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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior
Reviewer

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TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ARA NEWS ITEMS OF OCTOBER 16, 1984:

1. PRESS SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 16, 1984:

-- NEW YORK TIMES --

EL SALVADOR: JAMES LEMOYNE, FRONT PAGE FROM LA PALMA ("2
SIDES DRAW UP SALVADORAN PLAN TO SEEK WAR'S END; THEY
MEET FOR 4 1/2 HOURS; GOVERNMENT CHIEFS AND REBEL LEADERS
AGREE ON A PANEL TO 'HUMANIZE' CONFLICT") REPORTS THAT
"SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND GUERRILLA LEADERS MET HERE

TODAY FOR FOUR AND A HALF HOURS AND AGREED TO FORM A JOINT COMMISSION TO SEEK AN END TO THEIR COUNTRY'S FIVE-YEAR CIVIL WAR." THE COMMISSION WILL MEET IN NOVEMBER.

PRES. DUARTE "HAD EXPRESSED OPTIMISM EVEN AS HE LEFT THE CAPITAL FOR THE TALKS, AND HIS STATEMENTS REFLECTED A NATIONAL MOOD. THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS WRACKED THIS NATION FOR FIVE YEARS TOOK A REST AND TALK OF PEACE WAS ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS." ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS, WHO READ THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, SAID THE COMMISSION, TO CONSIST OF FOUR GOVERNMENT AND FOUR REBEL OFFICIALS, WOULD STUDY

WAYS TO "HUMANIZE" THE CONFLICT. A SALVADORAN CATHOLIC BISHOP WILL MEDIATE THE TALKS.

LEMOYNE SEES THE MEETING AS A "MAJOR ADVANCE" FOR THE GUERRILLAS SINCE THEY HAD LONG SOUGHT GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION, BUT HE SAYS IT WAS "A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR BOTH SIDES" THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT ALL. "FEW UNCLASSIFIED

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BELIEVED THAT WHEN MR. DUARTE WENT BEFORE THE UN TO CALL FOR TODAY'S TALKS THAT HE WOULD ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN MEETING REBELS AT THE TIME, PLACE AND DATE HE PROPOSED." STILL, THE ABSENCE OF A CEASEFIRE INDICATES THAT SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

REBEL LEADERS, BY PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, WERE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE CROWDS. MANUEL UNGO SAID, "OUR OPINION IS POSITIVE. WE BELIEVE IT IS THE FIRST STEP OF A POSITIVE DIALOGUE IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION." GUERRILLA COMMANDER FERMAN CIENFUEGOS WARNED THAT FUTURE TALKS WOULD BE "DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED," BUT "IN A ROUSING SPEECH, PUNCTUATED BY THRUSTS OF HIS RIGHT FIST, HE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE TALKS."

"MR. DUARTE WAS ALSO GREETED BY LOUD CHEERS AND CHANTS... I WANT ALL THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO ME IN THE MOST DISTANT POINTS OF OUR HOMELAND... WE AREN'T OFFERING MIRACLES... BUT SALVADORAN PEOPLE TOGETHER CAN GAIN THE MIRACLE OF THEIR LIBERATION AND PEACE FOR ALL THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE."

THE GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY DUARTE, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY JULIO ADOLFO REY PRENDES, AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE EUGENIO VIDES CASANOVA. THE FDR WAS REPRESENTED BY GUILLERMO UNGO AND RUBEN ZAMORA, AND THE FMLN BY FERMAN CIENFUEGOS AND FACUNDO GUARDADO. "JOAQUILN VILLALOBOS, COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY, THE LARGEST GUERRILLA GROUP, DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING AS PLANNED. ACCORDING TO MR. ZAMORA, THE REBEL COMMANDER WAS UNABLE TO TRAVEL FROM HIS BASE IN MORAZAN PROVINCE TO LA PALMA BY LAND. THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED A REBEL REQUEST

TO PROVIDE A HELICOPTER..., MR. ZAMORA SAID."

VILLALOBOS ISSUED A STATEMENT REGRETTING HIS INABILITY TO ATTEND AND EXPRESSING HIS "READINESS TO ATTEND ANY FUTURE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING OF THIS TYPE THAT IS UNDERTAKEN," WHICH "APPEARED INTENDED TO COUNTER POSSIBLE SPECULATION THAT HIS ABSENCE WAS DUE TO ANY SPLIT IN THE REBEL RANKS."

EL SALVADOR: UNBYLINED SPECIAL, P. 14 ("IN SALVADOR, A DAY FILLED WITH HOPE") ON THE ATMOSPHERE IN LA PALMA AND

THE MOOD AS THE DUARTE MOTORCADE PASSED SMALL TOWNS ON THE WAY, QUOTES DUARTE, "I'M OPTIMISTIC, I FEEL VERY GOOD." HE "REFLECTED THE NATIONAL MOOD TODAY. THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS RACKED THIS NATION FOR FIVE YEARS TOOK A REST, AND TALK OF PEACE WAS ON SALVADORANS' LIPS."

