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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00  
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02  
SNP-01 FAIM-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-02 P-02  
T-01 /056 W

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O 052247Z JUN 89  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9762  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
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 07163

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH 5)

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD YOULE

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, ES  
SUBJECT: FMLN CHARGES THAT CRISTIANI'S DIALOGUE  
- PROPOSAL IS A SURRENDER DEMAND

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 7013 B) SAN SALVADOR 6952

1. SUMMARY: (C) A JUNE 4 FMLN COMMUNIQUE REBUFFED  
THE DIALOGUE OFFER MADE BY PRESIDENT CRISTIANI IN HIS  
JUNE 1 INAUGURAL ADDRESS (REFTEL A). THE GUERRILLAS  
LABELLED THE PROPOSAL "CONFRONTATIONAL" AND CLAIMED  
THAT IT CALLED FOR THEIR SURRENDER. THE COMMUNIQUE,  
WHICH WAS SIGNED BY FMLN COMMANDERS SHAFIK HANDAL,  
JOAQUIN VILLALOBOS, FRANCISCO HOVEL, SALVADOR SANCHEZ  
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CEREN, AND EDUARDO SANCHO, SAID THAT CRISTIANI'S  
PROPOSAL FOR DIALOGUE WOULD BLOCK THE OPPORTUNITY FOR  
A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FMLN HIGH COMMAND HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE  
CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CRISTIANI'S JUNE 1 OFFER IN HIS  
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS  
AND THE GOES. THE FMLN CALLED ON OPPOSITION PARTIES  
TO MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO CREATE A CLIMATE FOR  
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, AND TO WORK FOR A

SOLUTION TO THE WAR.  
CRISTIANI'S CONFRONTATIONAL PROPOSAL  
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3. (U) IN THE FIRST PART OF ITS STATEMENT, THE FMLN SAID THAT CRISTIANI'S PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND POLITICAL/ECONOMIC INTERESTS WITHIN ARENA, BUT WAS IN FACT CONFRONTATIONAL TOWARDS THE GUERRILLAS. THE GUERRILLAS SAID THAT THE PLAN WOULD CONTINUE ARENA'S POLICY OF ECONOMIC "EXCLUSION" AND POLITICAL REPRESSION AND WOULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR.

D'AUBUISSON'S CABINET LEVEL HEGEMONY  
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4. (U) THE FMLN THEN CHARACTERIZED CRISTIANI'S CABINET AS "REPRESSIVE" AND "FASCIST". IT STATED THAT ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON AND HIS SUPPORTERS, SPECIFICALLY RETIRED COLONELS SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, CARLOS HUMBERTO FIGUEROA, RAMON GONZALEZ SUVILLAGA, AS WELL AS VICE PRESIDENT FRANCISCO "CHICO" MERINO  
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HAD TAKEN "HEGEMONIC CONTROL" OF THE CABINET, AND THAT THEY HAD THE MILITARY AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO CONDUCT DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES. THE GUERRILLAS ALSO BLAMED ARENA FOR HARASSING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND OTHER LEFTIST LEADERS AND PROHIBITING WOUNDED GUERRILLAS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. THEY PREDICTED THAT MERINO, AS INTERIOR MINISTER, WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN LEGALIZING DEATH SQUADS.

A CALL TO SURRENDER  
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5. (U) THE FMLN FURTHER OBSERVED THAT CRISTIANI'S PEACE PROPOSAL WAS NOT SUBSTANTIVE AND THAT IT WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A CALL FOR THEIR SURRENDER. THE GUERRILLAS STATED THAT WHILE CRISTIANI MADE A TOKEN GESTURE FOR DIALOGUE, HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE NECESSITY FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN HIS ADDRESS AND IGNORED PAST ADVANCES MADE BY THE FMLN AND THE GOES. THE FMLN ACCUSED THE NEW PRESIDENT OF ONLY WANTING TO CREATE THE IMAGE OF A DIALOGUE, BUT THAT HE WILL USE THE CONSTITUTION TO BLOCK THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO TURN IT INTO REALISTIC NEGOTIATIONS. THEY CHARGED THAT CRISTIANI ONLY WANTS A "DIALOGUE" TO IMPROVE HIS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

FMLN CALLS FOR COMPROMISE  
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6. (U) IN CONCLUSION, THE FMLN CALLED ON THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW THE GOES AND THE FMLN TO GO TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE SAID THAT CRISTIANI'S STATEMENTS WERE A "REJECTION" OF NEGOTIATION AND DIALOGUE, SPECIFICALLY THE FMLN'S MOST RECENT  
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PROPOSAL OF MAY 29 (REFTEL B). THE GUERRILLAS ADDED THAT THE GOES NEEDED TO MAKE SERIOUS COMMITMENTS TO SHOW THAT IT HAS THE POLITICAL WILL TO TALK.

7. COMMENT (C): WHILE THE FMLN AVOIDED AN OUTRIGHT OPEN REJECTION OF CRISTIANI'S DIALOGUE OFFER, THE EFFECT IS TO TURN DOWN FOR NOW GOES-FMLN DISCUSSIONS. BY DOING SO, THE FMLN PROBABLY SEEKS TO PRESSURE THE GOES TO ADDRESS THE FMLN PROPOSAL. THE FMLN ALSO PROBABLY WANTS TO CONTINUE TO PAINT THE NEW GOES AS A "DEATH SQUAD" GOVERNMENT, A CAMPAIGN THAT WOULD BE UNDERMINED BY MEETING WITH THE GOES. BY  
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LAUDING THE SO-CALLED CONCESSIONS IN THEIR LAST PROPOSAL, THE FMLN IS SEEKING TO GIVE INTERNATIONAL CRITICS OF THE GOES ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO PRESSURE THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTO MAKING MORE SERIOUS

CONCESSIONS. WE BELIEVE THE FMLN WILL FIND IT HARD TO DEFEND ITS DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF DIALOGUE.

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