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ACTION SIL-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-09 L-03
AMAD-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 STR-18
INRE-00 OPM-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02
T-01 /064 W

-----224275 080634Z /25
R 072149Z SEP 89

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2051
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 11670

DEPT ALSO FOR S/IL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: PRO-FMLN FENASTRAS LEADERS DENOUNCE
SEPTEMBER 5 ATTACK

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 2119 ✓ B) SAN SALVADOR 2467 M

1. (C) SUMMARY: LEADERS OF THE FEDERACION NACIONAL
SINDICAL DE TRABAJADORES SALVADORENOS (FENASTRAS)
DENOUNCED THE SEPTEMBER 5 ATTACK AGAINST THEIR
OFFICES, CITING THE INCIDENT AS ONLY THE LATEST
EXAMPLE OF HARASSMENT AGAINST THE PRO-FMLN LABOR
ORGANIZATION. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH
POLOFF, FENASTRAS LEADERS CITED DETENTIONS OF
FENASTRAS MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES, SURVEILLANCE OF
OFFICE PREMISES AND PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS BY SECURITY
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FORCES LINKING FENASTRAS LEADERS TO THE FMLN AS OTHER

9/20/83
Department of State IS/FPC/CDR El Salvador SF 140
Declassified under EO 12356 (X) in full: () in part:
Portions withheld: classified (), date of declassification ()
Law enforcement (); privacy (); statutory ();
not relevant to El Salvador ().

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PSC 811 137454 CP 11 UP 16

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EXAMPLES OF GOES HARASSMENT OF THE PRO-FMLN LABOR ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS ISSUED BY FENASTRAS, A PASSING VEHICLE LAUNCHED A ROCKET AT THE FEDERATION'S OFFICES IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 5. TOTAL DAMAGES TO FENASTRAS OFFICES, ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENTS, REACHED 10,000 COLONES (ROUGHLY USDOL 1600). NEIGHBORING OFFICES WERE ALSO DAMAGED, ACCORDING TO FENASTRAS. IN ITS STATEMENT, FENASTRAS CLAIMS THE BOMBING IS ANOTHER INCIDENT IN A CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT AGAINST ORGANIZATIONS "STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH ROADS TO PEACE AND AN ENDURING JUSTICE." AS IN AN EARLIER INCIDENT, (SEE BELOW), FENASTRAS EMPLOYEES DENIED NATIONAL POLICE ACCESS TO THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK, IMPEDING ANY INVESTIGATION, ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS.

3. (C) ON AUGUST 28 POLOFF VISITED THE OFFICES IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS BY FENASTRAS LEADERS FEBE VELASQUEZ (SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANZATIONS) AND GERARDO HENRIQUEZ (SECRETARY GENERAL). DURING THAT MEETING THE TWO LEADERS DETAILED EXAMPLES OF WHAT THEY FELT WAS A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST FENASTRAS BY GOES LEADERS.

4. (C) HENRIQUEZ OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT BY A US EMBASSSY OFFICIAL TO FENASTRAS IN HIS MEMDRY. FENASTRAS, FORMED IN 1972, HE STATED, NOW HAD 15 LEGALLY REGISTERED MEMBER UNIONS AND A TOTAL OF 30,000 AFFILIATES. THE UMBRELLA WORKERS ORGANIZATION, WHICH
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IS A MEMBER OF THE LEFTIST NATIONAL UNION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (UNTS), HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO CONSISTENT PERSECUTION BY RIGHTIST AND GOVERNMENT FORCES, HENRIQUEZ ALLEGED.

5. (C) ON THE 22 OF FEBRUARY, VELASQUEZ CONTINUED, FENASTRAS OFFICES WERE BOMBED (EMBASSY COMMENT: FENASTRAS REFUSED TO ALLOW POLICE OR GOVERNMENT SECURITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER THE PREMISES AFTER THIS INCIDENT. BECAUSE NO INVESTIGATION COULD TAKE PLACE,

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NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. THERE WAS ALSO AN ATTACK ON FENASTRAS OFFICES ON FEBRUARY 10, 1989. END COMMENT.)

