONS WAS A SMALL CONTINGENCY RESERVE ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE GOC EMBASSIES IN THE REGION (IN SAN JOSE, GUATEMALA AND MEXICO CITY).

6. IN RESPONSE TO LORANGER'S COMMENTS ON RESETTLEMENT OF WAR ORPHANS AND HONDURAN GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WITH THE UNHCR, EMBOFF DREW ON USEFUL BACKGROUND PROVIDED IN REFS C AND D.

7. LORANGER COMMENTED THAT THROUGHOUT HER TRAVELS, THE U.S. PRESENCE WAS "FELT" BUT NOT SEEN, AND SHE ENCOUNTERED A WIDESPREAD "NEGATIVE VIEW" OF THE U.S. ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN