

Release in Full
Raymond G. McGrath, Senior Reviewer
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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NW200006030 B-00002552400 "UNCLASSIFIED" 9/18/2024

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MRN: [79 SAN SALVADOR 6030](#)
Date/DTG: Oct 19, 1979 / 190000Z Oct 79
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: PINS, PORS, SHUM, ES
Reference: n/a
Subject: POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 MCT-02 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 /093 W
-----128768 192313Z /70

O 192230ZHRIT 79
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5013
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS

1. (U) IN PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 18, REVOLUTIONARY
JUNTA GOVERNMENT (JRG) ANNOUNCED FORMATION WITHIN FEW
DAYS OF COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MATTER OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS. ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENT,
COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSITITUED OF MOTHERS OF POLITICAL

PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS (WHETHER OR NOT THAT MEANS REPRESENTATIVES FROM ORGANIZATION OF THAT NAME IS NOT CLEAR) PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF ARCHBISHOPRIC, SALVADORAN RED CROSS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR PERSONS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

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2. (U) JUNTA MEMBERS STATED COMMISSION WOULD HAVE JRG BACKING, THAT DOORS OF THE SECURITY FORCES WOULD BE OPEN TO IT, AND THAT IT COULD SEARCH WHEREVER IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION JUNTA STATED IT HAD NO INFORMATION OF "CLANDESTINE PRISONS" BUT THAT COMMISSION WOULD TAKE CHARGE OF THIS MATTER.

3. (U) LOCAL RADIO STATION REPORTED MORNING OCTOBER 19 THAT UNSPECIFIED MEMBERS OF JRG WERE THAT MORNING VISITING PRISONS IN SAN SALVADOR IN SEARCH OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS. ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORT, JUNTA MEMBERS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, MEMBERS OF RED CROSS, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE YET AVAILABLE.

4. (U) JUNTA HAD ON OCTOBER 17 RELEASED 73 PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED PRECEDING DAY BY SECURITY FORCES DURING OPERATIONS AGAINST OCCUPIED FACTORIES AND DISTURBANCES IN MEJICANOS AND CUSCATANCINGO. THEY WERE RELEASED WITH EXHORTATION BY COLONEL MAJANO TO STOP ALL "ANARCHIC ACTIVITY" AND INTEGRATE THEMSELVES IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. MAJANO AT THAT TIME REPORTEDLY LED TOUR OF TREASURY POLICE FACILITIES AT CLOSE OF WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT AS HAD BEEN SEEN, THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD THERE.

5. ~~(LOU)~~ JRG HAS COME UNDER SOME ATTACK BECAUSE OF EIGHT DAY DELAY BEFORE GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE (SAN SALVADOR

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5977). QUESTION WAS RAISED AS TO WHY THERE SHOULD BE ANY DELAY AT ALL. UNDOUBTEDLY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS ISSUE WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR COUP IMAGE AND ABILITY TO WIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE IS DELICATE MATTER FOR JRG, BUT ONE WHICH JUNTA NOW APPEARS READY TO FACE.

DEVINE

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*** Current Classification *** ~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

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