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ACTION SS-30

RELEASE IN FULL

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O R 251530Z FEB 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2560
DOD/ISA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1442

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MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 2-25-00 (CHAPIN, FREDERIC L. L OR-M
TAGS: MASS MILI PINS PINT ES
SUBJECT: CHARGE'S MEETING WITH SECURITY CORPS CHIEFS

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT)
 2. ON 19 FEBRUARY 1981, CHARGE (WITH DATT AND COMUSMILGP) MET WITH THE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY CORPS AT THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE DISCUSSION, MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMAND JOINED THE MEETING. THE THREE DIRECTORS GENERAL, COL. CARLOS EUGENIO VIDES CASANOVA OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, COL. CARLOS REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA
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OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, AND LT.CV. FRANCISCO MORAN OF THE TREASURY POLICE, PRESENTED A SHORT BRIEFING ON THE MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF THEIR AGENCIES. IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT ALTHOUGH THE CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN RURAL SECURITY, OF THE NATIONAL POLICE URBAN SECURITY, AND OF THE TREASURY POLICE THE PREVENTION OF TAX LAW VIOLATIONS, BECAUSE OF THE GUERRILLA WAR IN EL SALVADOR THEIR FUNCTIONS HAVE OVERLAPPED AND THEY WERE INVOLVED MORE IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY THAN IN NORMAL POLICE-RELATED DUTIES. IN ADDITION, A POINT STRESSED BY THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer

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DIRECTORS GENERAL WAS THAT THERE EXISTED A LACK OF PERSONNEL FOR THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR REQUIRED, AS WELL AS THEIR COUNTER-GUERRILLA, RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. AFTER THE SALVADORAN OFFICIALS TERMINATED THEIR PRESENTATION, THE CHARGE EXPLAINED THE GENERAL NATURE OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTED THAT WASHINGTON INTENDED TO SUPPORT EL SALVADOR IN ITS EFFORT TO COMBAT INSURGENCY AS LONG AS IT MAINTAINED A MODERATE POLICY AND THE PRESENT REFORM PROGRAM. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT THE POLICY TOWARD EL SALVADOR WAS STILL BEING REVIEWED. AFTER THESE GENERAL STATEMENTS WERE MADE, SPECIFIC DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING POINTS WAS INITIATED BY THE CHARGE:

(A) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTROLLING VIOLENCE. WITHIN THE UNITED STATES THERE HAS BEEN MUCH ADVERSE REACTION TOWARD EL SALVADOR AS A RESULT OF THE MURDERS OF THE NUNS AND OF THE TWO AGRARIAN REFORM ADVISORS. THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION VERY MUCH DESIRES TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNING JUNTA (JRG) IN ITS EFFORT TO END THE GUERRILLA WAR, BUT IT WILL BE HIGHLY DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH THAT OBJECTIVE IF EL SALVADOR CONTINUES TO PROJECT A POOR INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT UNLESS THE JRG RESOLVES THE CASE OF THE

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NUNS, THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST EL SALVADOR WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED. COL. JOSE GUILLERMO GARCIA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, REPLIED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO COMPLY WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S WISHES CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CLERGYWOMEN AND THAT U.S. OFFICIALS WERE WELCOME TO HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE EVIDENCE CURRENTLY ACCUMULATED. COL. LOPEZ NUILA ADDED HIS PROMISE OF SUPPORT; HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED THAT MURDER CASES WERE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE IN HIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR.

(B) THE CHARGE STATED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY SHOULD BE INFORMED WITHOUT DELAY OF THE ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE CHARGE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING A U.S. CITIZEN FROM PUERTO RICO. COL. LOPEZ NUILA RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE NATIONAL POLICE HAD FULFILLED THAT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT WITH THE CONSULATE; HOWEVER, HE WOULD CHECK. THE POLICE CHIEF INDICATED THAT HIS AGENCY, UPON OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION, WOULD PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR ANY U.S. CITIZEN ARRIVING IN EL SALVADOR.

(C) THE CHARGE REMINDED THE SECURITY DIRECTORS THAT THE CASE OF THE MISSING NEWSMAN, JOHN SULLIVAN, REMAINED POLITICALLY SENSITIVE IN THE U.S.; IF HE WERE FOUND MURDERED, THERE EXISTED THE POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGING PRESS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY COMPLICATE U.S.-SALVADORAN RELATIONS.

(D) THE CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPLOITATION OF INFORMATION ACQUIRED FROM CAPTURED FOREIGNERS SUCH AS THE

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DOWNED NICARAGUAN PILOT AND THE SANDINISTA OFFICER WAS OF GREAT VALUE IN EXPLAINING THE SALVADORAN POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. COL. GARCIA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS RECOGNIZED; HOWEVER, EL SALVADOR HAD HAD BAD PRIOR EXPERIENCES WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED THAT TYPE OF EFFORT ALONE.

4. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH THE SHOWING OF A NEW VIDEO-TAPE THAT CONTAINED A MORE POLISHED STATEMENT BY THE NICARAGUAN PILOT. THIS TAPE HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO WASHINGTON.

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