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EZ1:

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EZ2:

DEPT PLS PASS DOL/ILAB
 DEPT FOR T.J. CLEAR, INR/GI
 USIA FOR CENTAM
 E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, ES, US
 <> SUBJECT: <><>CISPES-UNTS<><> CONFERENCE
 REF: SAN SALVADOR 14790
 1. (C) SUMMARY

<> THE <><>COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR<><>
 <> (<><>CISPES<><>) -- A U.S. BASED FMLN SUPPORT GROUP -- AND THE
 NATIONAL UNITY OF SALVADORAN WORKERS (UNTS) -- AN FMLN
 LABOR FRONT --HELD A CONFERENCE "IN SEARCH OF PEACE" IN
 <> SAN SALVADOR NOVEMBER 22-23. <><>CISPES<><> AND UNTS APPARENTLY
 FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO GAIN WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN
 THE U.S. AIMED AT INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE FMLN-FDR
 AND AT CUTTING OFF U.S. AID TO EL SALVADOR. ABOUT 170
 AMERICANS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE, AND A FEW
 JOINED IN A NOVEMBER 22 UNTS DEMONSTRATION WHICH ATTRACT-
 ED NOT MORE THAN 4,000 MARCHERS. THE SALVADORAN CATHOLIC
 CHURCH REFUSED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CONFERENCE,

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AND ITS ABSENCE WAS CRITICIZED. THE CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF THREE EVENTS IN WHICH U.S. FMLN-SUPPORT GROUPS ARE PARTICIPATING. THE FIRST WAS THE NOVEMBER 13-15 LABOR FEDERATION FENASTRAS CONGRESS WHICH ONLY TWO AMERICANS ATTENDED. THE NEXT WILL BE A MEDICAL AIRLIFT BY THE GROUP MEDICAL AID TO EL SALVADOR (MAES). A THIRTY MEMBER MAES DELEGATION -- ABSENT OF ANY CELEBRITIES -- WILL ARRIVE IN EL SALVADOR NOVEMBER 29.
END SUMMARY.

2. (U) 4,000 MARCH IN UNTS DEMONSTRATION

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- <> THE NOVEMBER 22-23 <><>CISPES-UNTS<><> "CONFERENCE IN SEARCH OF PEACE" BEGAN WITH A MARCH OF NOT MORE THAN 4,000 ADULTS AND CHILDREN -- ALMOST ALL OF WHOM WERE CAMPESINOS BUSED IN FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE -- FROM DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR THROUGH SOME OF THE AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE, TO THE CASA PRESIDENCIAL. THE MARCH'S THEMES WERE:
- "PRESIDENT DUARTE HAS STOLEN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE;
 - INTERNATIONAL AID SHOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE EVERY FAMILY WITH A HOME; AND,
 - THE PRICE OF AGRICULTURE INPUTS IS TOO HIGH."
- THE NEWSPAPER DIARIO DE HOY CRITICIZED THE FEW AMERICANS WHO MARCHED FOR INTERFERING IN EL SALVADOR'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. MOST OF THE <><>CISPES<><> DELEGATION WENT BY BUS TO THE HOGAR DEL NINO ORPHANAGE, WHERE THEY MET THE UNTS DEMONSTRATORS AND LEFT A DONATION.
3. (U) THE CONFERENCE

ABOUT 170 AMERICANS AND A FEW EUROPEANS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE HELD IN THE JESUIT-RUN CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY'S (UCA) AUDITORIUM. UNTS TURNED OUT 350-400 PEOPLE FOR THE CONFERENCE. UNTS LEADERS WHO SAT AT THE HEAD TABLE ON THE AUDITORIUM'S STAGE WERE MARCO TULLIO LIMA (PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES COACES AND A MEMBER OF THE FPL FACTION OF THE FMLN), JULIO CESAR PORTILLO (SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TEACHERS UNION ANDES 21 DE JUNIO), FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ (SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LABOR FEDERATION FENASTRAS AND A MEMBER OF THE FARN FACTION OF THE FMLN), AND ADRIAN ESQUINO LISCO (FORMER LEADER OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION ANIS). AMONG AMERICANS SEATED ON THE STAGE WERE SUSAN CEPEDA (NEWSPAPERS QUOTED HER AS STATING REV. JESSE JACKSON HAD SENT HER), DAVID CORTRIGHT (SANE REPRESENTATIVE), MR. WATKINS (MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMAN-ELECT MIKE ESPEY STAFF MEMBER), TONY ROBERT BENNET (CHICAGO CONGRESSMAN CHARLES HAYES STAFF MEMBER), AND MICHAEL URQUHART (DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AFGE LOCAL PRESIDENT). CEPEDA SAID THAT CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN DON EDWARDS' STAFF MEMBER YISIDRO GOMEZ WAS ALSO AT THE CONFERENCE.

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4. (U) CATHOLIC CHURCH'S ABSENCE CRITICIZED

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DEPT PLS PASS DOL/ILAB

DEPT FOR T.J. CLEAR, INR/GI

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IN THEIR ADDRESSES TO THE CONFERENCE, SALVADORAN LUTHERAN BISHOP MEDARDO GOMEZ AND REV. LUIS SERRANO OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CRITICIZED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. GOMEZ ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "IT IS THE PEOPLE, NOT THE CHURCH LEADERS WHO REPRESENT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH." UCA RECTOR IGNACIO ELLACURIA, A JESUIT, ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 23, AND, ACCORDING TO AN UNTS LEADER, "SAID THE SAME OLD THING." LABATT SPOTTED MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ FROM THE ARCHBISHOPRIC'S TUTELA LEGAL OFFICE IN THE AUDIENCE NOVEMBER 22.

5. (U) "VOICE OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH"

TWO AMCIT CATHOLIC PRIESTS, REV. WILLIAM LEIMINGER FROM SAN JOSE, CA. AND REV. WILLIAM O'DONNELL, WERE INTRODUCED AS THE "VOICE OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH." IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CONFERENCE, LEIMINGER SAID THAT "IF THE CHURCH IS NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION IT IS PART OF THE PROBLEM." O'DONNELL TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT "REVELATION WITHOUT REVOLUTION IS RHETORIC AND REVOLUTION WITHOUT REVELATION IS TYRANNY."

6. (U) AFGE

MICHAEL URQUHART OF AFGE SAID HE SPOKE IN THE NAME OF AFGE PRESIDENT KENNETH BLAYLOCK AND AFGE'S 750,000 MEMBERS. HE TOLD THE CROWD THAT AIFLD DID NOT REPRESENT THE ENTIRE U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT. HE SAID THAT TRIPS TO THE U.S. BY SALVADORAN LABOR MEMBERS HAD SHOWN AMERICANS "FIRST HAND THAT THERE WAS TORTURE, MURDER, AND ARRESTS OF SALVADORAN TRADE UNION MEMBERS."

7. (U) PSD

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) PRESIDENT MARIO ROLDAN TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT "ELECTIONS DO NOT MAKE DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRACY MAKES ELECTIONS." ROLDAN STATED THAT THE FMLN WAS JUSTIFIED IN STARTING THE WAR, BUT NOT IN CONTINUING IT. HE ASKED THE FMLN, WHICH HE CALLED A UNITED FORCE FOR THE PEOPLE, TO ENTER INTO DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE PEOPLE TO END THE WAR.

8. (U) PCN

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NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY (PCN) SECRETARY GENERAL HUGO CARRILLO SAID THAT THE "HEGEMONIC POWERS MUST KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF OF EL SALVADOR BEFORE THERE CAN BE PEACE." HE SAID THAT THE GOES ECONOMIC PACKAGE OF JANUARY HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY THE USG. CARRILLO CALLED GOES HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCES INSUFFICIENT. HE CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A "THIRD POLITICAL FORCE" IN EL SALVADOR TO SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.

9. (U) UNTS COMPLAINS OF "REPRESSION"

UNTS SAID THAT IT WAS SUFFERING UNDER REPRESSION. AS "EXAMPLES" IT CITED THE U.S. EMBASSY "DENIAL" OF A VISA TO JULIO CESAR PORTILLO (NOTE, PORTILLO REFUSED TO REQUEST A WAIVER), AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM DOHERTY'S "ACCUSATION THAT FOUR UPD LEADERS WERE FMLN GUERRILLAS," AND ARRESTS AND "TORTURE" OF UNION MEMBERS.