6. (C) EARLIER ON AUGUST 28, VELASQUEZ CONTINUED, POLICE HAD SURROUNDED THE OFFICES IN AN EFFORT TO CAPTURE ONE OF THE "COMPANEROS" -- BUT HE MANAGED TO EVADE THEM. ROUTINELY, HENRIQUEZ CONTINUED, THREE OR FOUR POLICE OFFICIALS ARE STATIONED NEAR THE BUILDING TO NOTE WHO ENTERS/EXITS FENASTRAS OFFICES.

7. (C) THE GOVERNMENT, HENRIQUEZ AND VELASQUEZ AFFIRMED, WAS ALSO ENGAGED IN A SYSTEMATIC PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST FENASTRAS. FENASTRAS WAS OFTEN LINKED IN THE PAPERS WITH THE FMLN, WHEN IN FACT, THEY STATED, THERE WAS NO DIRECT LINK. FEBE VELASQUEZ WAS ALSO OFTEN NAMED AS AN FMLN MEMBER - SHE NOTED THAT RECENTLY THE SAME HAD HAPPENED TO UNOC LEADER AMANDA VILLATORO, AND STATED THAT WITH THIS GOVERNMENT, ANYONE IN THE OPPOSITION WAS AUTOMATICALLY A COMMUNIST AND TERRORIST.

8. (C) VELASQUEZ AND HENRIQUEZ NOTED THEIR CONCERN OVER A SERIES OF FENASTRAS MEMBERS OR OFFICIALS WHO,

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THEY SAID, HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY OFFICIAL FORCES
BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTACTS WITH FENASTRAS. THESE
INCLUDE FRANCISCO MASSIN AND SARA CRISTINA CHANCHON.
CHANCHON WAS THE CHARWOMAN FOR FENASTRAS, AND WAS
ALLEGEDLY DETAINED WITH MASSIN BY AIR FORCE TROOPS -
VELASQUEZ SAYS SHE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THEIR
DETENTION FROM A PASSING VEHICLE. (NOTE: ACCORDING
TO THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE AIR
FORCE CLAIMS THE TWO ARE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
TREASURY POLICE - THE TREASURY POLICE CLAIM TO KNOW
NOTHING ABOUT THE CASES). FENASTRAS' EFFORTS TO
DISCOVER THEIR WHEREABOUTS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL TO
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DATE. IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, VELASQUEZ CONTINUED,
12 FENASTRAS MEMBERS HAD BEEN DETAINED, HELD FOR FIVE

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OR SIX DAYS, THEN RELEASED.

9. (C) REGARDING THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, VELASQUEZ SAID THAT IN GENERAL THE MINISTRY DOES LITTLE TO HELP SETTLE STRIKES - IT HAS NO ENFORCEMENT POWER AND CANNOT FORCE MANAGEMENT TO BARGAIN WITH WORKERS. NEW UNIONS, SHE CONTINUED, HAVE BEGAN TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE MINISTRY'S REGISTRATION PROCEDURES BECAUSE THOSE PROCEDURES HAVE BECOME SO LENGTHY AND RED-TAPE RIDDEN.

10. (C) COMMENT: FENASTRAS AND OTHER AFFILIATES OF THE PRO-FMLN NATIONAL UNION OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (UNTS) HAVE RECENTLY ADOPTED NEW TACTICS, INCLUDING A REDUCTION IN REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC, WHICH HAVE WON THE GREATER CREDIBILITY WITH THEIR DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPARTS. THIS MAY DISPOSE THESE GROUPS TO VIEW THE ATTACK AS ONE ON ORGANIZED LABOR, RATHER THAN AS AN ATTACK ON A LEFTIST ORGANIZATION WITH TIES TO THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.

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