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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01  
NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06 L-03 PM-09 PA-02  
MCT-02 SAL-01 A-02 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /077 W  
-----223124 050707Z /22

R 041340Z NOV 81  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6438  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN/INTAFF

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 8383

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES  
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW OCTOBER 24-30

1. SUMMARY: VIOLENCE WEEK IN EL SALVADOR RETURNED TO THE RELATIVELY LOWER LEVELS THE COUNTRY HAD EXPERIENCED OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. REPORTED POLITICAL MURDERS DROPPED TO 71 FROM LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 103. THE DEPARTMENT OF AHUACHAPAN MADE THE NEWS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS WITH THREE REPORTED POLITICAL MURDERS. VIOLENT INCIDENTS CONTINUED AT AN AVERAGE PACE WITH 27 REPORTED FOR THE WEEK. END OF SUMMARY.

2. DEATHS AND DISSAPEARANCES: AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 71 PERSONS FELL VICTIM TO POLITICAL MURDER LAST WEEK. THIS WAS A RETURN TO THE LOWER NUMBERS OF DEAD THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THE PRESS ATTRIBUTED ONE MURDER TO THE SECURITY FORCES, THREE TO RIGHT WING DEATH SQUADS, AND 13 TO LEFTIST TERRORIST. THE REMAINING 54 PERSONS MET DEATH AT THE HANDS  
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OF UNKNOWN ASSASINS. THE FATE AND ABDUCTORS OF THE 12 PERSONS WHOSE DISSAPERANCE WAS RECORDED ARE ALSO UNKNOWN. FURTHER, THE DEATHS IN ACTION OF 11 SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED BY THE SALVADORAN HIGH COMMAND OR IN NEWS ARTICLES. THE BODIES OF 71 VICTIMS OF POLITICAL MURDER WERE DISCOVERED IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

SAN SALVADOR (CITY) 10  
SAN SALVADOR(DEPARTMENT) 14  
SANTA ANA 19

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
Alan Flanigan, Senior  
Reviewer

USULUTAN	4
AHUACHAPAN	3
SAN MIGUEL	5
LA UNION	1
LA LIBERTAD	10
LA PAZ	1
SAN VICENTE	2
SONSONATE	1
CUSCATLAN	1
TOTAL	71

A BREAKDOWN OF THE VICTIMS BY AGE GROUPINGS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. AGE 17 AND UNDER	1
B. AGES 18-25	16
C. AGES 26-35	19
D. AGES 36-50	8
E. AGES 51 AND UP	10
F. UNKNOWN	17
TOTAL	71

A BREAKDOWN OF THE DEAD ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

4 CAMPESINOS	1 CIVIL DEFENSE GUARD
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1 DRESSMAKER	3 PATRULLEROS
3 SHOEMAKERS	2 TEACHERS
2 STUDENTS	2 EMPLOYEES
4 FARMERS	1 STREET VENDOR
7 MERCHANTS	2 FARM WORKERS
1 TAILOR	2 DRIVERS
1 RETIRED COLONEL	35 UNKNOWN
71 TOTAL	

3. INCIDENTS:

A.--ON 10/23 A BOMB DAMAGED A BANK IN USULUTAN. WOUNDING SEVERAL PATRONS.

B.-- ON 10/24 IN USULUTAN GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY ATTEMPTED A LAND

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-----251724 060022Z /71

R 041340Z NOV 81  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
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AND WATER ATTACK AGAINST THE RAILROAD BRIDGE NORTH OF THE DESTROYED "PUENTE DE ORO". THE ATTACK WAS REPULSED AND LOSSES WERE UNREPORTED.

C.--ON 10/25 A FIREFIGHT TOOK PLACE NEAR CANTON LAS DELICIAS, SAN SALVADOR. CASUALTIES WERE UNREPORTED.

D.--ON 10/25 IN SANTA ANA GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A MILITARY PATROL. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES.

E.--ON 10/25 IN CONCHAGUA, LA UNION A FIREFIGHT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND GUERRILLA FORCES LEFT AT LEAST ONE CUSTOM POLICEMAN DEAD.

F.--ON 10/25 GUERRILLAS HARRASSED MILITARY POST IN SAN MARCOS LEMPA, USULUTAN AND SAN NICOLAS LEMPA, SAN VICENTE GUARDING THE LEMPA RAILROAD BRIDGE.

G.--ON 10/27 GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE NATIONAL GUARD POST IN PERQUIN, MORAZAN, ONE PASSER-BY WAS WOUNDED.

