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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00 HA-09
H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01
PA-02 PM-01 PRS-01 P-02 SNP-01 SP-01 SSO-00
SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /028W
-----4CD656 132310Z /61

O 132252Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5841
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 03171

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior
Reviewer

DEPT FOR ARA/CEN AND ARA/PPC:KMCBRIDE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: THIRD UPDATE ON SALVADORAN ELECTION RESULTS--
- ARENA LIKELY TO LOSE MAJORITY

REFS: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3081 (B) SAN SALVADOR 3019
(C) SAN SALVADOR 2973

1. WITH 12 OF 14 DEPARTMENTS REPORTING NEARLY
COMPLETE RESULTS FROM THE MARCH 10 MUNICIPAL AND
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT ARENA IS
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NOT LIKELY TO WIN THE 43 SEATS NECESSARY TO RETAIN A
MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. TO REACH 43,
ARENA NEEDED TO WIN TWO SEATS IN AT LEAST FIVE OF THE
EIGHT DEPARTMENTS WITH THREE DEPUTY SLOTS, BUT,
ACCORDING TO UPDATED ELECTIONS RESULTS, ARENA HAS WON
TWO SEATS IN ONLY THREE OF THE EIGHT DEPARTMENTS. IN
TWO IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM REF A CHART SHOWING
DISTRIBUTION OF DEPUTIES--

--IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT, ARENA MISSED WINNING THE
THIRD SEAT BY LESS THAN 300 VOTES. IT WON ONLY ONE
SEAT DESPITE GARNERING 46 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE
NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY (PCN) AND THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS, EACH WITH ONLY 18 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, WON
THE OTHER TWO SEATS.

--IN A SURPRISE FINISH IN CHALATENANGO DEPARTMENT, THE DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE (CD) SEEMS TO BE WINNING THE THIRD SEAT WITH 11 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. ARENA MISSED WINNING THE THIRD SEAT BY LESS THAN 800 VOTES, DESPITE WINNING 40 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

2. IN ANOTHER POSSIBLE CHANGE FROM REF A CHART, THE FIFTH SEAT IN SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENT, INITIALLY CLAIMED BY THE PCN, IS BEING CHALLENGED BY THE CD. FELIX ULLOA, THE CD'S DEPUTY CANDIDATE FOR SAN MIGUEL, IS CHARGING THAT PCN ACTIVISTS CARRIED OUT A VARIETY OF SCAMS DESIGNED TO NUDGE THE PCN AHEAD OF THE CD. ULLOA TOLD POLOFF THAT ARENA, LED BY CEL PRESIDENT SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, HAD SUPPORTED THE CD'S CALL FOR A RECOUNT OF THE VOTE. ALTHOUGH ULLOA SAID HE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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OPTIMISTIC THAT THE ATTEMPTED FRAUD WOULD BE DISCOVERED AND CORRECTED BY CAREFUL SCRUTINY, HE WARNED OF GRAVE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THE PCN'S ERNESTO KURY WIN THE ASSEMBLY SEAT THROUGH FRAUD.

3. THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS OUR REVISED DISTRIBUTION--BASED ON UPDATED, BUT STILL PRELIMINARY ELECTION RESULTS--OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES BY PARTY AND DEPARTMENT. SINCE NO CCE RESULTS ARE YET AVAILABLE FOR THE CITIES OF SAN SALVADOR AND SANTA ANA, DISTRIBUTION OF DEPUTIES FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF SAN SALVADOR AND SANTA ANA, AS WELL AS FOR THE NATIONAL LIST, ARE BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEDIA AND POLITICAL PARTY SOURCES. THE NUMBERS BELOW REMAIN SUBJECT TO REVISION AS FURTHER RESULTS BECOME AVAILABLE AND AS THE FINAL VOTE COUNT IS CONDUCTED. FIGURES APPEARING IN PARENTHESES INDICATE THE MOST LIKELY ALTERNATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

DEPARTMENT	ARENA	PDC	CD	PCN	UDN
NATIONAL LIST	9(10)	6(5)	3(2)	2(1)	(1)
SAN SALVADOR	8(7)	3	4(3)	-	1
SANTA ANA	3	2	1	-	-
SAN MIGUEL	2	2	(1)	(1)	-
LA LIBERTAD	3	1	1	-	-
SONSONATE	2	1	-	1	-
USULUTAN	2	1	-	1	-
SAN VICENTE	2	1	-	-	-
LA PAZ	2	1	-	-	-
CHALATENANGO	1	1	1	-	-

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CUSCATLAN 2 1 - - -
CABANAS 1 1 - 1 -
LA UNION 1 2 - - -
AHUACHAPAN 1 1 - - 1 -
MORAZAN 1 1 - - 1 -

TOTALS 39-41 24-25 8-11 6-8 1-2

WALKER

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