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ACTION ARA-00**RELEASE IN PART  
B7(C),B6**INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03  
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 INRE-00 USIE-00  
SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-03 P-02 T-01  
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O 081707Z NOV 89  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3403  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SAN SALVADOR 14572

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PTER, PGOV, ES  
SUBJECT: A/S ARONSON'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT  
- CRISTIANI

1. ENTIRE TEXT - CONFIDENTIAL.

2. SUMMARY: ARA A/S ARONSON, ACCOMPANIED BY  
AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND GENERAL THURMAN, MET WITH  
PRESIDENT CRISTIANI NOVEMBER 6. ALSO PRESENT WERE  
JUSTICE MINISTER OSCAR SANTAMARIA AND PRESIDENTIAL  
SECRETARY ARTURO TONA. ARONSON INTRODUCED TWO FBI  
AGENTS BROUGHT DOWN AT CRISTIANI'S REQUEST TO LOOK  
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INTO THE FENASTRAS BOMBING. ARONSON STRESSED OUR  
COMMON INTERESTS IN A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THE  
FENASTRAS BOMBING AND THE JOYA MARTINEZ ACCUSATIONS.  
CRISTIANI AGREED FULLY. ARONSON ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE  
PROSPECTS FOR DIALOGUE; CRISTIANI SAID THE GOES WOULD  
GO TO CARACAS AND HE EXPECTED THE FMLN TO SHOW UP AS  
WELL. ARONSON ASKED WHAT THE U.S. COULD DO TO HELP;  
CRISTIANI ASKED US TO ASK MEXICO TO PRESSURE THE  
FMLN. ARONSON AND CRISTIANI ALSO DISCUSSED THE SAN  
JOSE SUMMIT, THE OASGA, THE TACA ROUTE REQUEST, THE**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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ECONOMY, AND REFUGEE REPATRIATION. ARONSON REFERRED TO A LETTER TO CRISTIANI SIGNED BY 50 CONGRESSMEN AND URGED THE PRESIDENT TO REITERATE GOES RESPECT FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND NOT TO LABEL TRADE UNION GROUPS AS FMLN FRONTS. END SUMMARY.

3. CRISTIANI WELCOMED ARONSON. HE OBSERVED THIS WAS NOT A GOOD TIME FOR EL SALVADOR--VIOLENCE WAS CONTINUING AS THE FMLN TRIED TO GENERATE AN INSURRECTION. THE GOES WAS TRYING TO INVESTIGATE THE OCTOBER 31 FENASTRAS BOMBING, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FENASTRAS WOULD NOT COOPERATE BY ALLOWING POLICE INVESTIGATORS TO ENTER THE SITE OF THE BOMBING. THE PRESIDENT ADDED HE WOULD TRY TO MEET WITH FENASTRAS LEADERS LATER THAT DAY. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR AN INVESTIGATION. ARONSON ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THE BOMBING OF THE COMADRES OFFICE EARLIER THE SAME DAY WAS LINKED TO THE FENASTRAS BOMBING. CRISTIANI SAID THEY MIGHT BE. REFERRING TO THE BROADBASED COMMISSION HE PROPOSED TO OVERSEE THE GOES INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING, CRISTIANI SAID THAT THE OAS HAD AGREED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, AND THE UN WAS AWAITING A FORMAL INVITATION. HE WAS HOPEFUL THE

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CATHOLIC CHURCH HIERARCHY WOULD ASSIST AS WELL.

4. ARONSON RAISED THE HEMISPHERIC PRESIDENTS MEETING IN SAN JOSE. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAD EXPRESSED THAT CRISTIANI HAD DONE VERY WELL IN SAN JOSE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ISSUE OF NICARAGUAN SUPPORT FOR THE FMLN. ARONSON SAID CRISTIANI HAD BUILT UP CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN THE U.S. EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS HAD NOT CHANGED THIS. HIS QUICK RESPONSE TO THE FENASTRAS BOMBING AND CALLS FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE GUILTY PARTIES HAD FURTHER BOOSTED HIS IMAGE. ARONSON SAID HE KNEW THE GOES PLANNED TO GO TO THE NOVEMBER 20-21 DIALOGUE WITH THE FMLN IN CARACAS--DID HE THINK THE FMLN WOULD GO?