H.--ON 10/27 IN SANTA ANA TERRORIST ATTACKED A MILITARY PATROL ONE SUBVERSIVE DIED IN THE ENCOUNTER AND TWO SOLDIERS AND 6 YEAR OLD GIRL WERE WOUNDED.

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I. ON 10/27 IN SAN SALVADOR A BOMB DESTROYED A PHARMACY AND DAMAGED OTHER NEARBY BUSINESSES.

J.--ON 10/27 GUERRILLAS STAGED A 20 MINUTE ATTACK ON THE TOWN OF VILLA VICTORIA, CABANAS. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED, THOUGH THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY SHOUTERS: "THE GUERRILLA IS WINNING THE REVOLUTION IN THE COUNTRY".

K.--ON 10/27 IN THE CAPITAL SUBURB OF MEJICANOS A PRIVATE HOME WAS DAMAGED BY A BOMB.

L.--ON 10/27 NEAR NUEVO TEPETITAN, SAN VICENTE GUERRILLAS BURNED MACHINERY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT OF THE "ACAHUAPA" COFFEE PROCESSING PLANT.

M.-- ON 10/27 NEAR VERAPAZ, SAN VICENTE GUERRILLAS WOUNDED THE "MOLINEROS" COFFEE PROCESSING PLANT TO THE GROUND.

N.--ON 10/27 NEAR NUEVO TEPETITAN, SAN VICENTE GUERRILLAS FELLED POWER AND TELEPHONE POLES ACROSS THE HIWHWAY.

O.--ON 10/27 NEAR CANTON SAN JACINTO, SAN VICENTE GUERRILLAS AND PATRULLEROS EXCAHNGED FIRE. ONE PATRULLERO DIED IN THE EXCAHNGE.

P.--ON 10/27 GUERRILLAS MADE FURTHER PROBING ATTACKS ON THE DEFENSES OF THE RIO LEMPA RAILROAD BRIDGE IN USULUTAN. THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY USED MEGAPHONES TO ANNOUNCE THEIR INTENTION NOT TO REST UNTIL THE BRIDGE WAS DESTROYED.

Q.--ON 10/27 HEAVY COMBAT WAS REPORTED ON THE SLOPES OF THE SAN VICENTE VOLCANO. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES.

R.--ON 10/28 NEAR SUCHITOTO, CUSCATLAN GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A MILITARY CONVOY LEAVING ONE SOLDIER DEAD AND TWO WOUNDED.

S.--ON 10/28 DEFENDING TROOPS REPULSED AN ATTACK ON THE "FIFTH OF NOVEMBER" DAM. IN CHALATENANGO.

T.--ON 10/29 A MILITARY CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED BETWEEN CINQUREA AND TEJUTEPEQUE, CABANAS. THREE SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND 13 WOUNDED.

U. ON 10/29 IN SANTA ANA IN QUICK SUCCESSION SHOT OUT THE TIRES OF A NUMBER OF VEHICLES, BURNED A GAS STATION, AND PROVOKED A FIREFIGHT WITH SECURITY FORCES. NO CASUALTIES  
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WERE REPORTED.

V.--ON 10/29 NEAR EL TRANSITO, USULUTAN GUERRILLAS ATTACKED AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION. TWO SOLDIERS DIED IN THE ATTACK.

W.--ON 10/30 NEAR SUCHITOTO, CUSCATLAN, GUERRILLAS BLEW UP A BRIDGE LEADING TO THE TOWN.

X.--ON 10/30 NEAR CANTON LAS TABLAS, LA LIBERTAD GUERRILLAS AND TROOPS ENGAGED IN COMBAT. TWO GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED, ONE OF WHOM WAS CARRYING LARGE SUMS OF MEXICAN PESOS AND GUATEMALAN QUETZALES.

Y.--ON 10/30 NEAR THE RIO SUMPUL, CHALATENANGO A BATTLE BETWEEN GUERRILAS AND GOVERMENT FORCES LEFT UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS DEAD.

Z.--ON 10/30 NEAR VILLA DOLORES, CABANAS GUERRILLAS FIRED UPON A BUS, KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING 11 OTHERS.

A.A--ON 10/30 NEAR GUALOCOTI, MORAZAN GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A CIVIL DEFENSE PATROL. THERE WERE REPORT OF CASUALTIES.

4. CREDIT AND BLAME: RADIO VENCEREMOS TOOK NO CREDIT FOR ANY OF THE TERRORIST INCIDENTS REPORTED LAST WEEK, BUT DID CLAIM THESE ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

--A 10/22 ATTACK ON TOWN OF SAN FRANCISCO JAVIER, USULUTAN.

--A 10/23 AMBUSH OF A MILITARY CONVOY NEAR EL PARAISO, USULUTAN.

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