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ACTION ARA-01**RELEASE IN FULL**INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 INR-05 SS-01 CIAE-00 EB-01  
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 LAB-04  
TRSE-00 PM-01 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 INRE-00 USIE-00  
SP-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-03 P-02 T-01  
/040 W

-----312107 111246Z /41

R 102224Z OCT 90  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2091  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ELAB, PTER, ES  
SUBJECT: FENASTRAS PROMISES NEW EVIDENCE ON  
- 10/31/89 BOMBING - DOESN'T DELIVER

1. DURING SEP. 5 RECEPTION FOR NEW LABOFF, FENASTRAS LEADER GERARDO DIAZ AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COOPERATING IN RENEWED INVESTIGATION INTO THE 10/31/89 UNSOLVED BOMBING OF FENASTRAS HEADQUARTERS. DIAZ TOLD EMBASSY ASSISTANT LEGAL OFFICER (LO) THAT FENASTRAS HAD NEW EVIDENCE AND WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION PERFORMED. DIAZ ASKED FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN GETTING THINGS (RE)STARTED.

2. LO AND LABOFF MET WITH DIAZ AND OTHER FENASTRAS LEADERS SEP. 19 TO DISCUSS THE ALLEGED NEW EVIDENCE AND OFFER OUR COOPERATION. DIAZ OFFERED NO DETAILS ON THE EVIDENCE AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY WITNESSES

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WHO MIGHT COME FORTH COULD NOT BE PROTECTED. LO EXPLAINED THE POSITIVE ROLE THE SIU HAS PLAYED IN OTHER CASES AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO CONDUCT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION GIVEN SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. DIAZ THEN ASKED IF THE INVESTIGATION COULD INVOLVE SOME INTERNATIONAL OR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION. EMBOFFS OFFERED TO SUPPORT A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION BY THE SIU, PROVIDED FENASTRAS HAD NEW INFORMATION THAT COULD LEAD SOMEWHERE; EMBOFFS INDICATED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION WAS PROBABLY

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

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UNREALISTIC AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, AND STRESSED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN EXPLOITATION OF THE BOMBING FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

3. EMBOFFS NOTED DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY FENASTRAS' LACK OF COOPERATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BOMBING BUT OFFERED TO SEEK SIU ASSISTANCE IF FENASTRAS HAD ANY SOLID LEADS. DIAZ SAID THE FENASTRAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESENTING EVIDENCE TO THE SIU OR THE EMBASSY AND PROMISED TO GET BACK TO US. LABOFF ASKED DIAZ OCT. 5 IF FENASTRAS WAS READY TO PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE AND DIAZ EVADED THE QUESTION IN FAVOR OF DECRYING THE GENERAL REPRESSION FACED BY OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS.

4. COMMENT: FENASTRAS IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE BOMBING IN THE NEWS BUT UNWILLING OR MORE LIKELY UNABLE TO PRODUCE THE MYSTERIOUS EVIDENCE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE. DIAZ NAIVELY APPEARS NOT TO REALIZE THAT THE NOVEMBER 89 OFFENSIVE AND THE JESUIT CASE ECLIPSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOMBING AND IS CLINGING TO PRESIDENT CRISTIANI'S PRE-OFFENSIVE PROPOSAL OF AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION. SINCE LAST  
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NOVEMBER THE EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE FENASTRAS TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH THEGOES' EFFORT TO INVESTIGATE THE BOMBING. IN VIEW OF FENASTRAS' OBVIOUS POLICY OF POLITICIZING THE ISSUE, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THEIR FAILURE TO PRODUCE, WHEN BACKED INTO A CORNER, ANY EVIDENCE IN THE CASEE.

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