

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASE IN FULL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 14382 01 OF 02 031918Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00  
DODE-00 H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00  
SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 LAB-04 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-02  
OMB-01 STR-18 INRE-00 OPM-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01  
PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /085 W  
-----362140 031926Z /45

O 031909Z NOV 89  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3311  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 14382

DEPT ALSO FOR S/IL

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: FENASTRAS BURIES ITS DEAD

REF: SAN SALVADOR 14305

1. SUMMARY: WHILE PARTICIPATION IN A GENERAL STRIKE CALLED NOVEMBER 1 TO HONOR THE FENASTRAS DEAD WAS MINIMAL, A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN A CIRCUITOUS MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR 11/2 CULMINATING IN THE BURIAL OF EIGHT OF THE 10 FENASTRAS MEMBERS KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION OCTOBER 31 (REFTEL). KEY LEFTIST LEADERS WHO ADDRESSED THE CROWD BEFORE AND DURING THE MARCH ALTERNATED BETWEEN INCITING EMOTIONS AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN SA 14382 01 OF 02 031918Z

ARENA AND TANDONA MEMBERS, AND URGING THE CROWD TO BE CALM. SEVERAL ALLEGED NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS WERE "ARRESTED" BY FENASTRAS MEMBERS NOVEMBER 1 AND 2, AND RIOT POLICE REPORTEDLY TEARGASSED PART OF THE MARCHING CROWD 11/2, BUT OTHERWISE THE FUNAERALS TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. LEFTIST LABOR LEADERS SWARMED TO THE FENASTRAS BUILDING OCTOBER 31 IN THE WAKE OF THE BOMBING TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM CARRYING OUT AN

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

INSPECTION, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE REMAINS OF THOSE KILLED INSTANTLY IN THE BLAST WERE NOT REMOVED FROM THE SITE. INSTEAD, THE VICTIMS WERE CARRIED OUT TO AN AREA IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING AND DISPLAYED TO AN EVER-GROWING CROWD FOR SEVERAL HOURS, UNTIL COFFINS ARRIVED. AT THAT POINT, THE BODIES WERE PLACED IN COFFINS AND LEFT ON DISPLAY UNTIL THE FUNERAL NOVEMBER 2, CELEBRATED AS THE "DAY OF THE DEAD" IN LATIN AMERICA. (NOTE: FENASTRAS CONTINUED TO REFUSE ACCESS TO THE BOMB SITE BY POLICE INVESTIGATORS).

3. A GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR NOVEMBER 1 TO HONOR THOSE KILLED WAS ESSENTIALLY A BUST, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATION BY ANY MAJOR SECTOR OF THE LABOR FORCE. THE SAME DAY, THE COFFINS OF SEVERAL FENASTRAS MEMBERS WHO DIED IN HOSPITAL OF WOUNDS SUFFERED DURING THE BLAST WERE ALSO PLACED IN FRONT OF THE FENASTRAS BUILDING. THOSE LISTED AMONG THE DEAD NOW INCLUDE:

FEBE ELISABETH VELASQUEZ: SECRETARY GENERAL OF FENASTRAS AND A MEMBER OF THE UNTS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN SA 14382 01 OF 02 031918Z

JOSE DANIEL MELENDEZ LOPEZ, SECRETARY OF CONFLICTS, FENASTRAS.

ROSA HILDA SARAVIA DE ELIAS, FENASTRAS (APPARENTLY THE LUNCH COOK)

LUIS EDGARDO VASQUEZ MARQUEZ, FENASTRAS MEMBER.

JULIA TATIANA MENDOZA AGUILAR, FENASTRAS MEMBER AND THE SINGLE DETAINEE AMONGST THE 61 CAPTURED SEPTEMBER 28 WHO FILED A COMPLAINT OF RAPE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE.

MARIA MAGDELENA ROSALES, FENASTRAS MEMBER.

CARMEN CATALINA HERNANDEZ, FENASTRAS MEMBER.

JUAN TEJADA, FENASTRAS MEMBER

RICARDO HUMBERTO CESTONI: MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WATER COMPANY UNION SETA.

VICENTE SALVADOR MELGA, MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WATER UNION SETA.

(EMBASSY NOTE: GERARDO HENRIQUEZ, FENASTRAS SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WAS REPORTED DEAD EARLIER, BUT IN FACT REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION AS OF 11/2).

