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F-2024-18997 F-2020-06199324 B-000028 UNCLASSIFIED//CLASSIFIED 4/15/2026 3/31/2026

DECAPTIONED

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MRN: [83 SAN SALVADOR 8675](#)
Date/DTG: Sep 23, 1983 / 230000Z Sep 83
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE; GUATEMALA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: PTER, ES, US, (MARTINEZ ARGUERA, AMILCAR)
Reference: n/a
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL KIDNAPPED

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06
HA-08 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-08 PA-01 MCT-02 OMB-01
ANAE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 /102 W
-----016770 231911Z /52

P 231901Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9429
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIA WASHDC 1540

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USIA FOR AR AND P/CENTAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, ES
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL KIDNAPPED

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. DR. AMILCAR MARTINEZ ARGUERA, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS KIDNAPPED AS HE WAS LEAVING HIS HOME AT ABOUT 0700 ON 9/20 BY FOUR ARMED MEN. LOW RANKING MRE EMPLOYEE ASKED ECONOFF TO OBTAIN EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SAFE RELEASE OF DR. MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN IN THE EMBASSY. AS

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DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HE IS THE THIRD RANKING MRE OFFICIAL. HE WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED WITH LEFTIST ACTIVITIES DURING THE LATE 1940S, INCLUDING SOME UNION ORGANIZING ACTIVITY. HE LEFT EL SALVADOR IN 1950

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(PROBABLY UNDER OFFICIAL PRESSURE) TO STUDY AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS WHERE HE EVENTUALLY RECEIVED HIS PHD. HE JOINED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1949 AS CULTURAL ATTACHE AT THE SALVADORAN EMBASSY IN LONDON. HE ALSO SERVED IN BONN AS ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND FIRST SECRETARY. HE RETURNED TO EL SALVADOR IN THE MID-60S AND WORKED AT VARIOUS TIMES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (INSAFI), THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. HE WAS REPUTEDLY AN ACTIVIST MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MRN), ACCORDING TO ONE FILE DATED 1980. ALTHOUGH HE HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR HIS COUNTRY OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, HIS LEFTIST ASSOCIATIONS HAVEN'T BEEN FORGOTTEN IN THIS SMALL COUNTRY, AND SOME SALVADORANS STILL BELIEVE HIM A LEFTIST.

3. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED TREASURY POLICE, NATIONAL POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD TO REGISTER U.S. CONCERN AND DETERMINE FURTHER INFORMATION IF AVAILABLE. COL. LOPEZ NUILA OF NATIONAL POLICE INFORMED POLOFF THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVEZ MENA HAD ALREADY CONTACTED POLICIA. THE PN IS NOW CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION; THE GUARDIA ALSO HAD NO INFORMATION TO OFFER. WE WILL STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SECURITY FORCES.

4. ON 9/20 RADIO YSKL MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

"DR. AMILCAR MARTINEZ ARGUERA, 57 YEARS OLD, WAS KIDNAPPED THIS MORNING AT THE EXIT OF COLONIA LIBERTAD IN SAN SALVADOR. DR. MARTINEZ IS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PROFESSOR OF MACROECONOMICS AND CENTRAL

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AMERICAN INTEGRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE LAW FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR, WHERE HE WAS A COLLEAGUE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THAT DEPARTMENT, DR. HUGH CARILLO CARRERA, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED EXACTLY ONE WEEK AGO, BRINGING TO THREE THE NUMBER OF HIGH RANKING PROFESSORS AND DIRECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED OR

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KIDNAPPED IN THE LAST 8 DAYS.

DR. MARTINEZ RECENTLY HAD A BRAIN OPERATION IN HOUSTON. HIS FAMILY ASKS THE KIDNAPPERS TO ADMINISTER TO HIM THE NECESSARY MEDICINE FOR HIS POST-OPERATIVE TREATMENT."

5. PRESIDENT MAGANA TOLD AMBASSADOR AND DCM AT BREAKFAST SEPT. 21 THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SECURITY FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EITHER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DR. MARTINEZ OR OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR HUGO CARILLO (SEPTEL). HE BELIEVES A SMALL GROUP OF 4 OR 5 PEOPLE MAY BE IMPLICATED IN BOTH AND IS ASKING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO TRACK THEM DOWN.

6. ON 9/22, RADIO YSKL BROADCAST A STATEMENT BY THE "MAXIMILIANO HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ ANTICOMMUNIST BRIGADE" CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPING AND STATING THAT MARTINEZ IS BEING TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON AGAINST THE FATHERLAND. THE BRIGADA RELEASE OUTLINES MARTINEZ' ALLEGED LEFTIST CONNECTIONS, WARNING THAT THEY PLAN TO EXTERMINATE ALL "BAD" SALVADORANS AND FOREIGNERS NO MATTER WHAT THEIR JOB OR RANK. BLEAKLEY

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