10. (U) NEWSPAPER ADS

TWENTY-FOUR UNION MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE PLACED NEWSPAPER ADS STATING THEY WERE GOING TO TELL AMERICAN UNION MEMBERS OF AIFLD'S "DISTRUSTFUL <> ACTIVITIES." <><>CISPES<><> PLACED ANOTHER AD IT CALLED "A MILLION VOICES FOR PEACE." THE NAMES OF ABOUT 100 GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WERE ATTACHED TO THE AD WHICH CALLED FOR AN END TO ALL U.S. MILITARY AND WAR-RELATED C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 SAN SALVADOR 15158 DEPT PLS PASS DOL/ILAB DEPT FOR T.J. CLEAR, INR/GI USIA FOR CENTAM E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: ELAB, PHUM, ES, US <> SUBJECT: <><>CISPES-UNTS<><> CONFERENCE ECONOMIC AID TO EL SALVADOR. THE GOES PLACED <> A SERIES OF ADS WHICH QUOTED <><>CISPES<><>' STATED OBJECTIVES OF SUPPORTING THE FMLN, SANDINISTA REVOLUTION, AND GUATEMALAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT URNG. THE GOES <> POINTED OUT THAT THE <><>CISPES<><> DELEGATION HAD COME TO EL SALVADOR TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE FMLN-FDR, NOT EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS. AFL-CIO REGIONAL LEADERS WHO HAVE VISITED EL SALVADOR PLACED ADS REITERATING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR GROUP UNOC.

11. (C) BRIEFING AT EMBASSY AND UCS

CHARGE PROVIDED EIGHT AMCIT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING ALL THREE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS) A BRIEFING NOVEMBER 24. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY EVIDENCE OF FMLN INDISCRIMINATE MININGS, REV. WILLIAM LEIMINGER, WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT CATHOLICS, SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR MIGHT HAVE

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DRIVEN HIM ALSO TO PLANT MINES. AFGE REP URQUHART
 CRITICIZED AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN EL SALVADOR
 (URQUHART, WHO TESTIFIED AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION
 IN THE MAY 14, 1986 HEARINGS ON THE "AIR WAR"
 IN EL SALVADOR IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE WASHINGTON
 AREA LABOR COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE
 CARIBBEAN). DEMOCRATIC CAMPESINO UNION (UCS)
 SECRETARY GENERAL SAMUEL MALDONADO ALSO GAVE AMCIT
 CONFERENCE MEMBERS A BRIEFING NOVEMBER 24. MALDONADO
 SAID THE AMCITS WERE INTERESTED IN UCS' POSITION ON
 DIALOGUE AND IN HOW MANY MEMBERS UNOC HAD.

<> 12. (U) <><>CISPES<><> EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY FOR WORKERS --
 STIFFS HOTEL EMPLOYEES

<> THE MAJORITY OF THE <><>CISPES<><> DELEGATION STAYED AT THE
 CAMINO REAL HOTEL. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LABATT,
 CAMINO REAL WAITRESSES AND A BARTENDER TOLD LABATT
 THAT MOST OF THE DELEGATION DID NOT TIP.

13. (C) COMMENT

<> THIS IS THE SECOND OF THREE EVENTS <><>CISPES<><> HAS WORKED
 ON TO INCREASE PUBLICITY FOR FORCES OPPOSED TO U.S.
 POLICY IN EL SALVADOR AND TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR THE
 FMLN-FDR. THE FIRST EVENT WAS THE NOVEMBER 13-15
 CONGRESS BY THE FARN-CONNECTED LABOR FEDERATION
 FENASTRAS. ONLY TWO AMCITS ATTENDED THAT CONFERENCE.

<> <><>CISPES<><>' GOAL OF ACHIEVING WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE
 U.S. DURING THE <><>CISPES-UNTS<><> CONFERENCE APPEARS AT
 THIS END TO HAVE BEEN A FAILURE. U.S. JOURNALISTS
 COVERED THE NOVEMBER 22 MARCH, BUT THERE WERE NO
 INCIDENTS AND THE TURN-OUT OF ONLY 4,000 MARCHERS
 MADE THE MARCH UNNEWSWORTHY. ONE U.S. JOURNALIST
 STATIONED IN EL SALVADOR SHOWED UP FOR THE CONFERENCE,
 BUT LEFT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. ANOTHER U.S. JOURNALIST,
 PROBABLY EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF MOST JOURNALISTS, DID
 NOT ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE "IT LOOKED LIKE IT
 WAS GOING TO BE BORING." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE

<> <><>CISPES<><> DELEGATION BROUGHT A COUPLE OF CAMERA CREWS
 FROM LOCAL TELEVISION STATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND
 OTHER CALIFORNIA CITIES. THOUGH THE PUBLICITY ANGLE
 APPEARS TO HAVE FLOPPED, WE FEAR THAT <><>CISPES<><> MAY HAVE
 GIVEN UNTS FINANCIAL SUPPORT. DLOUHY

END OF MESSAGE

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TEXT

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