

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-10 PA-01 VO-06 OMB-01 INRE-00 CA-02 USIE-00
MOFM-04 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-02
P-02 T-01 MOF-03 /079 W

-----141632 081844Z /44

P 081819Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9065
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

RELEASED IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior
Reviewer

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 05796

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD YOULE
DEPT FOR CA/VO AND ARA/CEN

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, CVIS, ES
SUBJECT: GOES, ARENA OUTRAGED BY ISSUANCE OF U.S.
- VISAS TO FMLN LEADERS

REF: RICCIUTI/SMITH TELCOM

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE GOES MFA AND ARENA EXPRESSED THEIR OUTRAGE THAT FMLN REPRESENTATIVES WERE INVITED TO THE UN TO DISCUSS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN VERIFICATION PLAN AND DISMAY THAT THE USG ISSUED VISAS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO TRAVEL WITHOUT USG-GOES CONSULTATIONS. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOES PLANS TO FILE A PROTEST WITH THE UN SECGEN, AND STATEMENTS BY ARENA LEADERS QUESTION VISA ISSUANCE TO FMLN TERRORISTS IN LIGHT OF PAST DENIALS TO ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON. END SUMMARY.

3. THE GOES FOREIGN MINISTRY IS OUTRAGED AT THE ACTION BY UN A/SYG ALVARO DE SOTO FOR INVITING THE FMLN TO CONSULT ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN VERIFICATION PLAN. IN THE VIEW OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE FMLN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INVITED AND THE GOES SHOULD HAVE

BEEN CONSULTED ON THE TRAVEL OF THE FMLN REPRESENTATIVES. THE MFA IS FILING A PROTEST WITH UN SECGEN PEREZ DE CUELLER OVER DE SOTO'S ACTION. THE MFA NOTES THAT DE SOTO HAS NOT INVITED THE NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE TO CONSULT AND BELIEVES THAT DE SOTO IS TOTALLY OUT OF LINE IN PREEMPTING THE CONSULTATIONS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WHO WILL INDICATE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO THE UN WHEN OTHERS NEED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE PROCESS. THE MFA IS ALSO CONFUSED AS TO WHY THE USG ISSUED THE FMLN VISAS WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOES.

4. RICARDO ALVARENGA VALDIVIESO AND COL. SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESPECTIVELY, AND SEVERAL OTHER CIVIC LEADERS EXPRESSED FEELINGS RANGING FROM OUTRAGE TO DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE USG DECISION TO ISSUE VISAS TO THREE FMLN GUERRILLA LEADERS. ALVARENGA NOTED WITH DISMAY THAT WHILE ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON, AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HAD SEVERAL VISA APPLICATIONS EITHER DENIED OR IGNORED, THE FMLN AND OTHER LEFTISTS (READ UNGO, ZAMORA, ETC.) HAVE NO PROBLEMS GETTING VISAS TO THE U.S. OCHOA DESCRIBED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DECISION AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE USG ACTING WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE FULL EFFECTS OF ITS ACTIONS.

5. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, ALVARENGA TOLD POLOFF THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE U.S DECISION TO ISSUE THE VISAS. BRUSHING ASIDE OUR EXPLANATION THAT UNDER THE U.N. HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WE HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE VISAS TO INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING TO THE U.S. ON U.N. BUSINESS, THAT THE VISAS HAD BEEN ISSUED AT THE EXPRESSED REQUEST OF THE SYG'S OFFICE, AND THAT THE VISAS WERE LIMITED IN USE TO THE U.N. VISIT, ALVARENGA CONTINUED TO ARGUE THAT THIS ACTION COULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE USG, AND THAT IT WAS CLEARLY NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GOES.

6. COMMENT: ALVARENGA UNDERSTANDS THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THE U.S. TO DENY THE VISA REQUESTS. WHAT IS MOST GALLING TO HIM AND THE OTHER ARENA LEADERS IS THAT D'AUBUISSON'S REQUESTS ARE TURNED DOWN WHILE LEFTISTS POLITICIANS (AND NOW FMLN LEADERS) REGULARLY RECEIVE VISAS, OFTEN WITH LESS THAN THE REQUIRED TWO WEEK WAITING PERIOD. THE MFA IS OUTRAGED AT THE UN ACTION AND IS MYSTIFIED WHY THEY WERE NOT INFORMED OF OUR ISSUANCE.

7. ZAMORA AND UNGO REPRESENTATIVES ALSO CALLED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT "EXPEDITIOUS" PROCESSING OF SAMAYOA ET

AL VISAS. UNGO AID MAURICIO SANTAMARIA VOCIFEROUSLY
COMPLAINED TO CONOFF THAT EMBASSY GIVES THE
DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE (CD) SUCH A HARD TIME
DEMANDING ITINERARY AND THREE WEEKS NOTICE EACH TIME
THEY APPLY. CD REPRESENTATIVES WANTED TO KNOW
"WHAT'S GOING ON." THE FACT THAT POST'S POLITICAL
AND CONSULAR SECTIONS WERE CAUGHT SOMEWHAT OFF GUARD

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BY THE VISA ISSUANCE MAKES THE ABOVE REACTION ALL THE
MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE.

8. POST BELIEVES THAT IT WAS NOT ADEQUATELY KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS OR GIVEN A CHANCE TO WEIGH IN ON WHETHER THE ISSUANCE WAS INDEED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF USG POLICY. IN THE FUTURE, WE REQUEST THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN THE DEPARTMENT (CA) AND VISA ISSUING POSTS BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED OF EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO BE INCLUDED IN THE

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ISSUANCE/DENIAL PROCESS.

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