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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10  
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R 210051Z APR 87  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0125  
INFO USIA WASHDC 0761  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

RELEASED IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 05029

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION BORN

1. SALVADORAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING FORMER NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (CDHES) MEMBERS LUZ JANET AND ANA VILMA ALFARO, AND FORMER CO-MADRES DIRECTOR DORA ANGELICA CAMPOS, ANNOUNCED AT A MARCH 31 PRESS CONFERENCE THE FORMATION OF THE SALVADORAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ASPRODERH). THE THREE, WHO WERE ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL RESISTANCE (RN) GUERRILLA GROUP, EMPHASIZED ASPRODERH WILL BE INDEPENDENT OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND WILL WORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL SALVADORANS, NO MATTER WHICH SIDE OF THE CONFLICT THEY ARE ON. THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID ASPRODERH INTENDED TO FILL THE VOID IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES LEFT BY THE POLITICIZATION OF "NON-GOVERNMENTAL" ORGANIZATIONS. TWO SPECIFIC GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO BUILD A HOME FOR WAR ORPHANS, REGARDLESS OF THE AFFILIATION OF THEIR PARENTS, AND TO DEVELOP AN ACCURATE, IMPARTIAL LIST OF MISSING PERSONS. ASPRODERH WILL ALSO TRY TO BECOME AN UNBIASED SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE SPOKESWOMEN CLAIMED ASPRODERH IS RECEIVING SOME

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM TWO WEST GERMAN CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS THE "INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION."

2. THE FORMER FMLN MEMBERS HAVE SET UP OPERATIONS A HALF BLOCK FROM THE EMBASSY, JOINING THE GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CDH), THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, CO-MADRES, TUTELA LEGAL, AND THE EMBASSY IN A NEIGHBORHOOD "HUMAN RIGHTS GHETTO." PERCHED ON A WOODEN BENCH IN AN EMPTY ROOM, LUZ JANET ALFARO TOLD POLOFF ASPRODERH NEEDED FURNITURE, BUT THAT BUSINESS WAS ALREADY PICKING UP. SHE SAID THE NEXT GOAL WAS TO HAVE VISITING GROUPS COME TO ASPRODERH FOR BRIEFINGS. ASPRODERH CURRENTLY HAS TEN MEMBERS, NOT ALL OF WHOM ARE FULLTIME EMPLOYEES.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS A VOID TO BE FILLED BETWEEN THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. BEFORE ASPRODERH CAN CLAIM TO FILL THIS VOID, HOWEVER, IT MUST OVERCOME THE ALFARO SISTERS' CONNECTION WITH THE TREASURY POLICE, WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDING THEM ASSISTANCE SINCE THEY DEFECTED FROM THE GUERRILLA FRONT IN MAY 1986.  
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IMPARTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING WILL START THE ASSOCIATION ON THE RIGHT ROAD, AND THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE STRIDENT POLITICAL STANCE TAKEN BY THE "NON-GOVERNMENTAL" ORGANIZATIONS WILL DRIVE SOME OF THEIR FORMER BACKERS TOWARD ASPRODERH.

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