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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: FENASTRAS MEETING

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ARA/CEN ACTING OFFICE DIRECTOR ROMERO MET ON JANUARY 22 WITH GERARDO DIAZ AND FRANCISCO ACOSTA, FENASTRAS SECGEN AND WASHINGTON REP, RESPECTIVELY. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THEY SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE GOES INVESTIGATION ON THE JESUIT KILLINGS AND NOW WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOES ON A SIMILAR INVESTIGATION INTO THE FENASTRAS BOMBING. THEIR CONDITIONS:

- THAT FOUR EYEWITNESSES (TWO PRIVATE AND TWO FENASTRAS MEMBERS) ARE GIVEN PROTECTION; (ONE OF THE WITNESSES IS CURRENTLY IN PRISON);
  - THAT SOME 14 FENASTRAS "POLITICAL PRISONERS" BE RELEASED (ALTHOUGH THEY HINTED AT SOME FLEXIBILITY ON SOME OF THOSE IMPRISONED);
  - THAT THE INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT WITH US AND OTHER COUNTRIES OVERSIGHT. (DIAZ AND ACOSTA WERE VERY DISTRUSTFUL OF GOES' WILLINGNESS TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH
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INVESTIGATION AND REGARD INTERNATIONAL MONITORING AS NECESSARY.)

2. IN ADDITION, THE FENASTRAS OFFICIALS WANTED OUR REACTION TO A NEW NATIONAL DIALOGUE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE 80 ENTITIES (POLITICAL PARTIES, CHURCHES, LABOR, UNIVERSITIES, ETC.) TO RE-INITIATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOES AND THE FMLN. ROMERO DID NOT DISCOURAGE THIS EFFORT BUT NOTED THAT TOO MANY ACTORS COULD SPOIL CHANCES FOR A BREAKTHROUGH. HE ADDED THAT SUCH A MECHANISM COULD

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer**

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BRING ABOUT A CONSENSUS ON A REPUDIATION OF VIOLENCE AND IN SO DOING HELP IN WIDENING THE POLITICAL CENTER. DIAZ AND ACOSTA COUNTERED WITH ALL THE PREDICTABLE POSITIONS CONCERNING WITHHOLDING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE GOES UNTIL IT ACHIEVES A NEGOTIATED END TO THE CONFLICT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: POST IS ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH FENASTRAS THEIR STATED INTEREST IN AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE BOMBING (AND THEIR CONDITIONS) AND TO SUBSEQUENTLY RAISE THIS WITH THE GOES. IF FENASTRAS IS NOW SERIOUS ABOUT AN INQUIRY AND WILLING TO WORK WITH THE GOES, THE GOES SHOULD COOPERATE.  
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