AT THE LEMPE BRIDGE, "MR. DUARTE SAID LATER, HE HAD ONE OF HIS MOST EMOTIONAL MOMENTS OF THE MORNING. HE WAS MET THERE BY COL. ADOLFO BLANDON, THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, AND COL. SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, THE REGIONAL ARMY COMMANDER, WHO BRIEFLY SEIZED LA PALMA LAST THURSDAY. "THE TWO COMMANDERS SAID, 'GOD BLESS YOU AND I HOPE YOU GET PEACE,' MR. DUARTE SAID. THE COMMANDERS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO KEEP ALL TROOPS SOUTH OF THE BRIDGE, AND FROM THERE TO LA PALMA, THE HIGHWAY WAS FREE OF SOLDIERS."

ARGENTINA: LYDIA CHAVEZ, P. 14 FROM BUENOS AIRES ("ARGENTINE EXILES FLOCKING HOME, BUT MANY FIND TIMES ARE HARD") REPORTS ON THE RETURN HOME OF REFUGEES FROM THE 1970S TO "FACE A MAJOR PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT. AUGUST PEREZ LINDO, WHO RETURNED IN DECEMBER AND HAS COMPLETED A STUDY OF EXILES "SAID HE HAD FOUND THAT FOR MANY EXILES THE EXCITEMENT OF ARRIVING HOME AND DISCOVERING PREVIOUSLY BANNED BOOKS ON SALE OR THE NEW OPENNESS ABOUT THE MILITARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IS TEMPERED BY THE COUNTRY'S CHAOTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION." UNCLASSIFIED

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"ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES HAS BEEN MINIMAL. PRIVATE AGENCIES HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING DONATIONS FOR PROGRAMS TO HELP THE RETURNING EXILES BECAUSE THEY SHARE THE SAME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IS CONFRONTING, ACCORDING TO AGENCY DIRECTORS." THE UNHCR HAS COLLECTED ONLY \$350,000 FOR A \$1 MILLION AID PROGRAM. "THE US DECLINED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND. A US OFFICIAL SAID AMERICAN AID WAS NOT FORTHCOMING BECAUSE THE ARGENTINE EXILES WERE NOT AS 'DESTITUTE' AS THOSE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES."

-- WASHINGTON POST --

EL SALVADOR: ROBERT J. MCCARTNEY AND LOREN JENKINS, FRONT PAGE FROM LA PALMA ("DUARTE, REBELS AGREE TO CONTINUE CONTACTS: THOUSANDS CHEER IN SALVADORAN TOWN") REPORT ON THE TALKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND REBEL DELEGATIONS. THE LEADERS OF BOTH WERE "ENTHUSIASTIC IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE ON THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH AFTER THE TALKS, ALTHOUGH BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT TODAY'S CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT COULD BE A LENGTHY PROCESS."

"WE'RE NOT OFFERING MIRACLES, BUT WE'RE STRUGGLING SO THAT THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE THE MIRACLE OF THEIR OWN LIBERATION,' DUARTE TOLD A RAIN-DRENCHED CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND THAT FILLED THE SMALL MAIN SQUARE OF LA PALMA. 'THE RESULTS, IN OUR OPINION, WERE POSITIVE,' REBEL POLITICAL LEADER GUILLERMO UNGO SAID."

DESPITE CONCERNS FROM BOTH SIDES, THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE, AND NO WEAPONS WERE SEEN. CROWDS WERE COMPOSED OF "LOCAL PEOPLE, CURIOUS OUTSIDERS AND MANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TRUCKED HERE AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE. MANY WAVED WHITE FLAGS READING, 'PEACE AND DEMOCRACY.'"

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IN A POSITION PAPER DISTRIBUTED DURING THE MEETING, DUARTE "OFFERED A BROAD SECURITY GUARANTEE SO THE LEFTISTS COULD SAFELY PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS AND FUTURE ELECTIONS." HE "PROMISED TO ASK THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE AN 'IMMEDIATE AND UNRESTRICTED' GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ANYONE GUILTY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING BOTH THE GUERRILLAS AND THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID IT WAS 'INDISPENSABLE' FOR SALVADORANS TO STOP USING VIOLENCE TO SEEK POWER."

THE WRITERS, DESPITE THE OFFICIAL OPTIMISM, FIND SOME "SOBERING REMINDERS OF THE LINGERING POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE COUNTRY OFFERED TODAY BY BOTH THE ARMY, POLITICALLY TO DUARTE'S RIGHT, AND THE GUERRILLAS TO HIS LEFT." THEY QUOTE DEFMIN VIDES CASANOVA, SPEAKING BEFORE THE TALKS: "IF THE SUBVERSIVES WERE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW, WE COULD GET TOGETHER. BUT THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE LAW. WE BELIEVE OUR OBLIGATION IS TO BRING ORDER TO THE COUNTRY... THE POSITION OF THE ARMY REGARDING THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS NOT YET BEEN DEFINED. UNTIL NOW NO ONE HAS ASKED US TO COME TO EITHER NEGOTIATIONS OR A DIALOG. BUT PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE ASKED (AND) THEN WE WILL... RESPOND TO CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS AT THE TIME."

