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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 AID-07 HA-06 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 679
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN
DIA WASHDC

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PANAMA ALSO FOR RSS

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: ASEC PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW

REF: SAN SALVADOR 6888

1. SUMMARY. VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL. DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4-10 THE NUMBER OF POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED KILLINGS WHICH THIS EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK. AT LEAST 242 PEOPLE WERE KILLED--AS USUAL THE LARGEST PART IN UNATTRIBUTABLE VIOLENCE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN FROM THE LEFT, THE RIGHT OR THE GENERAL LAWLESSNESS THAT PREVAILS HERE. AMONG THE DEAD WERE A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, A PRIEST
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AND A PRC OFFICIAL. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES THE BOMBING OF THE BUILDING IN WHICH ACTING ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS HAS HIS OFFICES WAS A SIGNIFICANT--BUT AGAIN, UNATTRIBUTABLE--POLITICAL EVENT. THE PROSPECT IS FOR STILL MORE VIOLENCE AS THE REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA GOVERNMENT APPROACHES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY. IN A GRUESOME EXPLANATION TO ONE OF LAST NOVEMBER'S ABDUCTIONS THE POPULAR FORCES OF LIBERATION HAVE CLAIMED THE MURDER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBASSADOR HERE, ARCHIBALD DUNN. END SUMMARY.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan Flanigan,
Senior Reviewer

2. DEATHS: POLITICAL VIOLENCE TOOK THE LIVES OF AT LEAST 242 PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR DURING THE WEEK OCTOBER 4 OCTOBER 10. ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THESE DEATHS COULD BE ACCURATELY ATTRIBUTED TO ANY GROUP. OF THE TOTAL, NO FEWER THAN THIRTY SEVEN WERE KILLED BY LEFTIST GUERRILLAS, TWENTY-THREE BY THE MILITARY AND TWO BY RIGHTIST TERRORISTS. A LARGE MAJORITY, 180, WAS MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO WERE IN SOME CASES TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES AND LATER FOUND DEAD, IN OTHER CASES SHOT FROM PASSING VEHICLES, IN MANY CASES SIMPLY UNIDENTIFIED BODIES FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN FIELDS OR ROADSIDES.

3. INCIDENTS:

--ON 10/4 A CONFRONTATION OCCURRED NEAR CANTON AGUA ZARCA, TOROLA (MORAZAN) WHEN SECURITY FORCES SPOTTED LEFTIST GUERRILLAS ALLEGEDLY HIDING ALONG A ROADSIDE WAITING TO AMBUSH MILITARY PATROLS; NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED;

--ON OR ABOUT 10/4 A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL WAS KILLED IN CANTON CAROLINA, JUTIAPA (CABANAS) DURING AN ATTACK BY GUERRILLAS ON THE HOUSES OF THE CANTONAL COMMANDER AND OF A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL MILITIA;

--ON 10/5 A MILITARY SWEEP OF AN AREA NEAR SANTIAGO TEXACU-ANGOS (SAN SALVADOR) WAS INITIATED AFTER APPROXIMATELY TWENTY GUERRILLAS ATTACKED A NATIONAL GUARD PATROL; CASUALTIES WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT REPORTED;

--ON OR ABOUT 10/6 A GROUP OF ALLEGED TO BE LEFTISTS ATTACKED AND ROBBED AN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE NEAR CANDELARIA DE LA FRONTERA (SANTA ANA);

--ON 10/6 IN THE CITY OF SANTA ANA SECURITY FORCES KILLED FIVE OF A GROUP OF A REPORTED FORTY MEMBER GANG OF BANDITS DESCRIBED AS "MASQUERADING" AS LEFTIST GUERRILLAS;

--ON 10/6 IN THE CITY OF SANTA ANA A SOFT DRINK DISTRIBUTORSHIP WAS ROBBED OF WEAPONS AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY BY A GROUP OF MASKED MEN;

--ON 10/6 AN ARMY CAPTAIN WAS KILLED ON THE ROAD BETWEEN AUGILARES AND SUCHITOTO (CUSCATLAN) WHEN A MINE EXPLODED NEAR THE VEHICLE IN WHICH HE AND SEVERAL TROOPS WERE RIDING;

--ON 10/6 FOUR PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN A MILITARY PATROL AND SUSPECTED LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS NEAR CANTON EL TABLON, SOCIEDAD (MORAZAN);

--ON 10/6 NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT BUSINESSMAN GUILLERMO CANAHUATI HAD BEEN RELEASED ON 9/25 AFTER PAYMENT OF AN UN-DISCLOSED AMOUNT OF MONEY TO THE REVOLUTIONARY CENTRAL AMERICAN WORKJXS PARTY (PRTC), WHICH HAD HELD CANAHUATI CAPTIVE SINCE 8/20;

--ON 10/7 IN SANTA ANA NATIONAL POLICE RESCUED PEDRO GUEVARA, A FORMER MAYOR AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, FROM A GROUP OF LEFTIST TERRORISTS WHO WERE ABOUT TO ASSASSINATE HIM;

--ON 10/7 THE BODY OF MARIA MAGDALENA HENRIQUEZ, A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WAS FOUND BURIED IN A SHALLOW GRAVE NEAR THE ROAD TO SAN DIEGO (LA LIBERTAD);

--ON 10/7 A BOMB DESTROYED THE ENTRANCE TO THE OFFICES OF SAN SALVADOR'S ARCHDIOCESE SHORTLY AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDR) OCCUPIERS OF THE OAS OFFICES HAD ARRIVED AT THE ARCHDIOCESE;

--THE BODY OF FATHER MANUEL REYES MONICO, A FORMER AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN, WAS FOUND IN AN AREA NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR ON 10/7, ONE DAY AFTER HE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES;

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--ON 10/7 A GROUP IDENTIFIED BY A MILITARY PRESS RELEASE AS FPL MEMBERS SET FIRE TO A BUS IN CANTON SANTA RITA;

--ON OR ABOUT 10/7 A GROUP OF TERRORISTS SET FIRE TO THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND THE ANTEL BUILDING IN NUEVO TEPETITAN (SAN VICENTE);

--ON OR ABOUT 10/7 NEAR CANTON LOS SITIOS GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A MILITARY PATROL AND INJURED SEVERAL SOLDIERS;

--ON 10/19 NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATED THAT RESIDENTS OF THE CANTONS ODNTZANGO LARGO, CONCEPCION AND CAROLINA (CABANAS) WERE LEAVING THEIR TOWNS FOR FEAR OF GUERRILLAS WHO MADE A HABIT OF ENTERING HOUSES AT NIGHT AND EXECUTING PEOPLE OPPOSED TO THEM;

--ON OR ABOUT 10/7 NEAR CANTON SITIO VIEJO, ILLOBASCO (CABANAS) FOURTEEN PEASANT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL MILITIA WERE

