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MRN: [82 SAN SALVADOR 10326](#)
Date/DTG: Dec 23, 1982 / 230000Z Dec 82
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ES, (DIMAS GRANDE, MARTA IMELDA)
Reference: 82 STATE 308031, 82 STATE 315080
Subject: DETENTION AND DISAPPEARANCES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN SA 10326 231849Z
ACTION ARA-16

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R 231847Z DEC 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 10326

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: DETENTION AND DISAPPEARANCES

REF: (A) STATE 308031; (B) STATE 315080

1. THE FOLLOWING REPORT PROVIDES THE STATUS OF MISSING INDIVIDUALS AS PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY BY THE SALVADORAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

2. MARTA IMELDA DIMAS GRANDE (REFTEL A):

PLEASE INFORM SENATORS DOLE AND LEVIN THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING THE STATUS OF MARTA DIMAS GRANDE. MRS. VICTORIA HERNANDEZ DE ROQUE, DIRECTOR OF THE ILOPANGO WOMEN'S PRISON, INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT MARTA IMELDA DIMAS GRANDE WAS DETAINED BY THE TREASURY POLICE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF DECREE 507. SHE WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION OF HER CASE ON DECEMBER 14, 1982.

3. RAUL CASTRO PALOMARES (REFTEL A):

DEPARTMENT REQUESTED UPDATE ON THIS MAN IN REFTEL B. THE

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UNCLASSIFIED

F-20224-168886

BA-00000260955726

"UNCLASSIFIED"

3/31/2025

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE RESPONDED TO THE EMBASSY'S WRITTEN INQUIRIES IN A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 14, 1982. THE LETTER STATED THAT RAUL CASTRO PALOMARES WAS ARRESTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ON OCTOBER 14, 1982. HE WAS CONSIGNED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN SA 10326 231849Z

TO MARIONA PRISON BY THE COURT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE CASE. MARIONA IS A GOOD PRISON BY LATIN AMERICAN STANDARDS. IT IS CLEAN, HEALTHY, AND WELL ADMINISTERED. SEVERAL VISITS BY EMBASSY OFFICERS CONFIRM THIS IMPRESSION. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT ONCE A PRISONER IS REMANDED TO THE APPROPRIATE SALVADORAN COURT, IMMEDIATE DANGER TO HIS LIFE OR WELL BEING IS PAST. HIS RELEASE OR CONTINUED DETENTION DEPENDS UPON THE DECISION OF THE SALVADORAN COURT.

- RAUL CASTRO PALOMARES IS DETAINED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF DECREE 507 ACCORDING TO COL. AUERBACH OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. UNDER DECREE 507, PERSONS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY MAY BE HELD FOR 185 DAYS DURING WHICH TIME A MILITARY TRIBUNAL MAY INVESTIGATE AND BRING THE CASE TO COURT OR REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO CONDUCT A MORE DETAILED INVESTIGATION. TRIALS ARE CONDUCTED IN SECRET BY MILITARY JUDGES, BUT APPEALS MAY BE MADE TO THE CIVILIAN COURT THAT IS ONE LEVEL BELOW THE SUPREME COURT. THE SUPREME COURT MAY INTERVENE ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS AT ANY POINT IN THE PROCEEDING. THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED THE RELEASE OF SOME 200 PERSONS HELD UNDER DECREE 507.

- THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT DECREE 507 IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE THAT SHOULD BE RESCINDED OR MODIFIED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. SINCE THE STATE OF SIEGE MUST BE REAFFIRMED BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY EACH MONTH, WE BELIEVE THE PROPER MECHANISM EXISTS FOR THE ORDERLY REVIEW OR RESCISSION OF DECREE 507.

4. PEDRO RAMIREZ ESQUIVEL (REFTEL B):

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 10326 231849Z

THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THIS CASE. INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 14, 1982 STATES THAT PEDRO RAMIREZ ESQUIVEL WAS ARRESTED ON OCTOBER 10, 1982 BY THE NATIONAL POLICE. HE WAS CONSIGNED TO MARIONA PRISON BY THE COURT OF JURISDICTION ON OCTOBER 25, 1982. ACCORDING TO COL. AUERBACH, THIS MAN WAS PROBABLY SENT THERE UNDER THE

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REF ID: A66666

BA-0000026895726

"UNCLASSIFIED"

3/31/2025

PROVISIONS OF DECREE 507. THE MINISTRY'S RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY DID NOT SPECIFY UNDER WHAT CHARGES HE WAS BEING DETAINED.

5. DANIEL DE JESUS AVALOS DE PAZ (REFTEL A)

THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED STATUS OF THE CASE. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY IN WRITING IN A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 14, 1982, THAT AVALOS DE PAZ WAS ARRESTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ON OCTOBER 10, 1982. HE WAS REMANDED TO MARIONA PRISON ON OCTOBER 25, 1982, BY THE COURT OF JURISDICTION. THE MINISTRY'S RESPONSE DID NOT SPECIFY THE CHARGE UNDER WHICH THIS MAN WAS DETAINED. SUCH CASES NORMALLY FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY OF DECREE 507. HINTON

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