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**RELEASE IN FULL**

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 H-01 ARA-00 HA-09 SIL-01 /011 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3745

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY - FENASTRAS

TO: THE HONORABLE THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA  
- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
- WASHINGTON DC 20515

REF: YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 9, 1989

DEAR MR. FOGLIETTA:

I APPRECIATED RECEIVING YOUR LETTER ALERTING ME TO THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION FROM THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO EL SALVADOR. THE DELEGATION WAS PLANNING TO ATTEND A CONVENTION ORGANIZED BY THE PRO-FMLN LABOR ORGANIZATION FENASTRAS, ACCORDING TO YOUR LETTER, AND YOU EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SESSION.

LET ME FIRST ASSURE YOU THAT THE CRISTIANI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH PEACEFUL PROTESTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FENASTRAS WAS ABLE TO HOLD A RALLY AND FUNERAL MARCH HONORING THOSE KILLED OCTOBER 31 WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE (A SMALL GROUP OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMONSTRATORS WAS REPORTEDLY TEAR-GASSED AFTER APPROACHING RIOT POLICE AND THREATENING THEM WITH STEEL PIPES AND NAIL-STUDED CLUBS). AN EARLIER MARCH ON SEPTEMBER 18 WAS BROKEN UP BY SECURITY FORCES AFTER MARCHERS BURNED TWO BUSES AND OCCUPIED A NEARBY CHURCH, REFUSING TO LET CHURCHGOERS OR JOURNALISTS LEAVE THE PREMISES.

PRESIDENT CRISTIANI DENOUNCED THE OCTOBER 31 BOMBING OF FENASTRAS, AND PROMISED AN INVESTIGATION TO

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer**

IDENTIFY AND PROSECUTE THOSE GUILTY OF THE ATTACK. THE GOVERNMENT HAS URGED FENASTRAS TO COOPERATE WITH ITS INVESTIGATION, BUT FENASTRAS REMAINED UNCOOPERATIVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, DURING WHICH IT REMOVED OR DESTROYED MUCH OF THE EVIDENCE FROM THE SITE OF THE BOMBING. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO NOT REMOVED FENASTRAS-BUILT BARRICADES BLOCKING BOTH ENDS OF THE STREET ON WHICH THE FENASTRAS BUILDING IS LOCATED, ALTHOUGH THESE BARRICADES IMPEDE TRAFFIC AND ACCESS BY OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE BLOCK.

ON NOVEMBER 11, THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE THE DELEGATION PLANNED TO ATTEND, SERIOUS FIGHTING BROKE OUT THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL AS THE FMLN LAUNCHED A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST CIVILIAN AND MILITARY TARGETS. THE SEVERITY OF THE ATTACKS LED THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE A STATE OF SIEGE AND A GENERAL CURFEW TO PROTECT INNOCENT CITIZENS AND ALLOW ARMED FORCES TO MEET THE FMLN OFFENSIVE. THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THIS EMBASSY SENT CONSULAR OFFICERS TO ALL THE MAJOR HOTELS IN SAN SALVADOR TO ALERT AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ADVISE THEM TO STAY INDOORS UNTIL THE AIRPORT ROAD BECAME SAFE AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS UNCLASSIFIED

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RESUMED.

WHILE THE EMBASSY HAD SCHEDULED A BRIEFING FOR THE DELEGATION AS YOU REQUESTED, WE WERE FORCED TO CANCEL IT BECAUSE EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES AND WE HAD TO DEVOTE OUR LIMITED RESOURCES TO HIGHER-PRIORITY NEEDS. THE EMBASSY WILL ONLY RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, AND WE REMAIN ALERT TO WHAT IS A STILL A TENSE SECURITY SITUATION.

I HOPE YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THE CANCELLATION. I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS EMBASSY WELCOMES MEETINGS WITH VISITING AMERICANS, AND TRIES TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR REQUESTS FOR BRIEFINGS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR PERSONNEL RESOURCES.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM G. WALKER  
AMBASSADOR

WALKER

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