AT THE SAME TIME, GUERRILLAS WERE PASSING OUT LEAFLETS PROPOSING "AN IMMEDIATE HALT TO MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST CIVILIANS, FREEDOM FOR 'ALL CAPTURED PERSONS,'

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS AND A GENERAL SALARY INCREASE. THEY REFERRED TO THE ARMY AS THE "MURDEROUS AND COWARDLY TROOPS OF DUARTE."

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EL SALVADOR: ALMA GUILLERMOPRIETO, P. 14 FROM SAN SALVADOR ("PROPAGANDA TAKES A HOLIDAY; UNEASY TRUCE REIGNS OVER EL SALVADOR'S PARTISAN MEDIA") SAYS, "A BRIEF

AND UNEASY PROPAGANDA TRUCE ALLOWED THE SALVAORAN MEDIA TO RPROVIDE AN UNPRECEDENTED FLOOD OF INFORMATION NOT ONLY ABOUT THE TALKS THEMSELVES, BUT FROM AND ABOUT THE LEFTISTS WHOSE NAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS HAVE BEEN UTTERED ONLY AS OATHS OVER THE AIRWAVES." THOUGH THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CENSORSHIP, YEARS OF DEATH-SQUAD ACTIVITIES HAVE "ENSURED A RIGHT-WING SLANT IN ALL THE LOCAL MEDIA."

ON THE OTHER SIDE, GUERRILLA BROADCASTS HAVE NOT BEEN "A PARAGON OF TRUTH OR BALANCE," CONFINING THEMSELVES TO "BODY COUNTS, LEFTIST HARANGUES AND RECOUNTINGS OF THE PERFDY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMY.

"TODAY, HOWEVER, PROPAGANDA TOOK SOMEWHAT OF A HOLIDAY IN EL SALVADOR'S MEDIA. SUDDENLY, REBELS WHO FOR YEARS HAVE BEEN ROUTINELY REFERRED TO... AS LOS SUBVERSIVOS, OR, WITH HEAVY IRONY, AS LOS SENORES TERRORISTAS BECAME 'THE ONES WHO HAVE TAKEN UP ARMS.'" ON THE LEFT, REFERENCES TO "PUPPET DUARTE" WERE REPLACED BY "MORE RESPECTFUL ALLUSIONS TO THE TALKS BETWEEN 'THE REGIME OF JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE' AND THEMSELVES."

"THE RIGHT OF REPORTERS TO BROADCAST THE VIEWS OF BOTH SIDES IN THE CIVIL WAR WAS NOT WON WITHOUT A BRIEF SKIRMISH, HOWEVER. WHEN THE FIRST GUERRILLA INTERVIEWS WENT ON THE AIR YESTERDAY MORNING, THE GOVERNMENT PUT ALL RADIO STATIONS ON THE NATIONAL NETWORK. A SHORT WHILE LATER THE DECISION WAS REVERSED, BUT THROUGHOUT THE DAY BROADCAST QUALITY ON SOME COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS DECLINED SHARPLY WHENEVER A GUERRILLA REPRESENTATIVE WAS ON THE AIR."

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EL SALVADOR: JOANNE OMANG, P. 15 ("ADMINISTRATION HAILS SALVADORAN TALKS AS PRODUCT OF U.S. POLICY") WRITES, "THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION MOVED YESTERDAY TO TAKE CREDIT WHERE IT HAD PREVIOUSLY FEARED TO TREAD, PRAISING PEACE TALKS... AS THE PRODUCT OF US POLICY IN THE REGION." SHE QUOTES SPOKESMAN JOHN HUGHES THAT THE TALKS "WOULD SEEM TO UNDERLINE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IN EL SALVADOR."

A SENIOR OFFICIAL CALLED THE TALKS A "VINDICATION" OF US POLICY: "AS THE MILITARY SITUATION IMPROVED BECAUSE OF US AID, IT CREATED A CLIMATE (WITHIN THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES) IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE... AS THE GUERRILLAS DO WORSE, THEY ARE ALSO MORE INCLINED TO TALK."

ANOTHER STATE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US OFFICIALS

WERE "SKEPTICAL" WHEN DUARTE TOLD THEM OCT. 6 THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE THE TALKS: "THERE WERE RESERVATIONS: WILL THE MILITARY GO ALONG WITH IT, WILL THEY HELP ACTIVELY RATHER THAN SIT ON THEIR HANDS; HAVE YOU THOUGHT IT ALL THROUGH, ARE THERE GUARANTEES, THINGS LIKE THAT."

"ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE SITE, (DUARTE'S) OFFER INCLUDED A GENERAL AMNESTY IN RETURN FOR GUERRILLA PARTICIPATION IN MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, THE RIGHT TO HOLD RALLIES AND CAMPAIGN AND A GUARANTEE THAT SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT RETALIATE... THE OFFICIAL SAID 'MUCH MORE THAN THAT' IS ON THE TABLE BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE."

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SECSTATE SHULTZ ON NBC'S "TODAY" SHOW, SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS IN "FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT" WITH DUARTE ON THE GOAL OF THE TALKS, TO ACHIEVE "A PROCESS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SALVADORAN CONSTITUTION. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS VERY VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED THAT POSITION." REAGAN CALLED THE TALKS "MOMENTOUS... PRES. DUARTE IS PARTICIPATING AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK ...A RISK WORTH TAKING."

US AMBASSADOR THOMAS PICKERING TOLD NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, "I'M TELLING YOU THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH WHEN I SAY THAT IT WAS MR. DUARTE'S IDEA, MR. DUARTE'S INITIATIVE AND OBVIOUSLY MR. DUARTE WHO IS SEEING IT THROUGH."

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL US DELEGATION, BUT SEN. PAUL TSONGAS (D-MASS) "WAS IN LA PALMA AT THE INVITATION OF BOTH SIDES AND REP. JAMES M. SHANNON (D-MASS) WENT AS A SIDE TRIP" OF A PRIVATE VISIT. "TSONGAS SAID HE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE TALKS DURING SEVEN MONTHS OF MEETINGS WITH THE GUERRILLAS AND HAD INTENDED TO ACCOMPANY THEM FROM THE AIRPORT TO LA PALMA BUT THAT HIS PLANE WAS DELAYED."

EL SALVADOR: WPOST FOREIGN SERVICE STORY, P. 15 ("DUARTE CITES HIS NATION'S 'NEW REALITY'") EXCERPTS DUARTE'S OFFICIAL PROPOSAL FOR DIALOG.

EL SALVADOR/NICARAGUA: LEAD EDIT, P. 18 ("PEACE TALKS")

SAYS "THE FIRST ACHIEVEMENT... WAS THAT SALVADOREANS INTERRUPTED A BLOODY CIVIL WAR AND CONDUCTED THEIR FIRST KNOWN PEACE TALKS IN FIVE YEARS." CREDIT GOES TO "THE EVIDENT LONGING FOR PEACE AMONG THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE, A CERTAIN SHARED PERCEPTION OF THE FATIGUE/CONFIDENCE INDEX AT THE LEADERSHIP LEVEL, AND PRES. DUARTE'S SHREWDNESS IN

BROACHING THE IDEA OF TALKS IN A WAY THAT THE GUERRILLAS UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD NOT REFUSE, THE HARD RIGHT COULD NOT STOP AND HIS NERVOUS AMERICAN PATRONS COULD NOT DELAY."

EDIT ALSO PRAISES THE ABSENCE OF INJURY TO THE PRINCIPALS, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE SECURITY WAS PROVIDED BY BOY SCOUTS. "ALTHOUGH A CEASE-FIRE WAS NOT ARRANGED YESTERDAY, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT NOTHING WOULD HELP THE TALKS MORE. A CEASE-FIRE SHOULD INCLUDE, OF COURSE, A BAN ON ATTACKS ON ECONOMIC TARGETS IN GOVERNMENT AREAS AND ON PEASANT VILLAGES IN INSURGENT AREAS."

EDIT CALLS DUARTE'S APPROACH "SERIOUS". "HE WILL NOT 'SHARE POWER' WITHOUT ELECTIONS; NOR SHOULD HE BE EXPECTED TO." BUT WITH ELECTIONS APPROACHING, DUARTE "OFFERS A NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE LEFT CAN ADDRESS ITS NO. 1 PRIORITY, THE DISPOSITION OF MILITARY POWER, WHILE PREPARING TO TAKE PART IN THOSE ELECTIONS. IT'S CLEVER AND IT'S FAIR..."

MEANWHILE, HOPE DIMS IN NICARAGUA, AS THE SANDINISTAS HAVE BACKED OFF FROM AN ELECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. ANY SLIGHT CHANCE TO DIVERT THE ARMED STRUGGLE INTO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS NOW RESTS WITH FIDEL CASTRO. "HE HAS JUST RECEIVED A TOP SANDINISTA AND MAY BE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO UNDERLINE THE CUBAN VIEW THAT, IF THE SANDINISTAS MISS THE POLITICAL TRAIN, THEY WILL HAVE TO FACE RONALD REAGAN'S WRATH ALONE."

CONGRESS' IDEA IN SUSPENDING A DECISION ON CONTRA AID UNTIL MARCH, "A GOOD ONE, WAS TO FORCE A GOOD-FAITH GESTURE UPON A RELUCTANT REAGAN ADMINISTRATION AT A MOMENT WHEN THE SANDINISTAS WERE PLANNING THEIR OWN ELECTIONS ON NOV. 4. BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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FAST." THE DEMOCRATS SHOULD QUICKLY REMOVE ANY DOUBT, LEFT BY GERALDINE FERRARO IN THE DEBATE, THAT "HER PARTY DOES NOT THINK IT IMPORTANT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION LED BY ARTURO CRUZ TO CONTEST THE NICARAGUAN VOTE."

