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NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 PM-10 STR-18 SIL-01  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 08446

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior  
Reviewer

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES  
SUBJECT: OCHOA CLAIMS SUCCESS IN RESOLVING LABOR  
DISPUTE

1. (U) SUMMARY: COL. SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE HYDROELECTRIC COMMISSION (CEL - THE GOES POWER COMPANY), AND CEL LABOR LEADERS ANNOUNCED THEIR RESOLUTION OF A YEAR-LONG LABOR DISPUTE. END SUMMARY

2. (U) COL. SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, ARENA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY AND PRESIDENT OF CEL, TOGETHER WITH THE LEADERS OF CEL'S LABOR UNION, ACTEL, ANNOUNCED JUNE 26 THE RESOLUTION OF A LONG-STANDING LABOR DISPUTE. OCHOA REHIRED 44 WORKERS AND FINANCIALLY COMPENSATED SEVEN OTHERS WHO WERE DISMISSED AFTER LAST SUMMER'S CRIPPLING STRIKE. OCHOA AND THE ACTEL LEADERS AGREED TO AN INCREASE IN MEDICAL BENEFITS AND THE FORMATION OF A WORKER-EMPLOYER COMMITTEE TO REVIEW WORKER GRIEVANCES. ACCORDING TO OCHOA, THIS RESOLUTION WAS A SIGN OF CEL'S GOOD FAITH AND DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A BETTER EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER RELATIONSHIP.

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3. (U) ACTEL LEADERS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR OCHOA'S EFFORTS AND THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE SETTLEMENT. THEY ALSO JOINED OCHOA IN BLASTING THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION OF CEL. OCHOA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF ANNOUNCING THE SETTLEMENT TO BLAME THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR LEAVING THIS YEAR-OLD PROBLEM FOR THE ARENA ADMINISTRATION TO RESOLVE. HE ACCUSED THE PDC OF MISHANDLING WORKER BENEFITS AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD BRING SUCH CORRUPTION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

ATTENTION.

4. (C) COMMENT: OCHOA CAN INDEED CLAIM SUCCESS FOR HELPING RESOLVE THE PROLONGED LABOR DISPUTE. HIS CLAIMS OF PDC CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE WITHIN CEL, HOWEVER JUSTIFIABLE, SHOULD ALSO BE VIEWED WITHIN THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD PDC-BASHING BY ARENA. NEVERTHELESS, OCHOA'S ABILITY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH ACTEL, TOGETHER WITH CRISTIANI'S APPEARANCE AT THE CGT CONVENTION (REPORTED SEPTEL), IS ANOTHER SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT STEP IN ARENA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ORGANIZED LABOR.

WALKER

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