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MRN: 84 SAN SALVADOR 3648
Date/DTG: Apr 04, 1984 / 040000Z Apr 84
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE; BOGOTA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SHUM, ES, SETA, FENASTRAS-FEDERATION OF SALVADORAN, FENASTRAS, SETA-WATERS AUTHORITY WORKDERS UNIO, (VASQUEZ SOMETA, CARLOS ERNESTO), (LOPE Z NUILA, REYNALDO)
Reference: 84 SAN SALVADOR 3547, 84 SAN SALVADOR 1379
Subject: PN DISCLOSES ARRESTED LABOR LEADER'S CONFESSION

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4334
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
USIA WASHDC 2651

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USIA FOR AR AND P/CENTAM
BRUSSELS FOR USEC LABATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: PN DISCLOSES ARRESTED LABOR LEADER'S CONFESSION

Declassified in Full/Release in Full
By Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
6/13/2023

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 03547 (B) SAN SALVADOR 01379

1. ~~(S)~~ SUMMARY. ON APRIL 3, LABOFF VISITED NATIONAL POLICE (PN) DIRECTOR COL. REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE MARCH 27 ARREST OF CARLOS ERNESTO VASQUEZ SOMETA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WATERS AUTHORITY WORKERS UNION (SETA). THE TEXT OF A PN

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DOCUMENT PURPORTING TO BE VASQUEZ'S VOLUNTARY TESTIMONY IS REPORTED WITHIN THE BODY OF THIS CABLE. IT IS, SUPPOSEDLY, VASQUEZ'S RELATION OF HIS CAREER WITHIN THE FEDERATION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (FENASTRAS) AND OF HIS PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE FARN GUERRILLA GROUP.

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2. ~~(S)~~ LABOFF MET ON APRIL 3 WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, COL. REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA, TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE MARCH 27 ARREST OF CARLOS ERNESTO VASQUEZ, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF SETA, THE UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF ANDA, THE WATERS AUTHORITY. LOPEZ NUILA SHOWED LABOFF AN ENTRY IN THE PN'S ARREST LOGBOOK NOTING VASQUEZ'S DETENTION FOR SUSPICION OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE FARN GUERRILLA GROUP. LOPEZ NUILA ALSO GAVE LABOFF A COPY OF A DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE PN'S CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (CIC), WHICH DOCUMENT IS, PURPORTEDLY, VASQUEZ'S DETAILED AND UNFORCED CONFESSION RELATING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS WITHIN THE FARN. THERE FOLLOWS AN ABRIDGED TRANSLATION OF THIS DOCUMENT:

3. (U) BEGIN TEXT. CARLOS ERNESTO VASQUEZ SOMETA SAID HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FARN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SINCE DECEMBER, 1980. HE IS PRESENTLY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WATERS AUTHORITY WORKERS UNION (SETA) AND THE SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (FENASTRAS). VASQUEZ FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAS FUNCTIONED BOTH AS A LABOR AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST WITHIN SETA, FENASTRAS AND THE FARN. HE STATED THAT HIS MISSION IS TO INDOCTRINATE AND ORIENT THE SETA RANK AND FILE ON THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS OF THE FARN'S PLANS, WHICH INCLUDE THE EVENTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A

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PROVISIONAL FMLN GOVERNMENT IN EL SALVADOR.

4. (U) VASQUEZ INFORMED THAT HE BEGAN TO WORK FOR ANDA IN 1978, AND ALSO JOINED SETA AT THAT TIME. IN

OCTOBER, 1979, HE MET MARIO CABRERA, CODE NAME "BRIGIDO," A PROMINENT FARN LEADER (NOTE: CABRERA IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF FENASTRAS). ONCE HE JOINED THE FARN, VASQUEZ WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT FENASTRAS IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, INCLUDING RED "SUMMIT" MEETINGS IN HAVANA AND PRAGUE.

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5. (U) VASQUEZ FURTHER INFORMED THAT A FELLOW MEMBER OF SETA, FRANCISCO ANTONIO ROMERO MARTINEZ, HAS LINKS WITH THE CAYETANO CARPIO REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' MOVEMENT (MOR), A HARD-LINE SPLINTER GROUP OF THE FPL GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION. THIS SAME ROMERO RECENTLY URGED SETA MEMBERS TO JOIN THE MOR AND TO AGITATE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE 9 FSR MEMBERS ARRESTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ON JANUARY 18, 1983 (SEE REFTTEL B). ANOTHER SETA MEMBER, CIRILO HUEZO, A MIDDLE ECHELON MEMBER OF THE FARN, IS THE FENASTRAS LABOR/POLITICAL ADVISOR TO THE SETA WORKERS. HUEZO IS ALSO FENASTRAS' SECRETARY OF LABOR DISPUTES.

7. (U) VASQUEZ DECLARED THAT FENASTRAS RECEIVES FUNDS FROM THE MOSCOW-DOMINATED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) AND FROM THE FDR. THESE FUNDS ARE SENT FROM MEXICO THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE PCES WHO SERVES AS A COURIER, ONE JORGE MENDOZA. MENDOZA IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE FUSS, THE PCES' LABOR FRONT IN EL SALVADOR. VASQUEZ GAVE THE CODE NAMES (ROLANDO, SOFIA AND MICHELLE) OF MEMBERS OF THE NON-GOES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WHO HAVE ACTIVE LINKS TO THE FARN. VASQUEZ

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ALSO SAID THAT THE FARN/FENASTRAS LEADERSHIP SET THE
GROUND RULES FOR THE RECENT SERIES OF WORK STOPPAGES
BY THE SETA UNION (REFTEL A). END TEXT.

8. (S) COMMENT: AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED,
FENASTRAS HAS BEEN, SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE LABOR
FRONT OF THE FAPU/FARN GUERRILLA GROUP. VASQUEZ'S

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TESTIMONY, IF VALID, INDICATES THAT THERE IS ALSO SOME
MOR INFLUENCE WITHIN FENASTRAS. ACCORDING TO DECREE 50
RECENTLY PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE NATIONAL
POLICE HAS FIFTEEN DAYS (SINCE THE MARCH 27 ARREST),
TO EITHER BRING CHARGES AGAINST VASQUEZ OR RELEASE HIM.
END COMMENT.

9. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO POSTS
WHERE WFTU ISSUES ARE RELEVANT.
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