5. CRISTIANI SAID A MEXICAN REPORTER HAD INTERVIEWED FMLN (ERP) LEADER ANA GUADALUPE MARTINEZ RECENTLY, AND SHE SAID THE FMLN WOULD GO TO CARACAS. WHAT THE FMLN WANTED, HE SAID, WAS FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO BEG THEM TO GO. CRISTIANI SAID HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD GO. HE NOTED THAT CD COORDINATOR GUILLERMO UNGO HAD SAID ON TELEVISION THAT MORNING THAT THE FMLN SUSPENSION OF THE DIALOGUE WAS DUMB.

6. ARONSON SAID THE U.S. WANTED TO GO TO THE UNSC ON CIAV AND ONUCA. THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY THERE FOR

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THE GOES TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A CEASE-FIRE SO THE UN CAN CARRY OUT ITS MISSION. IN THAT REGARD, WAS THERE A CHANCE OF EVEN A PARTIAL REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE? OR WAS THE FMLN JUST USING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PROPAGANDA?

7. CRISTIANI RESPONDED THAT THE FMLN ALWAYS PLANS TO

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REAP BENEFITS EITHER WAY. RIGHT NOW IT APPEARED TO DESIRE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES. BUT LATER IT MIGHT BE

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PERSUADED TO AT LEAST AGREE TO SOMETHING LIKE THE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SAN JOSE; THIS WOULD INVOLVE A "CESSATION OF ALL ARMED ACTIVITY" INSTEAD OF THE GOES' PROPOSAL FOR A "CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES." (COMMENT: WE KNOW THE CHURCH WAS CONSIDERING SUCH A PROPOSAL AT THE OCTOBER 16-18 MEETING, BUT BELIEVE IT WAS NOT FORMALLY

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PROPOSED.)

8. ARONSON ASKED THE PRESIDENT WHAT THE U.S. COULD DO TO HELP ON THE DIALOGUE. THE FMLN, FOR EXAMPLE, ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK WITH US, AND WE HAD ALWAYS SENT WORD BACK THAT THEY SHOULD TALK INSTEAD WITH THE GOES. WOULD THE GOES WANT US TO TALK WITH THE FMLN? CRISTIANI RESPONDED THAT SINCE U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED, AND SINCE MOST OF THE FMLN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP LIVED IN MEXICO, PERHAPS THE U.S. COULD APPROACH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND ASK THAT THEY PRESSURE THE FMLN TO GO TO CARACAS. ARONSON SAID PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD MEET SOON WITH SALINAS; WOULD CRISTIANI WANT BUSH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE THEN? CRISTIANI SAID YES, AND THAT THE MESSAGE TO THE FMLN SHOULD BE TO GO TO CARACAS, BE RESPONSIBLE, LOOK FOR AGREEMENTS, AND WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TELA AND ESQUIPULAS-II.

9. ARONSON RAISED THE ALLEGATIONS OF ESAF DESERTER JOYA MARTINEZ. HE HAD MADE VERY SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ESAF AND THE U.S. REGARDING DEATH SQUADS IN THE FIRST BRIGADE. WOULD THE GOES REQUEST HIS EXTRADITION? IF SO, IT WOULD SEND A STRONG MESSAGE TO THE U.S. WE COULD NOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF SUCH A REQUEST, BUT WE WOULD PUSH THE MATTER. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IF NOTHING ELSE, A POSSIBLE ASYLUM REQUEST BY JOYA WOULD PUT HIM IN A FORUM WHERE HE HAS TO ANSWER SPECIFIC AND KNOWLEDGEABLE QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ALLEGATIONS.

