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RELEASE IN FULLPAGE 01 SAN SA 11761 01 OF 02 030202Z
ACTION ARA-01INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 INR-05 SS-01 CIAE-00 EB-01
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-09 L-03
LAB-04 TRSE-00 PM-01 PA-01 VO-06 SJK-01 OMB-01
STR-18 SIL-01 INRE-00 CA-02 OPM-01 USIE-00 SP-01
SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-03 P-02
T-01 /069 W

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R 302140Z AUG 90
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1071
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 11761

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: NEW LABOFF MEETS FENASTRAS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN INITIAL MEETING WITH NEW LABOFF,
FENASTRAS DEFENDED THE FMLN'S NEGOTIATING POSITIONS IN
THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOES AND CRITICIZED THE
CRISTIANI ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT INVESTIGATING THE
OCT. 89 BOMBING OF THE FENASTRAS OFFICES. THEY
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT GROWING PRESSURE FROM ALL
SECTORS WOULD FORCE CHANGES IN GOES ECONOMIC POLICY
AND PREDICTED AGREEMENT ON A CEASE-FIRE IN 1990.
FENASTRAS PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1991 ELECTIONS
AND HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THEIR AFFILIATES TO GET
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 11761 01 OF 02 030202Z

MEMBERS REGISTERED. THEY APPARENTLY REQUESTED THE
MEETING MAINLY TO SEEK LABOFF'S ASSISTANCE IN
REGAINING A VEHICLE CONFISCATED BY THE GOES, AND TO
SMOOTH THE WAY FOR FUTURE VISA REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.3. ON AUG. 28 LABOFF MET WITH FENASTRAS LEADERS
GERARDO DIAZ (SECRETARY GENERAL), JAIME ESTEVEZ
(DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS), AND JOSE ANTONIO
REPREZA (SECRETARY OF CONFLICTS). BEFORE THE MEETING
ESTEVEZ PROUDLY DISPLAYED THE PLANS FOR THE NEW**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FENASTRAS BUILDING AND EXPLAINED THAT SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN UNIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL IN THE U.S., WOULD ENABLE THEM TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN SEPTEMBER AND MOVE INTO THE BUILDING IN MARCH 1991. DIAZ CRITICIZED THE GOES' UNWILLINGNESS TO CONDUCT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCT. 89 BOMBING OF THEIR OFFICES AND DENIED THAT THEY HAD DESTROYED EVIDENCE OR IMPEDED AN INVESTIGATION.

4. DIAZ AND ESTEVEZ CLAIMED THAT FENASTRAS HAD NO POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS OR ALLEGIANCES AND HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO INCREASE PROTEST ACTIVITY TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT. THEY DO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE PEACEFULLY IN AN INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY ON SEPTEMBER 15, HOWEVER.

5. DIAZ EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE FMLN/GOES DIALOGUE WOULD PRESSURE THE GOES AND BRING "ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY" AS WELL AS PEACE. THEY DEFINED ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY AS LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT, PRICE CONTROLS FOR BASIC NECESSITIES, AND GREATER ECONOMIC POWER FOR THE MAJORITY. ESTEVEZ ADDED THAT THE GOES' ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE HURTING SOLDIERS AND BUSINESSMEN AS WELL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 11761 01 OF 02 030202Z

AS WORKERS AND THAT THIS WOULD ADD TO PRESSURES FOR CHANGE.

6. DIAZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PEACE WAS THE FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BUT SAID THAT POLITICAL/MILITARY AGREEMENTS WERE REQUIRED BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. HE DEFENDED THE FMLN'S MILITARY PROPOSAL, REFUSED TO ADMIT IT WAS UNREASONABLE, AND HAD NO RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF IT BY LABOR LEADERS, THE CHURCH, ETC. (NOTE: IN AN AUG. 28 TV INTERVIEW, FENASTRAS CRITICIZED THE GOES FOR HINDERING THE TALKS BY FAILING TO RESPOND TO THE FMLN'S MILITARY REFORM PROPOSALS. END NOTE). DIAZ ALSO DISAGREED WITH ARGUMENTS PUT FORTH BY RUBEN ZAMORA, THE CHURCH, ET AL THAT DEALING WITH THE TOUGHEST ISSUES (MILITARY REFORM) FIRST WAS IMPEDING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. DIAZ SAID THAT FENASTRAS HAD ALREADY ADVISED ITS AFFILIATES TO HAVE ITS MEMBERS OBTAIN VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS. HE ADDED THAT FENASTRAS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, EVEN IF NO CEASE-FIRE WERE DECLARED BEFORE THEN, AS LONG AS THE INTERPARTY DIALOGUE COMMISSION CERTIFIED THAT CONDITIONS FOR A FREE ELECTION WERE IN PLACE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE WHO FENASTRAS WOULD SUPPORT. DIAZ PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A CEASE-FIRE BEFORE THE END OF

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1990, SINCE PRESSURES ON THE GOES TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE WERE MOUNTING.

8. IN AN ASIDE CONCERNING THE THREE YEAR OLD PUERTO TRIUNFO FISHERMEN'S STRIKE, JOSE ANTONIO REPREZA SAID THE FENASTRAS AFFILIATED FISH INDUSTRY UNION, SIP, WAS JOINING FORCES WITH THE CGT AFFILIATED SGTIPAC UNION IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BANK OVER COMPENSATION FOR

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PAGE 04 SAN SA 11761 01 OF 02 030202Z

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 11761 02 OF 02 030203Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 11761

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STRIKING WORKERS (NOTE: THIS TACTICAL ALLIANCE, COMING
THREE YEARS AFTER THE STRIKE BEGAN, IS AN ATTEMPT TO
STRENGTHEN LABOR'S HAND AS NEGOTIATIONS ON A
FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT ARE REVIVED. NEITHER AIFLD NOR
EMBASSY INTERPRET THIS AS A CHANGE IN CGT'S
ANTI-FMLN/UNTS POLICY. END NOTE)

9. COMMENT: FENASTRAS CONTINUES TO ECHO THE FMLN LINE
AND REJECT CRITICISM OF THEIR POSITIONS FROM ALL
QUARTERS. THE MAIN REASON THEY ASKED FOR THE MEETING
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO REQUEST EMBOFF'S ASSISTANCE IN
GETTING A VEHICLE THEY SAY WAS CONFISCATED BY THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 11761 02 OF 02 030203Z

POLICE RETURNED TO THEM. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE
THAT EMBOFF WOULD HELP THEIR MEMBERS GET VISAS.

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