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RELEASE IN FULL

R 211922Z JUN 82  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 221  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 05161

EO 12065: GDS 6/21/88 (DRISCOLL, ROBERT S.) OR-P  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES  
SUBJ: (C) CONVERSATION WITH NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: ARA/CEN DIRECTOR JOHNSTONE AND S/P MEMBER JON GLASSMAN MET JUNE 17 WITH NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR LOPEZ NUILA. THE CONVERSATION COVERED INCREASING INSURGENT ACTIVITIES, WHICH LOPEZ SAID WOULD INCREASE OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ALSO COVERED WERE THE CONTROL OF PRISONER ABUSES, WHICH LOPEZ MINIMIZED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT STRICT COOPERATION WITH ICRC AND CODES OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. FINALLY, LOPEZ NUILA SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR DECREE 207 OF WHICH IS A MEMBER. END SUMMARY.  
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3. ARA/CEN DIRECTOR CRAIG JOHNSTONE AND S/P STAFF MEMBER JON GLASSMAN MET WITH NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR COLONEL CARLOS REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA, JUNE 17. THE CONVERSATION STARTED WITH A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SINCE THE MARCH 28 ELECTIONS. LOPEZ NUILA SAID THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, THE TERRORISTS' ACTIVITY PRACTICALLY CEASED. STARTING JUNE 5, HOWEVER, ACTIVITY HAS ONCE AGAIN PICKED UP. FIRST CAME THE UCA ARTICLE QUESTIONING THE ELECTIONS AND THEN THE ATTACK ON PERQUIN. LOPZ NUILA SAW THESE AS RELATED INCIDENTS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer

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WHICH CAME AT THE END OF A SEVEN-WEEK PERIOD DURING WHICH THE INSURGENTS RE-EVALUATED THEIR STRATEGY. LOPEZ NUILA SAID HE EXPECTS GREATLY INCREASED INSURGENT ACTIVITY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY, ESPECIALLY BEFORE JULY 28 WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS TO RECERTIFY U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR. AT THE SAME TIME THE INSURGENTS ARE TRYING TO REBUILD THEIR POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE URBAN CENTERS, ACCORDING TO SALVADORAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, LOPEZ NUILA LOOKS TO AN INCREASE IN URBAN TERRORISM ALONG WITH THE INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON VIOLENCE, LOPEZ NUILA SAID THE VIOLENCE DECLINED REMARKABLY AFTER THE ELECTIONS. STARTING IN JUNE, HOWEVER, IT PICKED UP ONCE AGAIN. THE EXCEPTION IS SAN SALVADOR, WHICH HAS REMAINED A GREAT DEAL QUIETER THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS.

5. LOPEZ NUILA POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1982 THERE HAD BEEN ABOUT AS MANY KIDNAPPINGS -- 18 (COMPARED TO 23) THAN IN ALL OF 1981. IN HIS OPINION, THE INSURGENTS ARE TRYING TO RAISE MONEY BY KIDNAPPINGS, WHICH MAY ALSO MEAN THAT THE INSURGENT'S NEED FUNDS. REINFORCING THIS OPINION, HE SAID, WERE THE RECURRING REPORTS THAT THE GUERRILLAS WERE

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SUFFERING SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES.

6. GLASSMAN ASKED LOPEZ NUILA TO COMMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION IN THE ARMED FORCES. LOPEZ NUILA REPLIED THAT THE INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION HERE STILL LACKS ORGANIZATION AND TRAINED PEOPLE. CENTRAL AMERICA AND EL SALVADOR USED TO HAVE MUCH BETTER INTELLIGENCE WHEN THE U.S. GAVE ITS SUPPORT TO THIS ACTIVITY. UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER THE U.S. CUT THIS SUPPORT AND AS A RESULT INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES HAVE SUFFERED. EL SALVADOR SHOULD DO TWO THINGS:

-- IT SHOULD MERGE THE NOW SEPARATE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE VARIOUS MILITARY AND POLICE CORPS, FORMING A SINGLE BODY WITH OVERALL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTELLIGENCE.

-- THIS BODY SHOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTEGRATING INFORMATION FROM OVERSEAS SOURCES INTO THE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM. THE PROBLEM TODAY IS THAT EVERY SERVICE HAS ITS OWN INTELLIGENCE OPERATION AND THERE IS NO LATERAL MOVEMENT OF INFORMATION AMONG THESE SERVICES.