10. ARONSON NOTED THAT WHEN CRISTIANI TRAVELLED TO THE U.S. IN APRIL (JUST AFTER HIS ELECTION), WHAT

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REALLY HAD IMPRESSED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WAS HIS PROMISE TO IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THERE WERE SEVERAL TEST CASES: SAN SEBASTIAN, JOYA, AND THE RECENT BOMBINGS. IF CONGRESS SOMETIMES APPEARED

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IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY, ITS MEMBERS REALLY WANTED TO SEE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS BY THE GOES. THE GOES' AND ESAF'S ACTIONS ON SAN SEBASTIAN WERE NOTEWORTHY. IF THE GOES CAN PRESS AHEAD AND BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MORE RECENT CRIMES, IN A TRAGIC WAY THIS COULD HELP THE GOES. THE U.S. WAS READY TO HELP HOWEVER IT COULD. NO GOVERNMENT CAN TOTALLY PREVENT TERRORISM; WHAT MATTERED WAS ITS RESPONSE TO TERRORISM.

11. CRISTIANI DESCRIBED HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS ON THE BOMBINGS WITH SENATOR DODD. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN CALLING SENATORS LEAHY AND KASTEN. ARONSON ENCOURAGED HIM.

12. ARONSON RAISED THE UPCOMING OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND ASKED IF THE GOES CONSIDERED THIS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO DISCUSS NICARAGUAN SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLAS. CRISTIANI SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD BE DONE, AND PROMISED TO CHECK. ARONSON SAID THE U.S. WAS PRESSING THE SOVIETS HARD ON THIS, PARTICULARLY THE RECENT CAPTURE OF AN ARMS SHIPMENT AT THE HONDURAN-NICARAGUAN BORDER. THE MORE PUBLIC THE GOES MADE ITS CASE AGAINST NICARAGUA, THE MORE WE COULD HELP.

13. ARONSON ASKED WHAT ELSE THE U.S. COULD DO TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FENASTRAS BOMBINGS. CRISTIANI EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE QUICK RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR U.S. BOMB EXPERTS

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(HE MET FBI AGENT [REDACTED]  
EARLIER IN THE MEETING). ONCE THE INVESTIGATION  
STARTED, MAYBE HE WOULD ASK FOR MORE HELP.

B6  
B7(C)

14. ARONSON THEN ASKED ABOUT THE ECONOMY. THE  
PRESIDENT SAID THERE WERE A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS:  
INFLATION IN SEPTEMBER WAS ONLY 9.6 PERCENT  
(ANNUALIZED), THE LOWEST IN SIX YEARS. EXPORTS TO  
CENTRAL AMERICA HAD JUMPED BY 20 PERCENT DUE TO THE  
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DEVALUATION. CUSTOMS RECEIPTS WERE AT A HISTORIC  
HIGH. UNEMPLOYMENT WAS STILL HIGH, HOWEVER, AND SOME  
60 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION DISAGREED WITH GOES  
ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT THE GOES WAS DETERMINED TO PRESS  
AHEAD. ARONSON SAID THERE WAS PRESSURE ON THE  
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET. WE NEEDED TO WORK WITH  
EACH OTHER IN OTHER WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S.  
COULD HELP IF THE GOES WERE TO APPROACH TAIWAN FOR  
ASSISTANCE. CRISTIANI AGREED.

15. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE RECENT REFUGEE  
REPATRIATION, AND TOLD THE PRESIDENT THE GOES HAD  
SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND MODERATION IN DEALING WITH THE  
RETURNEES AND THE AMCITS WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM.

16. ARONSON TOLD THE PRESIDENT HE BELIEVED THE TACA  
AIRLINES REQUEST WAS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.  
CRISTIANI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. ARONSON TOLD THE  
PRESIDENT THAT HE HAD A COPY OF A LETTER TO HIM  
SIGNED BY 50 CONGRESSMEN. HE HOPED THAT THE

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PRESIDENT WOULD REACT FAVORABLY IN PARTICULAR TO ONE PART OF THE LETTER THAN CALLED UPON THE GOES TO REITERATE THE RIGHTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS, AND TO NOT LABEL GROUPS SUCH AS FENASTRAS AS FMLN FRONTS.

17. COMMENT: THE CORDIAL MEETING SERVED TO UNDERSCORE OUR INTERESTS IN FULL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE FENASTRAS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, AND IN KEEPING ALIVE THE GOES-FMLN DIALOGUE. THESE THEMES WERE REPEATED IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING BETWEEN ARONSON (WITH GENERAL THURMAN) AND THE ESAF HIGH COMMAND, AND WITH POLITICAL/LABOR LEADERS AND FENASTRAS.

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