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RELEASE IN FULL

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HA-09 INRE-00 INR-05 LAB-04 L-03 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
OPM-01 PA-01 PM-01 P-02 SCT-03 SIL-01 SP-01
SSO-00 SS-01 STR-18 USIE-00 /053W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2758
INFO RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 14947

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PTER, ES
SUBJECT: MASS, MARCH, AND RALLY COMMEMORATING
- FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FENASTRAS BOMBING

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: OCT. 31 FENASTRAS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST OTHER "POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS" HELD A MASS, A MARCH AND A RALLY TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1989 BOMBING OF FENASTRAS HEADQUARTERS. ABOUT 1000 PERSONS JOINED THE MASS AND 1200-1500 PARTICIPATED

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IN THE MARCH AND RALLY THAT FOLLOWED IT. THE EVENT WAS ESSENTIALLY A FENASTRAS OPERATION. SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR GROUPS AND OTHER SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS SENT REPRESENTATIVES, BUT FEW HAD LARGE DELEGATIONS.

2. THE COMMEMORATION BEGAN WITH A MASS WHICH INCLUDED TESTIMONIALS BY FENASTRAS LEADERS AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE BOMBING BY FENASTRAS SEC GEN GERARDO DIAZ WHO BLAMED THE MILITARY. THE GROUP THEN MARCHED TO THE CEMETARY WHERE THE VICTIMS ARE BURIED FOR THE UNVEILING OF A MONUMENT TO THE "MARTYRED UNIONISTS" AND SEVERAL SPEECHES. UNTS LEADER MARCO TULIO LIMA CALLED ON ALL POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS TO UNITE TO TOPPLE THE "MILITARY DICTATORSHIP". GUILLERMO UNGO DECRIED "STATE TERRORISM" AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ATTORNEY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Janina Slattery, Senior Reviewer

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GENERAL MAY HAVE TO INVESTIGATE CHRISTIANI FOR FAILURE TO ENFORCE THE COUNTRY'S LAWS. A U.S. TRADE UNIONIST WAS THE MOST RADICAL SAYING THE U.S. HAD WAGED WAR AGAINST THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE AND TRAINED THE SALVADORAN ARMY TO TORTURE. HE ALSO CALLED AIFLD A "CIA FRONT". END SUMMARY.

3. THE COMMEMORATION BEGAN WITH A MASS CELEBRATED BY ARCHBISHOP RIVERA DAMAS IN THE EL ROSARIO CHURCH (A LABOR LEADER TOLD POLOFF RIVERA DAMAS HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO SAY THE MASS ON THE CONDITION THAT IT COMMEMORATE VICTIMS, BUT NOT INVOLVE POLITICS). EL ROSARIO HAS A LONG AND BLOODY HISTORY AND HOLDS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE LEFT. THE CHURCH WAS TAKEN BY GUERRILLAS DURING FIGHTING IN THE EARLY
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EIGHTIES AND SEVERAL ARE BURIED IN THE CHURCH ITSELF. OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTENDED THE MASS WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL TESTIMONIALS FROM FENASTRAS LEADERS.

4. FENASTRAS SECRETARY GENERAL, GERARDO DIAZ, FOLLOWED THE MASS WITH A TESTIMONIAL ASSERTING THAT THE MILITARY MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE BOMBING BECAUSE: FENASTRAS HEADQUARTERS WAS UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION BY THE NATIONAL POLICE; THE BOMBING WAS PRECEDED BY AN OFFICIAL PROPOGANDA CAMPAIGN LINKING FENASTRAS TO THE FMLN; THE BOMBING WAS TOO PROFESSIONAL TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY INDIVIDUAL FANATICS. HE CONCLUDED WITH A DETAILED BUT RAMBLING ACCOUNT OF THE BOMBING, INCLUDING HOW HE WAS SAVED BY THE PRESENCE OF REFRIGERATORS BETWEEN HIS TABLE IN THE CAFETERIA AND THE EXPLOSION.

5. FOLLOWING THE MASS THE ATTENDEES, JOINED BQA FEW HUNDRED OTHERS, MARCHED, MANY CARRYING BLACK CROSSES INSCRIBED WITH VICTIMS' NAMES, TO THE CEMETARY WHERE THE BOMBING VICTIMS ARE BURIED. THE MARCH WAS PEACEFUL WITH LAW BREAKING CONFINED TO SPRAY PAINTING MESSAGES ALONG THE ROUTE AND THE OCCASIONAL, AND MOSTLY VERBAL, CONFRONTATION WITH MOTORISTS UNHAPPY WITH BEING BLOCKED BY THE MARCHERS.

