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PAGE 01 SAN SA 14381 031916Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02 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 INRE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3310
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

RELEASE IN FULL

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: FMLN ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PEACE
TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

1. (U) FERMAN CIENFUEGOS, ONE OF THE FIVE GENERAL
COMMANDERS OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION
FRONT, READ ON FMLN RADIO VENCEREMOS A GUERRILLA
COMMUNIQUE NOVEMBER 2 CALLING FOR THE TEMPORARY
SUSPENSION (DEJAR EN SUSPENSO) OF FMLN PARTICIPATION
IN THE NOVEMBER 20-21 DIALOGUE IN CARACAS. ACCORDING
TO THE STATEMENT, CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS WOULD
DEPEND ON THE UN, OAS, AND SALVADORAN EPISCOPAL
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 14381 031916Z

CONFERENCE GUARANTEEING THE SAFETY OF SALVADORAN
SOCIAL AND LABOR UNION GROUPS. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO
MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THAT THE OCTOBER 31 ATTACK ON FENASTRAS WAS A
CALCULATED EFFORT TO WIPE OUT THE UNION'S LEADERSHIP;
- THAT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF COL. RENE EMILIO PONCE
AND FIRST BRIGADE COMMANDER COL. FRANCISCO ELENA
FUENTES CARRIED OUT THE ATTACK WITH AUTHORIZATION
FROM PRESIDENT CRISTIANI;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer

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- THAT COL. PONCE SHOULD RESIGN BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY IN THESE CRIMINAL ACTS;
- THAT THE FMLN, HAVING TAKEN TIME TO ANALYZE RECENT EVENTS, CONCLUDES THAT THE GOES HAS ADOPTED AN IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE AND IS TRYING TO BLAME RECENT EVENTS (I.E. FENASTRAS) ON THE FMLN;
- AS SUCH, THE FMLN FEELS THAT IT CAN NOT ALLOW ITS PRESENCE IN THE DIALOGUE TO BE USED BY THE GOES TO COVER UP THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS OR MAINTAIN AN IMAGE OF MODERATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE UNITED STATES;
- THE GOES POSITION IN SAN JOSE SHOWED ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE FMLN. THE GOES HAS INCREASED REPRESSION AGAINST SUCH GROUPS AND HAS ATTACKED MEMBERS OF THE MPSC, UDN, THE UNIVERSITY, COMADRES, AND FENASTRAS WHILE CRISTIANI MAINTAINS THE DIALOGUE;
- THE MASSACRES, CAPTURES, AND REPRESSION AGAINST

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 14381 031916Z

THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS, THE REPATRIATED REFUGEES, UNIVERSITIES, LABOR UNIONS, AND OTHER POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS INDICATE THAT THE ESAF, GOVERNMENT, AND ARENA ARE DIRECTING THE WAR AGAINST THE PEOPLE. THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE HEADED BY THE FMLN IS JUST, LEGITIMATE, AND NECESSARY.

- GIVEN THIS GRAVE SITUATION, THE FMLN HAS DECIDED TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE DIALOGUE WITNESSES AND THE CHURCH IN ORDER TO DEMAND GUARANTEES (OF SAFETY) FOR CIVIC AND OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS. THE FMLN CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO PUT ON HOLD (DEJAR EN SUSPENSO) ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE CARACAS MEETING.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE FMLN IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO USE THE FENASTRAS BOMBING TO PRESSURE THE GOES. ITS THREAT NOT TO GO TO CARACAS MAY BE DESIGNED IN PART TO PLACATE THOSE WITHIN THE FMLN WHO OPPOSE DIALOGUE AND WHO ARE DEMANDING AN END TO THE TALKS. THE QUALIFIED NATURE OF THE SUSPENSION, HOWEVER, MAY BE AN EFFORT TO ELICIT GOES SUSPENSION OF THE TALKS. PRO-FMLN GROUPS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR REGRET AT THE FMLN ANNOUNCEMENT AND WE EXPECT THE GOES TO TREAT THE ISSUE AS SIMPLY ONE MORE OBSTACLE TO BE OVERCOME. WE SUSPECT THE FMLN WILL END UP GOING TO

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THE CARACAS DIALOGUE MEETING.

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