

RELEASE IN FULL

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00
EB-00 DODE-00 IO-19 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00
SSO-00 L-03 CTME-00 NRCE-00 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01
FAAE-00 CCO-00 SVC-00 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 CG-00
ACDA-12 A-00 USSS-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 DOEE-00 M-01
C-01 DS-01 IMMC-01 OIS-01 P-02 /072 W
-----120205 010157Z /60

O 000047Z OCT 89
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3271
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
USIA WASHDC 3779

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USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PHUM, ASEC, CASC, ES
SUBJECT: FMLN ATTACKS MILITARY HEADQUARTERS; TWO FMLN
- GROUPS BOMBED

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: AN OCTOBER 30 FMLN MORTAR ATTACK
AGAINST THE MILITARY'S HEADQUARTERS FAILED TO REACH
ITS TARGET, BUT DID EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO NEARBY
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND KILLED ONE CIVILIAN.
THAT WAS FOLLOWED OCTOBER 31 BY TWO EXPLOSIONS AT THE
OFFICES OF LEFT-WING FRONT GROUPS. THE 2 AM ATTACK
AGAINST COMADRES DID SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE OFFICES
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AND RESULTED IN AT LEAST THREE WOUNDED, INCLUDING ONE
AMCIT (SEPTEL). THE EARLY AFTERNOON ATTACK AGAINST
THE PRO-FMLN LABOR GROUP FENASTRAS LEFT TWELVE DEAD
AND ABOUT 25 WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO OUR INITIAL
INFORMATION, ONE AMERICAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE
FENASTRAS ATTACK (SEPTEL). PRESIDENT CRISTIANI
DENOUNCED THE OCTOBER 31 BOMBINGS; THE AMBASSADOR
ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING ALL THREE ATTACKS. WE
WE UNDERSTAND THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (SIU) IS
INVESTIGATING THE FENASTRAS AND POSSIBLY THE COMADRES
ATTACKS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE OCTOBER 30 MORNING ATTACK ON THE ESTADO
MAYOR MILITARY HEADQUARTERS BY THE FMLN MARKED THE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer

BEGINNING OF A WAVE OF VIOLENCE THAT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE MARCH 1989 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. ONE CIVILIAN DIED, SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE INJURED, AND AT LEAST TWO BUSINESSES WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AS HOMEMADE MORTARS PLACED IN TWO TRUCKS PARKED IN THE PARKING LOT OF A COMMERCIAL SHOPPING CENTER FELL INDISCRIMINATELY ON THE HEAVILY TRAVELLED AREA NEAR THE ESTADO MAYOR. COL. PONCE AND LEADING POLITICIANS, INCLUDING RUBEN ZAMORA, CONDEMNED THE ATTACK. COL. PONCE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MORTARS WERE THE SAME KIND THAT THE FMLN HAD TRAINED WITH IN NICARAGUA RECENTLY.

3. (U) AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE FOUR YEAR OLD CHILD AND ONE AMCIT, WERE INJURED WHEN A BOMB RIPPED THROUGH THE OFFICES OF THE "MONSIGNOR OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO" COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS (COMADRES) AT APPROXIMATELY 0200 OCTOBER 31. THE BLAST BLEW OUT ALL THE WINDOWS IN THE OFFICE AND TORE DOWN THE OFFICE'S PROTECTIVE GRILL. INSIDE, BROKEN GLASS,

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LITERATURE, AND BLOOD LITTERED THE FLOOR. POLOFFS SAW ONE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED MAN STILL AT THE OFFICE. NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK. THE AMCIT WAS TAKEN TO A NEARBY HOSPITAL FOR A CUT ON HER FACE.

4. (U) A MUCH MORE SERIOUS ATTACK AGAINST FENASTRAS EARLY THE SAME AFTERNOON LEFT TWELVE DEAD AND ABOUT 25 INJURED, ACCORDING TO SURVIVING FENASTRAS MEMBERS INTERVIEWED BY POLOFFS JUST AFTER THE EXPLOSION. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE FRONT SECTION OF THE OFFICE BUILDING, WHERE MOST OF THE WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, HAD BEEN LUNCHING AS PART OF A SUBSIDIZED MEAL PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE LABOR ORGANIZATION. BOTH STORIES OF THE BUILDING SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE. ACCORDING TO FENASTRAS MEMBERS, UNIDENTIFIED PERSONNEL DROVE UP TO THE BUILDING AND LEFT A LARGE SUITCASE AT THE BUILDING'S ENTRANCE (INSIDE THE ENTRANCE GATE BUT OUTSIDE THE MAIN BUILDING). THE POLICE REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THE EXPLOSION MAY HAVE OCCURRED ACCIDENTALLY WITHIN THE BUILDING. A DS/PLD/MST MTT AND POLCOUNS WENT TO THE SITE AND FOUND THAT DAMAGE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE FENASTRAS ACCOUNT OF THE LOCATION OF THE EXPLOSIVE.

5. (U) AMONG THOSE REPORTED DEAD WAS (##) SEVERAL FMLN ORGANIZATIONS AND FRONT GROUPS, RECENTLY DEPICTED IN A SERIES OF NTI-FMLNRTTLEVISIO COMMERCIALS AS AN "ENEMY" OF THE NATION. GERARDO HENRIQUEZ, FENESTRAS SECRETARY GENERAL AND ALSO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE PRO-FMLN UNTS, WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY KILLED. ONE AMCIT WAS REPORTED

WOUNDED.

NOTE: (##) OMISSION PARA 5, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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6. (U) PRESIDENT CRISTIANI REPORTEDLY HAS CONDEMNED THE OCTOBER 31 BOMBINGS. THE AMBASSADOR RELEASED A STATEMENT OCTOBER 31 CONDEMNING ALL THREE ATTACKS. THE NATIONAL GUARD IS INVESTIGATING THE ATTACKS, AND WE UNDERSTAND THE SIU HAS BEEN CALLED IN ON THE FENASHRAS BOMBING. WE HAVE URGED THE GOES TO INVESTIGATE FULLY AND QUICKLY.

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7. ~~(S)~~ COMMENT: THESE EVENTS MARK A DISTURBING INCREASE IN URBAN VIOLENCE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHO CARRIED OUT THE COMADRES AND FENASTRAS ATTACKS.

OBVIOUSLY WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT
EXTREMIST ELEMENTS REACTED TO FMLN VIOLENCE.

WALKER

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