4. BY NOVEMBER 1, LEFTIST LABOR LEADERS HAD CLOSED OFF BOTH ENDS OF THE BLOCK ON WHICH THE FENASTRAS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN SA 14382 02 OF 02 031918Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00  
DODE-00 H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00  
SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 LAB-04 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-02  
OMB-01 STR-18 INRE-00 OPM-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01  
PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /085 W  
-----362144 031926Z /45

O 031909Z NOV 89  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3312  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 14382

DEPT ALSO FOR S/IL

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: FENASTRAS BURIES ITS DEAD

BUILDING IS LOCATED WITH PILES OF DEBRIS AND NAIL  
STUDDED WOODEN CLUBS. THE TWO INTERSECTIONS WERE  
PATROLLED BY MASKED MEN BEARING CLUBS OR STICKS WHO  
DENIED ENTRANCE TO ANYONE FELT TO BE "SUSPICIOUS,"

I.E. A MEMBER OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR SECURITY FORCE. ON NOVEMBER 1, MEDIA REPORTS CLAIMED THAT AS MANY AS 14 ALLEGED INFILTRATORS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AMONGST THE CROWD GATHERED AROUND THE COFFIN. ALL HAD THEIR IDENTIFICATION CONFISCATED, AND AT LEAST ONE WAS HELD IN THE RUINS OF THE FENASTRAS BUILDING, THEN PARADED BEFORE JOURNALISTS TO PROVE HE HAD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN SA 14382 02 OF 02 031918Z

SUFFERED NO INJURIES.

5. ON NOVEMBER 2, SIMILAR SCRUTINY OF THE FUNERAL CROWD GATHERED BEFORE THE FENASTRAS BUILDING LED THE SELF-IMPOSED SECURITY FORCES TO CAPTURE AT LEAST TWO ALLEGED "INFILTRATORS" IN THE HOUR POLOFF WAS THERE. IN BOTH CASES, THE "INFILTRATORS" WERE HUSTLED QUICKLY OUT OF SIGHT, THOUGH ONE WAS BEATEN SLIGHTLY WHEN HE RESISTED HIS CAPTORS. THROUGHOUT THE MARCH, THESE MASKED MEN, BEARING STEEL PIPES OR MIGUELITOS, WOULD ROAM IN FRONT OF THE MARCHERS, SEARCHING PASSERSBY FOR WEAPONS AND EXPELLING ANYONE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF.

6. WHEN THE MARCH FINALLY TOOK OFF NOVEMBER 2, IT INCLUDED THE PARTICIPATION OF EVERY MAJOR LEFT WING GROUP ACTIVE IN SAN SALVADOR, AS WELL AS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (PDC) AND THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION UNOC. THE EIGHT COFFINS WERE PARADED ALONG WITH BANNERS CALLING FOR AN END TO THE ARENA GOVERNMENT, THE END OF THE TANDONA, AND SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE NEED TO REMOVE AIR FORCE GENERAL BUSTILLO. VARIOUS LEFTIST LEADERS ALTERNATED BETWEEN INCITING THE CROWD TO ANGRY DEMONSTRATION, AND TRYING TO CONTROL THE EMOTIONS OF THE 20-30 ARMED

MEMBERS WHO BECAME ROUGH WITH PASSERSBY OR WERE TAUNTING RIOT POLICE. AT ITS PEAK, WE BELIEVE THE CROWD NUMBERED BETWEEN THREE AND FIVE THOUSAND. THE MARCH ROUTE CIRCLED THROUGH THE MOST CONGESTED PARTS OF DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR'S MARKET AREA, BUSY EVEN ON A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, AND WAS COVERED BY MOST MAJOR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN SA 14382 02 OF 02 031918Z

7. RIOT POLICE WERE DISCREETLY PLACED SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE MAIN BODY OF MARCHERS. SEVERAL TIMES ARMED MEMBERS OF THE MARCH RAN FORWARD IN GROUPS TO MENACE

THE WAITING RIOT POLICE. TELEVISION NEWS REPORTED 11/2 THAT ON ONE OCCASION RIOT POLICE RESPONDED WITH TEAR GAS. THIS WAS THE ONLY VIOLENT INCIDENT INVOLVING RIOT POLICE WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE MARCH, BUT IT DID SERVE TO DIMINISH THE NUMBER OF MARCHERS WHO, AFTER A TWO AND A HALF HOUR WALK THROUGH TOWN, FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE CEMETERY. THE INTERNMENT WAS REPORTEDLY RELATIVELY BRIEF, AND NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED AS MARCHERS LEFT THE CEMETERY.

8. COMMENT: THE MARCH INCLUDED A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE LEFT AND CENTER, AND LABOR LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE BOARD ARE INTERPRETING THE FENASTRAS ATTACK AS ONE AGAINST THE TRADE UNIONS, ALTHOUGH MANY ADMIT FENASTRAS WAS LESS A UNION THAN AN FMLN POLITICAL FORUM. THE FAILURE OF THE GENERAL STRIKE, AND THE RATHER WEAK TURNOUT FOR THE MARCH REFLECTS A GENERAL WARINESS BOTH OF THE LEFT-WING ORGANIZATIONS AND OF THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION, WHICH LEAVES MANY PEOPLE THINKING THEY'D BE BETTER OFF AT HOME.

DIETERICH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN