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UCL 84-4905

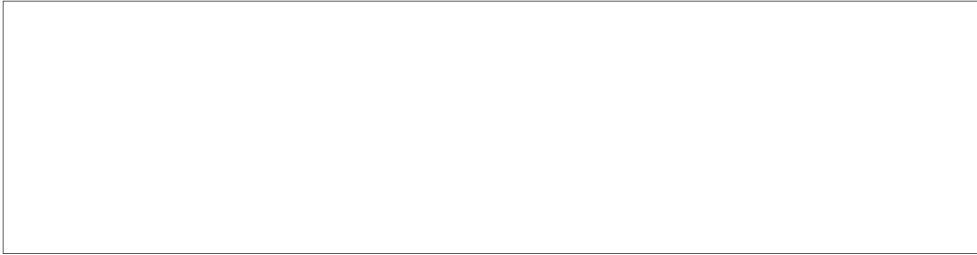
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE O993
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 14795

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OREP, ASEC, PTER, ES

SUBJ: ~~CONTINUED RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL TO EL SALVADOR~~

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 12807; B) SAN SALVADOR 13802;
-- C) SAN SALVADOR 14287; D) SAN SALVADOR 14401

1. SECURITY CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY DEPARTMENT ADVISORY AGAINST USG TRAVEL HERE. FOUR RECENT EXAMPLES SERVE TO ILLUSTRATE THE TENUOUS SECURITY SITUATION AND TO REINFORCE THE BASIS FOR THE TRAVEL ADVISORY.

2. ON OCTOBER 26, ONE OF OUR EMBASSY GUARD SUPERVISORS, SALVADORAN NATIONAL RAUL MELENDEZ AQUINO, WAS ASSASSINATED LESS THAN SIX BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. THE ASSASSINS REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE FROM THE FPL AND REFERRED TO MELENDEZ AS AN "EMBASSY DOG". (REF A)

3. ANOTHER SALVADORAN EMPLOYED BY THE EMBASSY GUARD FORCE, SANTIAGO CARCAMO SEGOVIA, WAS SHOT DEAD ON NOVEMBER 17 WHILE WALKING ALONG A STREET FOUR BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. THE CLARA ELIZABETH RAMIREZ FRONT, AN FPL SPLINTER GROUP, HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER. (REF B)

4. THE THIRD INCIDENT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 29, WHEN UNKNOWN PARTIES FIRED UPON THE EMBASSY ITSELF, FORCEFULLY REMINDING US THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY AND ITS EMPLOYEES CONTINUE TO BE TARGETED. (REF C)

5. IN THE LAST INCIDENT, ON DECEMBER 1, A DAO VEHICLE, DRIVEN BY A DAO MEMBER, WAS FIRED UPON SIX TIMES WHILE DRIVING IN DOWNTOWN EL SALVADOR. (REF D)

6. WE REITERATE, THEREFORE, THAT EMBASSY POLICY IS TO ADVISE AGAINST ALL UNNECESSARY USG TRAVEL TO EL SALVADOR EXCEPT FOR THOSE VISITS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND INDISPENSABLE TO THE MISSION. ANY VISIT WHOSE PURPOSES CAN BE SERVED BY EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES AND TELEPHONE CALLS BY DEFINITION FALLS INTO THE "UNNECESSARY" CATEGORY.

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PAGE 002
TOR: 102100Z DEC 84

NC 5916706

7. POST REALIZES THAT SOME VISITS, ESPECIALLY CODELS,
WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO DISCOURAGE BUT
APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS IN THIS
REGARD.

PASSAGE
END OF MESSAGE

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