6. THE CEREMONY AT THE CEMETARY INCLUDED THE UNVEILING OF A MONUMENT TO "LABOR MARTYRS" AND SPEECHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING. AFTER PREDICTABLE "LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKERS" STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FENASTRAS, THE NONGOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS
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COMMISSION AND UNOC, MARCO TULIO LIMA OF UNTS MADE THINGS A BIT MORE INTERESTING. LIMA ARGUED THAT UNITY OF THE POPULAR FORCES WAS KEY AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LOSE TIME ARGUING ABOUT THEIR DIFFERENCES BUT RATHER CONCENTRATE ON THEIR MAJOR, SHARED GOALS. HE SAID BRINGING DOWN THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" WAS CHIEF AMONG THEM.

7. MNR LEADER GUILLERMO UNGO THEN TOOK THE MIKE TO DECRY THE "STATE TERRORISM" (HE REPEATED THE PHRASE THROUGHOUT HIS SPEECH) DEMONSTRATED BY THE JESUIT CASE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 14947

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AND THE FENASTRAS BOMBING. HE SAID PRESIDENT CRISTIANI'S RECENT COMMENTS IMPLYING THAT THE FMLN MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE LATTER WERE

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REMINISCENT OF THE GOES' INITIAL REACTION TO THE JESUIT MURDERS. HE SAID THIS SHOWED THAT THE CONDITIONING OF MILITARY AID FROM THE U.S. WAS NOT ENOUGH TO PRESSURE THE GOES. HE ADDED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ASK THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO FORMALLY

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INVESTIGATE PRESIDENT CRISTIANI FOR FAILURE TO ENFORCE THE LAW IN THE FENASTRAS CASE.

8. MPSC LEADER RUBEN ZAMORA THEN GAVE THE MOST EMOTIONAL AND EFFECTIVE SPEECH ARGUING THAT THE "FERTILE BLOOD OF THE STRUGGLE" WAS MAKING THE POPULAR MOVEMENT STRONGER EVERY DAY. HE PLACED YELLOW AND RED FLOWERS ON THE GRAVES OF THE FENASTRAS VICTIMS SAYING YELLOW SYMBOLIZED MOURNING AND RED SYMBOLIZED BLOOD AND THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE.

9. THE MOST RADICAL WORDS WERE OFFERED BY THOMAS CRONING (AS HEARD), DESCRIBED AS AN OFFICIAL WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNION. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF ALL "PROGRESSIVE" AMERICANS, CRONING SAID THE U.S. HAD BEEN WAGING WAR AGAINST THE SALVADORAN ARMY FOR 10 YEARS AND HAD TRAINED THE SALVADORAN ARMY IN TORTURE. HE PLEDGED NOT TO REST UNTIL ALL U.S. MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR IS HALTED. HE EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE TRUE LABOR LEADERS OF EL SALVADOR AND DESCRIBED THE LATE FEBE VELASQUEZ AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICA. HE EXPRESSLY DISTANCED HIMSELF, AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISTS, FROM "THE CIA FRONT - AIFLD".

10 COMMENT: DESPITE CALLS FOR UNITY, SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AMONG THE SO-CALLED POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS REMAIN. WHILE UNOC DID SHOW SOLIDARITY BY SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE, NEITHER THEY NOR OTHER DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS PUT PEOPLE IN THE STREETS. SOME UNIONISTS TOLD POLOFF THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE FENASTRAS

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HAD NOT INCLUDED OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PLANNING OF THE EVENT; IF FENASTRAS WANTED TO MAKE THIS "FENASTRAS DAY", RATHER THAN THE DAY OF THE UNIONIST, THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING IT A MASS EVENT. THE TURNOUT WAS, IN FACT, SURPRISINGLY LOW CONSIDERING THE LINEUP OF SPEAKERS REPRESENTING MOST OF THE LEFT, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEMORATE SUCH A DRAMATIC EVENT.

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11. UNGO AND ZAMORA WERE CLEARLY IN CAMPAIGN MODE, AND THE LATTER WAS FAIRLY EFFECTIVE. THE UNTS PITCH FOR EVERYONE TO GET TOGETHER TO BRING DOWN THE "MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" AND IGNORE "SMALL DIFFERENCES" SEEMED AIMED AT UNOC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RESIST BEING DRAGGED ALONG BY UNTS' "LETS FOLLOW THE FMLN" ARGUMENT.

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