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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES, JUNE 23, 1989

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES:

EL SALVADOR: ARREST OF UNION LEADER JOSE TOMAS MAZARIEGO

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO SALVADORAN LABOR LEADER JOSE TOMAS MAZARIEGO'S CHARGES THAT HE WAS TORTURED WHILE HELD BY THE SALVADORAN TREASURY POLICE.

A: WE TAKE CHARGES OF TORTURE SERIOUSLY, AND ARE PREPARED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR. WE ARE SEEKING TO MEET WITH MR. MAZARIEGO TO DISCUSS HIS CASE WITH HIM. INSISTENCE ON OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS IS A CORNERSTONE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR EL SALVADORAN DEMOCRACY. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THIS GOAL.

LATIN AMERICA: ARONSON'S MOSCOW TALKS

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A READ-OUT ON ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON'S MEETINGS IN MOSCOW?

A: MR. ARONSON AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON JUNE 20 AND 21
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FOR DISCUSSIONS ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. THESE TALKS WERE A FOLLOW UP TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WHICH THE SECRETARY HAS HAD WITH SOVIET LEADERS. THEY COVERED A RANGE OF ISSUES, AND WERE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THEY DISCUSSED WAYS IN WHICH BOTH SIDES COULD ADVANCE THE ESQUIPULAS AND SAN SALVADOR AGREEMENTS. THESE TALKS ARE PART OF OUR ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

EL SALVADOR: SHOOTING OF NUN

Q: WHAT IS THE LATEST ON THE NUN WHO WAS SHOT IN EL SALVADOR?

A: SISTER MARY MACKEY, WHO IS APPROXIMATELY 72 YEARS OLD AND A SISTER OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD, WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS ON THE ROAD FROM SAN SALVADOR TO LA LIBERTAD ON JUNE 21.

SHE WAS TRAVELLING IN A TRUCK WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN NUN WHEN SHE WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN ANOTHER TRUCK. HER CONDITION IS SERIOUS BUT STABLE, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHE MAY BE EVACUATED TO THE U.S. AS EARLY AS TODAY.

A CONSULAR OFFICER AND AMBASSADOR WALKER HAVE VISITED SISTER MACKEY IN THE HOSPITAL IN SALVADOR. WE ARE WORKING WITH SISTER MACKEY'S SUPERIORS IN EL SALVADOR ON THE

EVACUATION.

SHE WORKED AT AN HOME FOR WAR ORPHANS IN ZARAGOZA, OUTSIDE SAN SALVADOR. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE ORPHANAGE DESCRIBED THE INSTITUTION AS APOLITICAL, AND CONFIRMED THAT IT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED THREATS.

THE NATIONAL POLICE ARE CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CRIME.

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WE DEPLORE VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR, WHATEVER THE SOURCE, AND HOPE THAT THE POLICE INVESTIGATION WILL YIELD RESULTS QUICKLY.

NICARAGUA: EXPROPRIATION OF COFFEE GROWERS' PROPERTY

Q: WHAT REACTION DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE TO THE EXPROPRIATION BY THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT OF FARMS BELONGING TO THREE PROMINENT COFFEE GROWERS?

A: THE DECISION OF THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT WAS CLEARLY TAKEN FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THE OFFICIAL WHO ANNOUNCED THE EXPROPRIATION DENOUNCED THE INDIVIDUAL LAND-OWNERS FOR HAVING HAD CONTACT WITH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE U.S. EMBASSY. AT A TIME WHEN NICARAGUA IS SUPPOSEDLY PREPARING FOR FREE ELECTIONS, INTIMIDATION TACTICS SUCH AS THIS ARE A STEP BACKWARDS TOWARDS FURTHER REPRESSION OF REGIME OPPONENTS. THEY ARE INCONSISTENT WITH COMMITMENTS TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA AT THE ESQUIPULAS AND TESORO BEACH SUMMITS.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO SANDINISTA CHARGES THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS USING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY TO DISCREDIT THE NICARAGUAN ELECTORAL PROCESS?

A: THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY (NED) IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, NOT PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH SUPPORTS DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING IN NICARAGUA. I SUGGEST YOU CONTACT NED DIRECTLY FOR INFORMATION ON ANY PROGRAMS THEY ARE PLANNING FOR NICARAGUA.

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Q: WHAT ABOUT CHARGES THAT NED IS A FRONT FOR THE CIA?

A: THESE ABSURD, RIDICULOUS CHARGES ARE MEANT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE REAL DISCONTENT OF MANY NICARAGUANS WITH THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT.

PANAMA: STATUS OF OAS MISSION

Q: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE OAS COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES?

A: WE HOPE THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE REGIME (INCLUDING THE PANAMANIAN DEFENSE FORCES) AND THE OPPOSITION COULD LEAD TO A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PANAMA'S INTERNAL CRISIS. WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT PANAMANIAN WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A TRANSFER OF POWER TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS.

WE SUPPORT THE OAS MISSION'S OBJECTIVES AND THE NEED FOR RAPID PROGRESS TO RETURN THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA.

AS SECRETARY BAKER HAS SAID "THERE CAN BE NO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PANAMA AS LONG AS NORIEGA REMAINS IN POWER".

2. SUMMARY OF DEPT. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 23, 1989:

THE BRIEFER WAS MARGARET TUTWILER.

EL SALVADOR

SPOKESWOMAN USED PREPARED GUIDANCE ON SHOOTING OF NUN.

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