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STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, CR/WH, CRES/ARO, IAD/CAS-3, ICS/HTO, LA-3, NICAG/LA, NIO/LA, OALA/ES-2, OALA/MC, OALA/MC/CA, OALA/MC/DC, OALA/MC/R-2, OALA/MCMIL, OALA/ME/LA, OALA/ME/MB, OALA/POLA, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OER, OGI-2, OGI/R-2, OPA/II, RF, TF-E,

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RR RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU2944
RR RUEHC
DE RUESAL #0497 0212220
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 212125Z JAN 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7513
INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 138
RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1780
RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 163
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY GUA 5717
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 987
RUEHWP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8670
RUESJO/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2208
RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 8482
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0497

SECRET

E. O. 12065: 1/21/88 (BROWNFIELD, WILLIAM J.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES, ELAB
SUBJECT: (C) CLAT AND EL SALVADOR

REF: A) CARACAS 0444 B) SAN SALVADOR 0227

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AGREES WITH THE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CLAT EXPRESSED IN REF A. OBVIOUSLY, US GOVERNMENT AND CLAT VIEWS DO NOT COINCIDE ON MANY LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES. THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN EL SALVADOR, HOWEVER. THE RECENT VISIT OF CLAT SECGEN EMILIO MESPERO TO EL SALVADOR (REF B) WAS POSITIVE. MESPERO DECLARED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF THE SALVADORAN ELECTORAL PROCESS AND OPPOSED TO THE ARMED-CONFLICT. THE ORGANIZATION'S TRADITION OF

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State Dept. review completed

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ANTAGONIS TOWARDS US LATIN AMERICAN POLICY MAKES CLAT A SIGNIFICANT ALLY ON THE SALVADORAN ISSUE. CRITICS MAY ACCUSE CLAT OF FAVORITISM TOWARDS THE DUARTE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. THEY CANNOT ACCUSE IT OF SUBSERVIENCE TO US FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. THIS CONCIDENCE OF VIEWS ON THE SALVADORAN CRISIS MAY PRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RECONCILIATION WHICH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR AND THE AFL-CIO COULD EXPLOIT.

3. WITHIN THE LIMITED CONTEXT OF EL SALVADOR, CLAT, ORIT, AND THE AFL-CIO (THROUGH ITS AIFLD OPERATION) HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A RECONCILIATION. THE CLAT-SUPPORTED CENTRAL DE TRABAJADORES SALVADORENOS (CTS) AND THE ORIT-SUPPORTED FESINCONSTANS FEDERATION ARE BOTH FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR-CAMPESINO PRESSURE GROUP UNIDAD POPULAR DEMOCRATICA (UPD). THE LEADERS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS OFTEN SHARE THE SAME PODIUM, PREPARE JOINT STATEMENTS, AND COORDINATE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS, IN TURN, RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM AIFLD. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SUGGEST THAT THE CTS OR FESINCONSTANS ARE POWERFUL FORCES IN EL SALVADOR AT THIS TIME. THE STRENGTH OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN BADLY SAPPED BY THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIES. MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH ORGANIZATIONS IS DOWN. NEVERTHELESS, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CLAT, ORIT, AND THE AFL-CIO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER ON SALVADORAN ISSUES. THIS MAY NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS CAN FIND COMMON GROUND IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS AS WELL. IT DOES SEEM SENSIBLE THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO BUILD UPON THE COMMON GROUND THAT NOW EXISTS. WE ENDORSE EMBASSY CARACAS' SUGGESTIONS THAT LABATT CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH CLAT ON SALVADORAN POLICY AND THAT THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR COOPERATE WITH THE JANUARY CLAT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

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