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STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, CR/LA, 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-3, OGI-2, OGI/R-2, OPA/II, PPB/LCEU, RF, TF-E

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RR RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
UTS2300  
RR RUEHC  
DE RUESAL #0227 0121700  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 121510Z JAN 82  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7376  
INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 136  
RUESRS/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1757  
RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 132  
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5688  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 962  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8615  
RUESJO/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 2172  
RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 8451  
RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN/ INTAFF  
BT

*Handwritten initials and signatures*

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0227

E. O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES

SUBJECT: SENIOR CLAT OFFICIALS SPEAK OUT ON EL SALVADOR

1. THE SECRETARY GENERAL (EMILION MESPERO) AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (EDUARDO GARCIA) OF THE CONFEDERACION LATINO-AMERICANA DE TRABAJADORES (CLAT) ACCOMPANIED VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAMBRANO ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO SAN SALVADOR. ON 1/7/82, THE CLAT OFFICIALS OFFERED A PRESS CONFERENCE. THEIR STATEMENTS WERE EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE OF THE SALVADORAN ELECTORAL PROCESS. SOME OF THE MORE MORE SIGNIFICANT REMARKS:

--LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS WHO CLAIM TO DEFEND THE INTERESTS OF THE SALVADORAN WORKING CLASS SHOULD ABANDON THE ARMED

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State Dept. review completed

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~~CONFLICT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.~~

~~ELECTIONS OFFER SALVADORAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS A MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER WORKER INTERESTS WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC CONTEXT.~~

~~CLAT SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF SALVADORAN CAMPESINOS TO ORGANIZE THEIR OWN LABOR UNIONS.~~

~~THE FRANCO-MEXICAN DECLARATION DID NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT SALVADORAN REALITY.~~

~~CLAT WOULD LIKE TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVERS TO EL SALVADOR AND HOPES THAT OTHER INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT BE INVITED TO SEND OBSERVERS AS WELL.~~

2. COMMENT. IT IS PLEASANT TO FIND A SUBJECT ON WHICH CLAT AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THOROUGHLY AGREE. CLAT DOES NOT HAVE GREAT STRENGTH IN EL SALVADOR. ITS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE CTS, HAS AN IMPRESSIVE LEADER (JOSE LUIS GRANDE PRESA), BUT VERY FEW MEMBERS. ORGANIZED LABOR IN GENERAL IS VERY WEAK IN EL SALVADOR. CLAT SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS LIKELY TO HAVE GREATER IMPACT ON GOVERNMENTS OUTSIDE OF EL SALVADOR. INVITING ELECTION OBSERVERS FROM CLAT AND THE WCL IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. WE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE GOES AND THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COUNCIL. GIVEN THE UNSYMPATHETIC VIEW TOWARDS THE GOES SO FAR EVIDENCED BY THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE ICFTU MIGHT BETTER BE LEFT UNINVITED.

HINTON

END OF MESSAGE

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