

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-15 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00
EB-01 EUR-01 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19
LAB-04 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 RP-10 SIL-01 SNP-01
SP-01 SR-01 SS-01 STR-20 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00
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P 011751Z JUL 92
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7320
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

RELEASED IN PART
B1,25X1,25X6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior
Reviewer

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 006806

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, EAID, ES
SUBJECT: CHARGE'S JUNE 30 MEETING [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

B1
25X1

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: CHARGE ACCOMPANIED BY POLCOUNS MET MORNING OF JUNE 30 WITH [REDACTED] TO DISCUSS THE PEACE PROCESS, THE HEALTH OF THE ARENA PARTY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE 1994 ELECTIONS. REFLECTING THE GENERAL UPTURN IN DEVELOPMENTS IN EL SALVADOR, [REDACTED] OPTIMISTIC, SAYING THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WAS GOING VERY WELL AND THE ARENA PARTY "BETTER" THAN BEFORE. [REDACTED] BUSINESSMAN BOBBY MURRAY MEZA NOW HAS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE ARENA PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, EXPRESSED FEAR THAT ARENA MIGHT LOSE IN 1994 TO A UNITED LEFT LED BY RUBEN ZAMORA. END SUMMARY.

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3. [REDACTED] TOLD CHARGE MORNING OF JUNE 30 THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS GOING WELL, THAT NO "INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS" HAD COME UP TO BLOCK PROGRESS. THE FMLN LEADERSHIP KNOWS THAT THE WAR IS OVER [REDACTED] SAID, AND ALTHOUGH THE GOES/ARENA CANNOT SAY SO PUBLICLY, IT UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTIES THE FMLN FACES TRYING TO CONVERT FROM AN ARMED BAND INTO A POLITICAL PARTY. THE TRICK [REDACTED] IS FOR THE GOES TO REMAIN FLEXIBLE, "EXTEND THE FMLN A HAND TO DRAW IT

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INTO THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM"--BUT WITHOUT ALIENATING ARENA'S BASE OF SUPPORT IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR. [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH THE GOES UNDERSTANDS HOW SLOWLY AID FLOWS AND HAD WORKED TO KEEP EXPECTATIONS REALISTIC AMONG ITS SUPPORTERS, THE FMLN HAD RAISED VERY HIGH HOPES AMONG ITS FOLLOWERS AND NOW FACED A SERIOUS PROBLEM BECAUSE "NOTHING IS ARRIVING."

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4. TURNING TO ARENA PARTY POLITICS, [REDACTED] THINGS ARE BETTER THAN THEY HAD BEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI HAD TAKEN ON A SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN PARTY POLITICS, HE EXPLAINED, AND THE SEVEN PARTY LEADERS (CRISTIANI, ARMANDO CALDERON SOL, FRANCISCO MERINO, ROBERTO ANGULO, SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, ROBERTO LLACH HILL, AND MAURICIO GUTIERREZ CASTRO) WHO FORM THE POWERFUL "ADVISORY COMMITTEE" TO THE COENA HAD ALL AGREED TO FOCUS
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ON PARTY UNITY IN THE NEAR TERM--ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE SEVEN HARBORED HOPES OF BEING ARENA'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1994. WHILE BUSINESSMAN BOBBY MURRAY MEZA REMAINS VERY ATTRACTIVE IN TERMS OF PERSONAL QUALITIES [REDACTED] CALDERON SOL IS THE ONLY TRULY VIABLE CANDIDATE. EACH MONTH THAT PASSES WITHOUT MURRAY MEZA'S MAKING A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE PARTY--OR ANY PARTY--REDUCES THE CHANCES OF HIS BEING NOMINATED FOR THE 94 PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

5. DESPITE HIS FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF ARENA'S HEALTH, [REDACTED] TURNED PESSIMISTIC WHEN DISCUSSING ARENA'S ELECTORAL PROSPECTS FOR 1994. HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH CRISTIANI'S FAVORABLE RATING IS AT A PEAK--OVER 70 PERCENT--THE ARENA PARTY IS STRUGGLING ALONG WITH ONLY A 40 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING, WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO DROP AS FURTHER ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS (SUCH AS INTRODUCTION OF A VALUE ADDED TAX) ARE TAKEN. A CHALLENGE BY DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE LEADER RUBEN ZAMORA, [REDACTED] BELIEVES COULD SUCCESSFULLY UNITE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VOTERS WITH FMLN SUPPORTERS, COULD PROVE TOO MUCH FOR ARENA'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

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6. COMMENT: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WE HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH A GENERALLY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN EL SALVADOR SINCE THE HEADY DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE ACCORDS. END COMMENT. [REDACTED]

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