



Department of S.

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LDG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	
PM-10	PA-01	CCO-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	
SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	P-02	
T-01	/056 W						

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3273

C O N F I D E N T I A L (SAN SALVADOR 14306

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, ES
SUBJECT: CRISTIANI CALLS IN AMBASSADOR ON OCT. 31
ATTACKS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 14305 2/03.

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
 2. AMBASSADOR, DCM AND LABATT WERE INVITED TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FRIDAY PM TO DISCUSS FENASTRAS BOMBING (SEE REFTEL) WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY AND OTHERS.
 3. SURROUNDED BY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SEMI-DESTROYED BUILDING AND MUTILATED BODIES, THE PRESIDENT WAS CONCERNED BOTH WITH INVESTIGATING THE BOMBING AND PREPARING HIMSELF FOR AN EMERGENCY NATIONWIDE TELEVISION BROADCAST IN WHICH HE WOULD CALL FOR CALM AND ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE PROCESS ON TRACK. HE WAS VERY FRUSTRATED THAT UNION MEMBERS WOULD NOT PERMIT POLICE ACCESS TO THE BUILDING, THEREBY FRUSTRATING ANY ATTEMPT
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Department of State JS/PPC/OTIC El Salvador SP Date 9/21/63
 Declassified under EO 12356 () in part;
 portions withheld: classified (); deliberative ();
 persons withheld: privacy (), statutory ();
 law enforcement ();
 not relevant to El Salvador ().

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TO LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION.

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4. WE ALSO VIEWED AN EXTREMELY GRAPHIC VIDEO TAPE PROCURED FROM TWO LOCAL TV CHANNELS WHICH IN GENERAL SUPPORTS THE NOTION THAT THE BOMB WAS PLACED INSIDE THE PROPERTY. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI REQUESTED HELP FROM U.S. EXPERTS IN DETERMINING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE BOMBING. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE VIDEO TAPE AND PHOTOS, ALTHOUGH DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS COULD NOT BE REACHED WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE BUILDING.

5. ALTHOUGH MOST IF NOT ALL THE SALVADORANS SEEMED CONVINCED THAT THE FMLN HAD DONE THE BOMBING IN ATTEMPT TO CREATE MARTYRS FOR A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT AT GENERAL INSURRECTION, THEY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO ANNOUNCE ANY CONCLUSION BEFORE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. (UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE TRAGEDY, THE SALVADORANS SEEMED ALMOST TO WILL A BELIEF THAT THE FMLN HAD DONE IT, DESPITE THE LACK OF MUCH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE. WE WERE RELIEVED THAT THEY AGREED TO WITHHOLD PUBLIC JUDGMENT.)

6. AS WE LEFT THE PRESIDENT WAS BEGINNING TO PREPARE FOR HIS TELEVISION APPEARANCE. WE BELIEVE HIS REMARKS BOTH CAN AND WILL HAVE A CALMING AFFECT ON A POPULATION PREPARING FOR THURSDAY'S DAY OF THE DEAD HOLIDAY. THE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY WILL NOT BE LOST ON UNION LEADERS AS THEY PREPARE FOR HIGH POLITICAL IMPACT FUNERALS. AS EVIDENT FROM THE VIDEOTAPE WE SAW THE FENASTRAS LEADERSHIP HAS EVERY INTENTION OF MAKING MAXIMUM USE OF THIS TRAGEDY. WE ARE IN FOR DIFFICULT DAYS.

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