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KILLED BY GUERRILLAS POSSIBLY IN RETRIBUTION FOR THE DEATH OF A GUERRILLA A DAY EARLIER;
--ON 10/8 SAN SALVADOR RADIO STATION YSC WAS TAKEN OVER BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (FARN) WHO FORCES AN ANNOUNCER TO PLAY A TAPE CONDEMNING GZHE JRG AND LISTING FARN'S MOST RECENT ESCAPADES;
--ON 10/8 IN SAN SALVADOR A BRANCH OF ATLCATL SAVINGS AND LOAN WAS ROBBED OF A "REGULAR" AMOUNT OF MONEY BY A GROUP OF ARMED AND MASKED MEN;
--ON 10/8 ONE POLICEMAN WAS INJURED WHEN A GROUP OF MEN MACHINE-GUNNED THE BUILDING HOUSING SAN SALVADOR'S MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT;
--ON 10/8 A BOMB WAS THROWN AT THE HOUSE OF THE MAYOR OF EL REFUGIO, ATQUIZAYA (AHUACHAPAN) BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS FOR UNKNOWN REASONS;
--ON 10/8 TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN A BUSINESS IN CHALUCHUAPA (SANTA ANA);
--ON 10/8 GUERRILLAS BLEW UP THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER SUMPUL, EFFECTIVELY CUTTING OFF THE AREA AROUND ARCATAO (CHALATENANGO);
--ON 10/8 A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND LEFTIST GUERRILLAS NEAR SANTA RITA (CHALANTENANGO) LEFT THIRTEEN DEAD AND AT LEAST ONE INJURED;
--ON 10/8 NEAR CANTON EL CARAO, TECOLUCA (SAN VICENTE) AN ATTACK BY GUERRILLAS ON A MILITARY CONVOY LEFT FOUR SOLDIERS AND TWO CIVILIAN GUIDES DEAD;
--ON 10/8 IN THE LA SULTANA SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR EIGHT ARMED MEN DRESSED IN OLIVE DRAB ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK A ROAD WITH A BUS BUT WERE INTERRUPTED BY NATIONAL POLICE WHO FIRED AT THEM EIGHT; REPORTS DID NOT MENTION CASUALTIES;
--ON OR ABOUT 10/9 ONE MEMBER OF THE MILITIA WAS KILLED NEAR CANTON POTRERO, SAN ISIDRO BY GUERRILLAS WHO ATTACKED A MILITARY CONVOY;
--ON 10/9 THE NATIONAL GUARD POST IN SAN MIGUEL WAS ATTACKED
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BY GUERRILLAS WHO WERE REPELLED BY THE GUARDSMEN;
--ON 10/9 ONE LEFTIST GUERRILLA WAS KILLED AFTER REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTING TO RESIST A SEARCH OF HIS HOME BY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS; A QUANTITY OF BOMBS, ARMS, AMMUNITION AND ERP (REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE) PROPAGANDA WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND INSIDE THE HOUSE;
--ON OR ABOUT 10/9 A NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER WAS KILLED NEAR SAN JOSE LAS FLORES (CHALANTENANGO) DURING AN AMBUSH OF A PATM);
--ON 10/9 HGSAN SALVADOR RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST AN FPL (POPULAR FORCES OF LIBERATION) STATEMENT INDICATING THAT SOUTH

AFRICAN AMBASSADOR ARCHIBALD DUNN HAD BEEN EXECUTED AND THAT DUNN'S FAMILY WOULD NEVER KNOW WHERE THE BODY WAS BURIED;
-ON 10/10 SIX MASKED MEN RIDING IN A SMALL TRUCK INTERCEPTED THE CAR OF MELVI ORELLANA, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER, AND ASSASSINATED HIM; THE SIX LEFT AN FPL BANNER BY ORELLANA'S BODY;

4. RETROSPECTIVE: EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATHS OF THE SEVEN MEN KILLED ON 10/2 IN AYUTUXTEPEQUE (REFTEL). WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THREE OF FOUR OF THE DEAD WERE MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC (BPR). ONE OF THE GROUP OF KILLERS SINGLED OUT THE SEVEN WHO WERE TO BE SHOT FROM THE REST OF THE CROWD. OUR CONTACT BELIEVED THAT THE SEVEN WERE KILLED BY A RIGHTIST GANG COMPOSED OF OFF DUTY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLICE DETECTIVES.

5. ALTHOUGH THE FPL ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD KILLED AMBASSADOR DUNN "SEVERAL DAYS" BEFORE ITS ANNOUNCEMENT, FRIENDS OF DUNN HAVE REMARKED THAT HE WAS IN ILL HEALTH AND COULD HAVE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES.

6. WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT: FOUR BOMBS WERE DETONATED AROUND SAN SALVADOR SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 12. THE TARGETS WERE TWO FACTORIES, THE HOUSE OF WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN, AND A CAESS (ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY OF EL SALVADOR) SUBSTATION. A LARGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTION OF THE CITY WAS WITHOUT ELECTRIC POWER FOR ALMOST ONE HOURS. DURING THE BLACKOUT AT LEAST ONE GUN BATTLE TOOK PLACE AND SEVERAL STORES WERE LOOTED.
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