

UNCLAS 6F

*** BEGIN MESSAGE 33 ***

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WARNING: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

SERIAL: PA1711045189

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: OPPOSITION SAYS GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR PRIEST KILLINGS

SOURCE: PANAMA CITY ACAN IN SPANISH 0141 17 NOV 89

TEXT:

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR, 16 NOV (ACAN-EFE) -- THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT (MPC) AND THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR) TODAY CONDEMNED THE ASSASSINATION OF SIX JESUITS IN SAN SALVADOR, AND HELD THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CRIME.

THE MPC REQUESTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED IN SAN SALVADOR TO MAKE "GOOD OFFICES BEFORE THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES" SO THEY "ADOPT REALISTIC POSITIONS AND AGREE TO AN IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATION OF A CEASE-FIRE WITH THE GUERRILLAS."

THE SOCIAL CHRISTIANS STRESSED THAT THE BLOODSHED OF CIVILIANS MUST CEASE AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO BRING PEACE TO EL SALVADOR.

THE MNR SAID THE ASSASSINATION OF THE JESUITS -- FIVE SPANIARDS AND A SALVADORAN -- "SEEKS TO SILENCE AND SUBDUED WITH TERROR THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY," WHOSE RECTOR WAS IGNACIO ELLACURIA. "THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND ITS MOST OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS ARE THE OBJECT OF ACCUSATIONS AND VERBAL AND PHYSICAL AGGRESSION BY ULTRA-RIGHTIST SECTORS," THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MNR NOTED.

THE MNR IS "CONCERNED AND SURPRISED BY THE IRRESPONSIBLE AND SUSPICIOUS CONDUCT OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES' HIGH COMMAND OF HOLDING THE GUERRILLAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS, WHICH GIVES CARTE BLANCHE TO THE DEATH SQUADS AND TO THE MASS TERROR OF 1980, 1981, AND 1982."

THE HIGHEST MNR AND MPC LEADERS, GUILLERMO UNGO AND RUBEN ZANORA RESPECTIVELY, ~~SOUGHT REFUGE AND ARE AT THE VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN EMBASSIES ACCREDITED IN SAN SALVADOR.~~

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES CONDEMNED THE ASSASSINATION OF THE JESUITS. MOREOVER, PRESIDENT ALREDO CRISTIANI SAID THAT IF IT IS PROVEN THAT ARMED FORCES MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME, "THE FULL FORCE OF LAW WILL BE IMPOSED UPON THEM."

SAN SALVADOR RESIDENTS ARE ENDURING THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE DAY OF BLOODY CLASHES WHICH BEGAN WITH THE FARABUNDO MARTI OFFENSIVE ON 11 NOVEMBER.

THE DEATH TOLL IS SOME 1,000 AND THE CONFLICT SEEMS TO INTENSIFY EACH DAY, AS EVIDENCED BY THE CONTINUOUS ARMY ATTACKS ON THE REBELS REDOUBTS.

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