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MRN: [89 SAN SALVADOR 460](#)
Date/DTG: Jan 12, 1989 / 120000Z Jan 89
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, ES, US, (RODRIGUEZ, ABRAHAM), (HERNANDEZ, MARIA JULIA),
Reference: n/a
Subject: USG RESPONSE TO DETERIORATION IN HUMAN - RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 SSE-01 P-02 T-01
/036 W

-----130365 130004Z /61

O 122315Z JAN 89
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6150

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 00460

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: USG RESPONSE TO DETERIORATION IN HUMAN
- RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

REF: A) 12/29 TELCON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMS
- AND DCM; B) 88 SAN SALVADOR 16895)
- C) SAN SALVADOR 00224

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING FOR DEPARTMENT COMMENT IS THE EMBASSY'S ACTION PLAN TO STIMULATE GOES MOVEMENT TOWARDS JUSTICE IN THE LA CEBADILLA CASE. THE PLAN AIMS AT ACHIEVING A CREDIBLE INVESTIGATION AND POLITICAL/JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS. WE WISH TO BRING THE INVESTIGATORY PHASE TO A RAPID RESOLUTION, AT WHICH POINT WE WILL EVALUATE WHETHER

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WE BELIEVE THE INVESTIGATION TO BE CREDIBLE. THE NEXT PHASE WOULD BE TO PRESS THE CASE THROUGH THE COURTS. IF THE INVESTIGATION IS NOT CREDIBLE, WE WILL SEEK A POLITICAL RESOLUTION.

3. BEGIN ACTION PLAN:

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WEEK 1

ACTION: POL/AID/USIS/MILGP/DAO

(A) SPEAK TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS USING THE APPROVED TALKING POINTS:

- ARCHBISHOP RIVERA DAMAS - AMBASSADOR/POL
- PRESIDENT DUARTE - AMBASSADOR (DONE 1/7)
- MINISTER OF DEFENSE - AMBASSADOR/DAO/MILGP
- CHIEF, JOINT GENERAL STAFF - AMBASSADOR/MILGP/DAO
- ATTORNEY GENERAL - AMBASSADOR/AID (DONE 1/6)
- PRESIDENT, COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATIONS - AMBASSADOR/AID
- HEAD, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT - POL/AID
- UNOC - POL
- ABRAHAM RODRIGUEZ - DCM/POL
- MINISTER OF JUSTICE - DCM/POL
- MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY - DCM/POL
- HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - POL
- MINISTER OF PLANNING - AID

ACTION: USIS/POL

(A) ARRANGE INTERVIEWS ON MORNING TALK SHOWS WITH MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ AND BENJAMIN CESTONI ON STATE OF INVESTIGATION OF THE LA CEBADILLA INCIDENT.

(B) INSERT ARTICLES IN SEMANA MAGAZINE ON STATE OF INVESTIGATION

(C) BACKGROUND INTERVIEW BY USIS WITH DOUG FARAH ELICITING ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST ON STATE OF

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INVESTIGATION EXPRESSING CONCERN AND INDICATING POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION UPON OPENING OF SESSION JANUARY 22. (DONE BY AMBASSADOR JANUARY 12.)

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(D) ASK ARCHBISHOP TO REFER TO LA CEBADILLA AND SLOWNESS OF INVESTIGATION IN SUNDAY HOMILY.

ACTION: AMBASSADOR WITH DCM/POL/AID

(A) IN MEETINGS WITH THE FULL COMMISSION ON INVESTIGATIONS AND COL. LOPEZ Y LOPEZ EXPRESS CONCERN OVER PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATION, ASKING WHETHER ANY ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED AND THAT THE SIU AGREE TO MEET EVERY MONDAY WITH EMBOFF TO DISCUSS STATE OF INVESTIGATION. NOTE POTENTIAL FOR CONDITIONING OF MAP FUNDS.

(B) MEET WITH MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR IMPARTIAL ACTIVITIES TUTELA LEGAL MAY UNDERTAKE IN SUPPORT OF JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION.

(C) TRAVEL TO SAN SEBASTIAN TO MEET WITH NEW JUDGE AND EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR HIS INVESTIGATION. ARRANGE APPROPRIATE PRESS COVERAGE.

(D) MEET IN SAN SEBASTIAN WITH FAMILIES OF VICTIMS. TO BE ARRANGED BY (AND PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY) TUTELA LEGAL.

(E) PRESS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL GARCIA FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. BRIEF HIM ON YOUR MEETING WITH THE

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03
PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 SSE-01 P-02 T-01
/036 W

-----130404 130004Z /61

O 122315Z JAN 89
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6151

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 00460

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: USG RESPONSE TO DETERIORATION IN HUMAN

SAN SEBASTIAN JUDGE, FAMILIES, TUTELA LEGAL, AND FIFTH BDE.

(F) MEET WITH MOD VIDES CASANOVA TO INFORM HIM THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE MILITARY VERSION OF EVENTS AND TO INSIST THAT THERE BE AN IMPARTIAL AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION. INFORM HIM THAT CONGRESS RETURNS TO SESSION JANUARY 22 AND WE EXPECT AN CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION.

(G) CONTINUE TO PRESS PRESIDENT DUARTE OVER INTEGRITY OF MAP FUNDS FOR FY89 AND TO BRIEF HIM ON YOUR VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS

(H) CALL ON PRESIDENT MAGANA TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER STATUS OF INVESTIGATION. (NOTE: MAGANA IS VIEWED BY MANY MILITARY AS THEIR GODFATHER. HE IS CALLED UPON FOR ADVICE FREQUENTLY BY A WIDE RANGE OF OFFICERS).

WEEK 2

ACTION: MILGP

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(A) ALL MILGP OPATTS OR DAO GIVEN COPY OF TV INTERVIEW TAPE ON LA CEBADILLA, COPIES OF HOMILY AND COPIES OF SEMANA AND WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES AND ASKED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH ALL BRIGADE COMMANDERS EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT FAILURE TO ACT WILL RESULT IN CONGRESSIONAL CONDITIONING/SUSPENSION OF SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF FY89 MAP ASSISTANCE. (NOTE: THIS IS INTENDED TO SENSITIZE EACH OF THE BRIGADES AGAINST A REPETITION OF THIS KIND OF EVENT, I.E., IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGE. IF IT GETS THE COLONELS TALKING ABOUT THE PROGRESS IN THE CASE, SO MUCH THE BETTER).

WEEK 3

ACTION: POL

(A) ORGANIZE CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING TRIP INTO LA CEBADILLA INCIDENT. ELICIT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST FROM MODERATE STAFFERS WHO CAN TAKE HOLD OF THE ISSUE IN A NON-POLEMICAL DEBATE. INFORM ESAF OF IMMINENT

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ARRIVAL OF CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS.

WEEK 4

ACTION: AMBASSADOR

(A) MEET AGAIN WITH COL. LOPEZ Y LOPEZ TO BE BRIEFED
ON THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION. WALKER

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