-- WALL STREET JOURNAL --

EL SALVADOR: FRONT PAGE "WHAT'S NEWS--" NOTES THE TALKS.

PERU: EVERETT G. MARTIN, P. 32 ("PERU LEADER WALKS FISCAL TIGHTROPE OVER LONG-DISTANCE LINE; PRES. BELAUNDE PHONES JOURNAL REPORTER, SUGGESTS A WAY OUT OF DEBT CRISIS") REPORTS TELEPHONE CALL, IN WHICH PRES. BELAUNDE SAID, "I WOULD LIKE TO GET OUR INTERNATIONAL DEBT SITUATION STRAIGHTENED OUT FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT..."

HIS PLAN CALLS FOR A SPECIAL "WORLD RECOVERY BOND" TO LET COUNTRIES THAT CAN'T MEET PAYMENTS ROLLOVER PARTS OF THE PAYMENT. CALLING THIS JUST A SUGGESTION, BELAUNDE SAID, "OUR POINT IS THAT THESE BONDS SHOULD BE SET UP SO THAT THEIR INTEREST RATES AND GUARANTEES ARE SO ATTRACTIVE THAT THEY WOULD BE TREATED LIKE MONEY, AND SO THAT THE BANKS RECEIVING THEM COULD SELL THEM FOR CASH IF THEY WISH."

AS THE SITUATION NOW STANDS, HE SAID, "IT IS LIKE WE ARE ON A SINKING SHIP RUNNING AROUND PATCHING HOLES ONE AFTER THE OTHER. WE GO FROM ONE CRISIS TO ANOTHER. IT IS NOT ONLY VERY ANNOYING, IT IS ALSO VERY COSTLY."

-- USA TODAY -

EL SALVADOR: "COVER STORY" IS ("USA & DUARTE'S GAMBLE: SALVADORAN REBELS OK MORE TALKS; REAGAN: 'DUARTE'S RISK 'WORTH TAKING,;' MONDALE: HOPE TALKS 'GO FORWARD'") BY L.A. JOLIDON AND JUAN WALTE.
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CENTRAL AMERICA: HEAD, P. 8, ("CENTRAL AMERICA PEACE ADVANCES, RETREATS") GROUPS:

SPECIAL ("2 DEMS AT SALVADOR MEETING") ON THE ARRIVAL OF SEN. TSONGAS AND REP. SHANNON. ACCORDING TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE'S JOHN MCAWART, "THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A MUCH BROADER AND DEEPER REALITY THAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS EVER GET WHEN THEY GO UNDER STATE DEPT AUSPICES... THEY BOTH HAVE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE AND HAVE KEPT UP THEIR INTEREST IN THE REGION."

DON KIRK, ("U.S. LINKS TREATY TO NICARAGUA VOTE") SAYS PROSPECTS FOR US ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONTADORA DRAFT "DIMINISHED OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN ...DANIEL ORTEGA REFUSED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS DESPITE A BOYCOTT BY OPPOSITION LEADER ARTURO CRUZ." HE QUOTES SPOKESMAN JOHN HUGHES THAT NICARAGUAN FAILURE TO "GUARANTEE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS" WOULD RAISE DOUBTS ON "THE SINCERITY OF THE SANDINISTA COMMITMENT TO THE CONTADORA PROCESS."

-- BALTIMORE SUN --

EL SALVADOR: JAMES BOCK AND PINA RAMATI, FRONT PAGE ("GUERRILLAS, DUARTE CREATE PEACE PANEL") COVER THE TALKS FROM LA PALMA. CONTINUATION, P. 4 HAS DUARTE QUOTE BOXED: "EVERYBODY WAS NERVOUS ABOUT IT. THEY SAID IT

WAS RISKY, THAT IT WAS IMPULSIVE, THAT IT WOULD BE THE END OF THE GOVERNMENT, THAT THE ARMY MIGHT ACT AGAINST IT. I MADE THE DECISION ALL BY MYSELF, AND I TAKE FULL UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSIBILITY."; ANOTHER BOX HAS AP LISTING OF THE VARIOUS REBEL GROUPS.

NICARAGUA: EDIT, P. 10 ("IMPASSE IN NICARAGUA") CONTRASTS EVENTS IN EL SALVADOR WITH NICARAGUA, WHERE THE NOVEMBER 4 ELECTION "SEEMS DESTINED TO BE A CERTIFIED FARCE NFWO THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SANDINISTA REGIME AND OPPOSITION LEADER ARTURO CRUZ HAVE BROKEN DOWN." COMPARING THE ELECTION FRAMEWORK WITH THE MEXICAN SYSTEM, EDIT SAYS IT "WILL PERMIT SMALL OPPOSITION GROUPS TO VOICE COMPLAINTS UNDER CONDITIONS GUARANTEEING THE OVERWHELMING TRIUMPH OF THE RULING PARTY."