GLASSMAN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INTEGRATE ALL INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS UNDER THE ARMY. LOPEZ NUILA SAID IT COULD BE DONE.

7. JOHNSTONE ASKED LOPEZ NUILA WHAT HIS FORCE WAS DOING TO CONTROL ABUSES OF AUTHORITY. HE POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE

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OF THIS CONTROL FOR THE CERTIFICATION WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS TO MAKE BY JULY 28. LOPEZ NUILA SHOWED JOHNSTONE A RESUME' AND A LIST OF NATIONAL POLICEMEN REMAINED TO COURTS FOR SERIOUS CRIMES, 198 SINCE OCTOBER 15, 1979. JOHNSTONE ASKED LOPEZ NUILA ABOUT PRISONER ABUSE. HE SAID THERE WAS LESS THAN IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WHERE EIGHT ARGENTINE PRISONERS HAD DIED. LOPEZ NUILA THEN SHOWED JOHNSTONE A STATISTICAL RESUME' WHICH INDICATED THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE HAD ARRESTED 2288 PEOPLE FOR SUBVERSION SINCE OCTOBER 15, CONFIDENTIAL

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1979. OF THESE, SOME 1200 HAVE BEEN RELEASED AFTER QUESTIONING. LOPEZ NUILA ALSO POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY OF CONVICTING ANYBODY FOR ANY SERIOUS CRIME IN EL SALVADOR. HE SAID HE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 05161

WOULD FAVOR A SYSTEM OF MILITARY JUSTICE TO COPE WITH SUB-  
VERSION BUT HAD NO OBJECTION TO CIVILIAN COURTS IF THEY  
COULD DO THE JOB. LOPEZ NUILA ADDED THAT EL SALVADOR HAD TO  
WORK VERY HARD NOW ON COMPLETELY REFORMING ITS JUDICIAL SYS-  
TEM.

8. LOPEZ NUILA SAID THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE HAD GIVEN THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) COMPLETE  
ACCESS TO ALL NATIONAL POLICE INSTALLATIONS. THE ICRC VISITS  
THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTES FROM TWO TO THREE TIMES A WEEK, AND  
HEADQUARTERS IN OTHER CITIES SOMEWHAT LESS FREQUENTLY. IN THE  
PERIOD FROM APRIL 16 TO MAY 21, 1982 ICRC DELEGATES MADE 22  
VISITS NATIONALLY TO NATIONAL POLICE INSTALLATIONS.

9. LOPEZ NUILA GAVE JOHNSTONE AND GLASSMAN A COPY OF THE  
NATIONAL POLICE CODE OF CONDUCT. IT IS CLASSIFIED SECRET  
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AND AVAILABLE ONLY TO THE OFFICERS IN THE NATIONAL POLICE.  
SIMPLIFIED VERSIONS OF THIS CODE ARE GIVEN TO REMAINING OF-  
FICERS IN THE FORCE. THE ENLISTED MEN RECEIVE A STILL SIM-  
PLER VERSION. NEITHER OF THE LATTER TWO VERSIONS ARE CLASS-

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IFIED. HE INDICATED THAT AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION MIGHT BE PUBLISHED.

10. LOPEZ NUILA CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE COMMISSION WHICH WILL REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PHASE 3 LAND REFORM UNDER DECREE 207. THE COMMISSION MET FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 17 AND WILL MEET AT LENGTH DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO GET THIS EFFORT WELL UNDERWAY. MR. JOHNSTONE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE U.S. CONGRESS ATTACHES TO DECREE 207 AND ASKED LOPEZ NUILA TO KEEP US INFORMED ON THE COMMISSION'S WORK. LOPEZ NUILA SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

11. COMMENT: LOPEZ NUILA PROJECTS HIMSELF AS THE GOOD GUY TRYING TO DO A JOB UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE WAS FULL AWARE OF THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DID HIS BEST TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS JOHNSTONE AND GLASSMAN ASKED WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS IN MIND. THE NATIONAL POLICE IS STILL FAR FROM BEING AN ORGANIZATION OF SAINTS, BUT IS IS A VASTLY IMPROVED ORGANIZATION THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THIS LAWYER-COLONEL. END COMMENT.

12. CRAIG JOHNSTONE AND JON GLASSMAN APPROVED THIS CABLE IN DRAFT BEFORE DEPARTING SAN SALVADOR.  
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