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DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-09
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-----160426 160652Z /10**RELEASE IN FULL**R 152045Z MAR 83
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5125
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

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E.O. 12356: DECL:3/15/89
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: REACTION TO LOPEZ SIBRIAN TALKING POINTS

1. THE EMBASSY HAS SOUNDED OUT MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS FOR THEIR REACTION TO THE LOPEZ SIBRIAN TALKING POINTS. THE REACTIONS RANGED FROM STRONGLY SYMPATHETIC TO AGGRESSIVELY NON-COMMITAL BUT, ON BALANCE, MOST AGREED THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ABOUT LOPEZ SIBRIAN AND THE ARMED FORCES WOULD HAVE TO DO IT.

2. THE MILITARY. MOST OF THE OFFICERS CONTACTED SEEMED TO HAVE AN APPRECIATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION FROM THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE WITH MUCH LESS OF THE DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED IN THE PAST. SOME OFFICERS - COL. JUAN RAFAEL BUSTILLO OF THE AIR FORCE AND COL. RINALDO GOLCHER OF THE ARMED FORCES STUDY

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CENTER, FOR EXAMPLE - UNDERSTOOD THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND AGREED THAT LOPEZ SIBRIAN SHOULD BE JAILED BUT WERE SKEPTICAL THAT GENERAL GARCIA WOULD ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING. OTHERS WHO WERE NON-COMMITAL IN THEIR RESPONSES, EXPRESSED RESENTMENT THAT THE U.S., WHICH HAD ITS OWN PROBLEMS WITH CRIMINALS LIKE HINCKLEY, WOULD SEE FIT TO LECTURE THE SALVADORANS ON THIS CASE. COL. CARLOS REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND COL. FRANCISCO ANTONIO MORAN OF THE TREASURY POLICE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO ARRESTING HIM AND THE LATTER

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior
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REMARKED PRAGMATICALLY, THAT SINCE POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON HAD FREED LOPEZ SIBRIAN, IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT POLITICAL PRESSURE FORCE RECONSIDERATION OF HIS CASE.

3. POLITICIANS. SURPRISINGLY, HUGO BARRERA OF ARENA AGREED COMPLETELY THAT LOPEZ SIBRIAN SHOULD BE DETAINED, AND ADDED THAT IT WAS PERHAPS A MISTAKE THAT ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON HAD SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF BOTH LOPEZ SIBRIAN AND CAPT. AVILA, BUT PERSONAL FEELINGS WERE INVOLVED. IF TRUE, THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN ARENA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SHERATON CASE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE PDC WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM BEHIND BARS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL MEMBERS COMMENTED THAT SINCE THE U.S. HAD YET TO TRULY PRESSURE THE MILITARY TO FURTHER THE PROCESS OF REFORM, U.S. THREATS TO CUT OFF AID LACK CREDIBILITY. DR. RAFAEL MORAN CASTANEDA OF THE PCN RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF DETAINING HIM AND RECOMMENDED THAT AIFLD HIRE AN ACUSADOR PARTICULAR. ACCION DEMOCRATICA ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR HIS DETENTION BUT WENT A STEP FURTHER TO SUGGEST THAT THE SALVADORAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM BE MILITARIZED ON THE GUATEMALAN PATTERN, INCLUDING THE SECRET COURTS.
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4. THE PRIVATE SECTOR. MOST OF THOSE CONTACTED REACTED NON-COMMITALLY, HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF LOPEZ SIBRIAN'S DETENTION TO CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE WAS MADE BLUNTLY CLEAR TO THEM BY CONGRESSMAN LAGOMARSINO DURING HIS RECENT VISIT.

5. COMMENT: WE SEEM TO BE AT A TYPICAL SALVADORAN IMPASSE. EVERYBODY AGREES THAT "SOMETHING" SHOULD BE DONE. NOBODY IS QUITE SURE HOW TO GO ABOUT IT. THE INTERLOCUTOR IS SURE THAT "THEY" (IN THIS CASE) HAVE TO TAKE ACTION. "THEY" ARE BEYOND HIS CONTROL, AND THEREFORE HE HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY. BLEAKLEY

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