THERE IS ALSO A MARXIST-LENINIST SIDE THAT "WILL PRESERVE THE LEADING (DICTATORIAL) ROLE OF THE PARTY IN ALL PHASES OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. DEMOCRACY AND PLURALISM ARE NOT TO BE IN MANAGUA." EL SALVADOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, AT LEAST "HAS A PRESIDENT WHO PERSONIFIES THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER THAT IS DISAPPEARING IN NICARAGUA."

MR. CRUZ HAD WANTED THE DATE CHANGED BECAUSE HE "KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD CARRY HIS MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE. THE REGIME HAS STIFLED CRITICISM, MUZZLED THE PRESS AND HARASSED OPPONENTS SINCE IT TOOK POWER. ALTHOUGH JUNTA LEADERS RECOGNIZED THAT A CRUZ CANDIDACY WOULD GIVE THEIR ELECTIONS SOME CREDIBILITY, THEY REFUSED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION." NOW NICARAGUA FACES "INCREASING POLARIZATION THAT COULD LEAD TO THE SAME KIND OF CIVIL WAR THAT HAS RAVAGED EL SALVADOR... EVEN AS ITS NEIGHBOR STRIVES TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION."

EDIT CONCLUDES, "CENTRAL AMERICA'S ONLY ESCAPE ROUTE FROM CONTINUING TURMOIL MAY LIE IN THE CONTADORA PEACE PROCESS... BUT EVEN THIS PROCESS WILL GET NOWHERE UNLESS NICARAGUA'S MILITARY THREAT TO ITS NEIGHBORS AND ITS PARANOID FEARS OF INVASION CAN BE EASED. SO FAR, BOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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PENOMENA HAVE FED ON ONE ANOTHER. AN ELECTION WITH MR. CRUZ AS AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE MIGHT HAVE BROKEN THIS CYCLE, BUT AT THIS MOMENT IT IS NOT TO BE."

-- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR --

EL SALVADOR: DANIEL SOUTHERLAND, FRONT PAGE ("SALVADOR TALKS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS") SAYS IT "MAY TAKE MONTHS TO SORT OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY" OF THE TALKS, BUT DUARTE IS "SEEN HERE AS HAVING TAKEN THE

INITIATIVE IN A BOLD MOVE TOWARD RESOLVING THE SALVADOREAN CONFLICT." THERE ARE PLUSES FOR THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN PLACING EMPHASIS ON PEACE TALKS, THOUGH THEY COULD ALSO "RAISE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS."

-- WASHINGTON TIMES --

EL SALVADOR: JAY MALLIN SR, P. 1 FROM LA PALMA ("DUARTE, GUERRILLAS AGREE ON PROGRESS") REPORTS THE TALKS..

NICARAGUA/ICJ: P. 5 BRIEF ("NICARAGUA'S CASE CHALLENGED") SAYS THE US YESTERDAY ARGUED FOR DISMISSAL OF THE NICARAGUAN COMPLAINT. STATE DEPT ADVISOR DAVIS ROBINSON SAID, "NICARAGUA IS ENGAGED IN A CONSTANT PATTERN OF ARMED CONFRONTATION ACROSS ITS BORDER."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: GUS CONSTANTINE, P. 5 FROM SANTO DOMINGO ("DOMINICANS FACE ECONOMIC CRISIS") SAYS, "ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO END TO THE CRISIS IN SIGHT, THE RETURN OF A SURFACE TRANQUILLITY HERE AFTER THREE DAYS OF VIOLENT FOOD RIOTS LAST APRIL HAS ENCOURAGED BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO SHED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GLOOM THAT ENVELOPED THE COUNTRY THEN."

ARGENTINA/CHILE: TIMOTHY O'LEARY, P. 6 FROM BUENOS AIRES ("ARGENTINA TRIES PROPAGANDA BLITZ FOR PASSAGE OF TREATY REFERENDUM") SAYS, "ALTHOUGH THE TERMS OF A CONTROVERSIAL BORDER TREATY WITH CHILE HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN A NATIONWIDE MULTIMEDIA BLITZ APPARENTLY INTENDED TO CONVINCED VOTERS THEY SHOULD APPROVE THE AWARD OF THREE DISPUTED ISLANDS TO CHILE."

