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*Unsults for ASNAS Bunker
BOMBING OF SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR
10/31/89 OLIA FPC*

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FBB281

PAGE 01 SAN SA 14392 032238Z

ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 [redacted] DODE-00 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 INRE-00
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DEPT FOR [redacted]

*12/6/89
O-7 to LA, NH, Mexico
was for Legat, Mexico
for Panama*

[redacted]

[redacted]

TAGS: PREL, PTER, ES

SUBJECT: CRISTIANI'S REQUEST FOR BOMB EXPERT

1. ~~C~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI CALLED CHARGE FRIDAY MORNING TO REITERATE HIS REQUEST FOR A U.S. BOMB EXPERT TO HELP WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE FENASTRAS BOMBING. HE INDICATED THAT HE WILL TREAT THE FMLN'S ANNOUNCED "SUSPENSION" OF TALKS AS JUST THAT, AND TRY TO KEEP THEM GOING. END SUMMARY.

3. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY ANXIOUS THAT WE GET AN EXPERT TO SAN SALVADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHARGE TOLD THAT WE WERE WORKING THE PROBLEM AND WOULD DO OUR BEST.

4. COMMENT: THE IDEA OF AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING IS TAKING ON INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT AND WE ARE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH HIS APPROACH. DESPITE A COUPLE OF GLITCHES, HE HAS BEEN

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SUCCESSFUL IN RESTRAINING THE MILITARY AND OTHERS FROM RUSHING TO PRINT WITH THE ACCUSATION THAT THE FMLN PLANTED THE BOMB AS A WAY TO SPARK A POPULAR REVOLT AND CALL OFF THE TALKS. THE IDEA OF AN INVESTIGATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS STRATEGY AND THE PRESENCE OF A RECOGNIZED U.S. EXPERT WOULD GIVE THE INVESTIGATION CREDIBILITY WHERE IT COUNTS. WE BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THE WE BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS REQUEST, AND THAT WE DO IT QUICKLY.

5. REGARDING THE FMLN'S SUSPENSION OF THE DIALOGUE, HE INDICATED THAT DESPITE THE PERSONAL ACCUSATION AGAINST HIMSELF AND COL. PONCE, HE INTENDED TO TREAT THE MATTER AS MERELY A SUSPENSION AND WOULD CALL TOGETHER THE DIALOGUE COMMISSION TO WORK OUT AN OFFICIAL GOES RESPONSE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE TALKS GOING.

6. IN A LATER DEVELOPMENT

[REDACTED] INFORMED US OF THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE BOMBING, WHICH THEY

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PLAN TO ANNOUNCE VERY SOON. THE COMMISSION INCLUDES THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE (CEDES), TWO UNION REPRESENTATIVES (ONE FROM FENASTRAS), AN OAS REPRESENTATIVE, AND POSSIBLY ONE FROM THE UN. TELLS US THEY HAVE THE AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE U.N. REPRESENTATIVE, WHO THEY BELIEVE WILL JOIN SOON. THE INCLUSION OF THE CEDES, OAS, AND UN REPS APPEARS TO RESPOND TO THE FMLN'S NOVEMBER 2 COMMUNIQUE. IN SHORT, CRISTIANI APPEARS POISED TO STEAL A MARCH ON THE FMLN. THIS STRIKES US AS AN EXCELLENT PLAN TO WHICH U.S. BOMB EXPERTS COULD MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION.

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