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF TV PROGRAMS AND NEWSCASTS, OCTOBER 15, 1984:

-- ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT --

EL SALVADOR (ANNE GARRELS, LA PALMA) - IT WAS A GAMBLE THAT BROUGHT PRESIDENT DUARTE TO LA PALMA; A WEEK AGO NO ONE THOUGHT HE HAD ENOUGH SUPPORT FROM EITHER SIDE TO PULL THESE TALKS OFF. THE CROWDS TODAY SAID OTHERWISE. DUARTE AND HIS FOUR ADVISORS DARED TO COME TO THIS MOUNTAIN TOWN IN THE HEART OF GUERRILLA TERRITORY UNARMED. THE GUERRILLA LEADERS ARRIVED UNDER THE

AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AND TRUCKLOADS OF THEIR SUPPORTERS FOLLOWED. THE GUERRILLAS BELIEVE THESE TALKS ARE A RECOGNITION OF THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH. BUT DUARTE HAD A VERY DIFFERENT VIEW AS THE TALKS BEGAN SAYING THE JUSTIFICATION FOR FIGHTING IN EL

SALVADOR NO LONGER EXISTS. DUARTE: "I THINK THAT BY JUST SITTING DOWN, IS THE FIRST STAGE. BY JUST MAKING THE WHOLE COUNTRY TAKE AWAY FROM THEIR MIND THAT A DIALOGUE IS BAD--IS A FIRST STAGE. SO BY JUST BEING HERE, WE ARE ALREADY ADVANCING IN THE PROCESS."

AFTER FIVE HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS, EL SALVADOR'S TOP CHURCHMEN READ THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THOUGH THE TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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SIDES STILL HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, THEY AGREED TO MEET AGAIN.

(PETER COLLINS, LA PALMA) - THE MOOD OF THE DAY WAS THE WILD HOPE THAT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, PEACE HAS A CHANCE IN EL SALVADOR. "PEACE, PEACE, PEACE," THEY SHOUTED. DUARTE WAVED AS HIS CARAVAN PASSED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. EVERYWHERE THERE WAS SINGS OF HOPE -- THE DOVE OF PEACE. IN LA PALMA ITSELF, TENS OF THOUSANDS FILLED THE STREET AND THE TOWN'S SQUARE WITH ONLY BOY SCOUTS PROVIDING SECURITY. THERE WERE SMILES AND PEOPLE WEARING HOPE AND EXPECTATION ON THEIR FACES.

THE WHOLE IDEA TODAY WAS TO CREATE A NEW MOOD IN EL SALVADOR; TO CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS HARDENED BY WAR TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE PEACE IS POSSIBLE. TODAY, AT LEAST, IT WORKED.

-- NBC NIGHTLY NEWS --

EL SALVADOR (TOM BROKAW) - IT WAS AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT IN AN EL SALVADOR VILLAGE TODAY WHEN PRESIDENT DUARTE ARRIVED FOR TALKS WITH REBEL LEADERS. IT WAS THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GUERRILLAS AFTER FIVE YEARS OF A BLOODY WAR THAT REACHED WELL BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THAT TINY CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY. IT IS A WAR IN WHICH THE U.S. AND THE SOVIETS HAVE A SIZEABLE POLITICAL INTEREST. IT WAS ONLY A FIRST STEP TODAY, BUT IT DID APPEAR TO GO WELL.

(MIKE BOETTCHER, LA PALMA) - DUARTE PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH MOBS WAVING WHITE PEACE FLAGS AND CHANTING THEIR PRESIDENT'S NAME. HE BELIEVES IT IS HIS DESTINY TO BRING UNCLASSIFIED

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PEACE TO EL SALVADOR, TO UNIFY HIS COUNTRY, AND HE SEEMED

TO REVEL IN THE WELCOME. BUT DUARTE ONLY RUNS TWO-THIRDS OF THIS COUNTRY. THE MEN WHO RUN THE OTHER THIRD--THE GUERRILLAS--ARRIVED AT THE PEACE TALKS LESS CONSPICUOUSLY; THEY WERE DRIVEN TO THE BACKDOOR OF THE CHURCH.

BUT TODAY BOTH SIDES HAVE PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND IT WAS UP TO THE SALVADORAN BOY SCOUTS TO PROTECT THE

PRESIDENT AND THE GUERRILLAS. ONE SALVADORAN CALLED THIS A SALVADORAN FAMILY REUNION.

THE HISTORIC MEETING ENDED BY MID-AFTERNOON AND THE GUERRILLAS PRONOUNCED THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARDS PEACE. ONE AIDE SAID DUARTE HAD OFFERED TO ESTABLISH A TWELVE-MAN PEACE COMMISSION EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. ITS GOAL WOULD BE TO END THE WAR BY BRINGING THE GUERRILLAS INTO EL SALVADOR'S YOUNG DEMOCRACY.

THE WAR WILL CONTINUE AFTER TODAY'S MEETING, BUT THE PEOPLE OF LA PLAMA NO LONGER BELIEVE THE FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE FOREVER.

(TOM BROKAW) - PUBLICLY TODAY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE SALVADORAN SUMMIT, BUT MARVIN KALB HAS LEARNED THE ADMINISTRATION PRIVATELY EXPECTS THIS WAR TO CONTINUE.

THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE MEETING. HIS TOP AIDES PORTRAYING IT AS A VINDICATION OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. REAGAN: "PRESIDENT DUARTE IS PARTICIPATING AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK, BUT IT'S A RISK WORTH TAKING IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS OUR PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS HISTORIC ENDEAVOR."

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WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ CONFERRED WITH DUARTE LAST WEEK, THEY AGREED THERE WOULD BE NO POWER SHARING OF ANY KIND, NO DEAL BEFORE THE REBELS PUT DOWN THEIR GUNS AND JOIN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS--A PROSPECT CONSIDERED VERY REMOTE. JOHN HUGHES: "PRESIDENT DUARTE HAS MADE VERY CLEAR THE BASIS ON WHICH HE GOES INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM, AND PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS VERY VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED THAT POSITION. SO, THERE'S NO CHANGE ON OUR PART OR THEIRS." MEANING, THE ADMINISTRATION STILL THINKS A MILITARY SOLUTION IS MORE LIKELY IN THE SHORT-TERM THAN A POLITICAL ONE. THE SALVADORAN MILITARY, WITH FRESH U.S. SUPPLIES, SEEN AS GETTING STRONGER AND DOING BETTER, AND AFTER THE AMERICAN ELECTION, ABLE TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE REBELS AND HURT THEM BADLY, IF THE TALKS FAIL TO PRODUCE A BREAKTHROUGH. AND, NO OFFICIAL THAT I HAVE TALKED TO, BELIEVES THAT A BREAKTHROUGH IS IMMINENT OR EVEN LIKELY.

BROKAW: BUT, MARVIN, WHY ARE WE GETTING ALL THIS UPBEAT TALK FROM THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TODAY?

KALB: WELL, THERE IS NOT MUCH CONVICTION BEHIND ALL OF

THAT UPBEAT TALK. THERE IS NO SENSE AMONG MANY OFFICIALS HERE THAT SOMETHING TRULY HISTORIC IS HAPPENING IN CENTRAL AMERICA. BESIDE, IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE POLITICAL INTEREST OF THE ADMINISTRATION, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION, TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF THE PRESIDENT'S VERY CONTROVERSIAL POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS BEING SEEN AS TRIUMPHANT.

BROKAW: BUT DUARTE HAS SURPRISED THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST, WHY DON'T THEY THINK THAT SOMETHING MAY IN FACT UNCLASSIFIED

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EMERGE FROM THESE TALKS.

KALB: ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, BUT IT SEEMS FROM MANY OF THE CONVERSATIONS I HAD THAT MANY OFFICIALS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE NO REAL COMPROMISE, NO REAL NEGOTIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IN FACT, THAT EVENTUALLY IF NOT THIS YEAR THEN NEXT YEAR, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO USE ITS MUSCLE IN THAT REGION AND GET RID OF THE PROBLEM.

-- CBS EVENING NEWS --

EL SALVADOR PEACE TALKS (DAN RATHER) - THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR AND LEFTIST REBELS TRYING TO OUST HIM TODAY HELD THE FIRST PEACE TALKS IN 5 YEARS OF THE COUNTRY'S CIVIL WAR.

(RICHARD WAGNER, LA PALMA) - PRESIDENT DUARTE THIS MORNING WENT TO LA PALMA FOR HIS FIRST FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS. DUARTE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE SALVADORAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN HIS PEACE EFFORTS, BUT TODAY NO TROOPS WERE IN LA PALMA. LA PALMA NORMALLY BRISTLES WITH GUERRILLA GUNDS, BUT TODAY, AS BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED, THERE WAS NOT A WAPON TO BE SEEN THERE. SECURITY WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND THE SALVADORAN BOY SCOUTS. DUARTE ALSO RECEIVED SUPPORT TODAY FROM ANOTHER CHIEFT OF STATE. (FOOTAGE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN: "PRESIDENT DUARTE IS PARTICIPATING AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK, BUT IT'S A RISK WORTH TAKING IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS OUR PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS HISTORIC ENDEAVOR.") DUARTE BROUGHT CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE MEETING. AMONG OTHERS, THEY INCLUDE THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL PEACE COMMISSION MADE UP OF SIX MEMBERS FROM EACH SIDE WITH A MODERATOR TO BE NAMED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. DUARTE HAS RULED OUT IMMEDIATE POWERE SHARING WITH THE GUERRILLAS, BUT WILL

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PROPOSE AMNESTY FOR THOSE WHO WILL THROW DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND ENTER THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THE PROPOSALS WERE PRESENTED TO GUILLERMO UNGO AND RUBEN ZAMORA. AT

THE CONCLUSION OF TODAY'S SESSION SALVADORAN ARCHBISHOP RIVERA EDAMUS (SP) PRAISED THE EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY. GUERRILLA LEADER FERMAN CIANTUEGOS (SP) SAID TODAY'S MEETING WAS A STEP FORWARD, THAT THE REBELS WANT PEACE WITH ADDITIONAL DEMOCRATIC REFORMS. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN NOVEMBER AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE. SHULTZ

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