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10R: 162229Z NOV 89

162220Z NOV 89

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1430 HOURS LOCAL TIME

DOI: 16 NOVEMBER 1989

TEXT: A U.S. EMBASSY ARMORED VEHICLE TRAVELING ON THE ROAD FROM ILOPANGO AIR BASE INTO SAN SALVADOR WAS STRUCK BY A RIFLE ROUND WHILE PASSING NEAR THE SOYAPANGO AREA. THE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS RIDING IN THE CAR AND THE CAR'S DRIVER WERE UNHARMED.

2. AT 0030 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 16 NOVEMBER, THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA) RECTOR, IGNACIO ((ELLACURIA)), UCA VICE RECTOR IGNACIO ((MARTIN-BARO)) AND FOUR OTHER PRIESTS WERE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED SUBJECTS AT ELLACURIA'S RESIDENCE NEAR THE UCA CAMPUS. THE COOK AND DAUGHTER WERE ALSO KILLED. THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE RESIDENCE GROUNDS AND IS REPORTING ELLACURIA'S DEATH. THE SALVADORAN SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) IS INVESTIGATING THE CASE. *comment:* INFORMALLY, SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE BLAMED THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT FOR ELLACURIA'S KILLING. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED SUBSEQUENTLY AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.)

3. THE FMLN TOOK OVER THE NATIONAL POLICE DETACHMENT HEADQUARTERS IN CUSCATANCINGO DURING THE NIGHT OF 15 - 16 NOVEMBER; HOWEVER, AS OF 1015 LOCAL TIME ON 16 NOVEMBER, THE POLICE HAD REGAINED CONTROL OF THE BUILDING. THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUOUS GUNFIRE IN THE AREA OF THE NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS

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AND THE TREASURY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR. SEPARATELY,
THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE HAS POSITIONED FOUR 105MM HOWITZERS
NORTH OF THE FIRST BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS TO SUPPORT ESAF ELEMENTS
FIGHTING IN THE NORTHERN SUBURBS OF SAN SALVADOR.

4. DURING FIGHTING IN SOYAPANGO ON THE AFTERNOON OF
15 NOVEMBER, AIR FORCE ELEMENTS SUFFERED EIGHT WOUNDED AND
CONFIRMED 60 INSURGENTS KILLED. AIR FORCE UNITS REENTERED
SOYAPANGO IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 16 NOVEMBER, SUPPORTED
BY AIR FORCE HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS. THE AIR FORCE BELIEVES THAT
INSURGENTS WHO HAD BEEN HOLDING POSITIONS IN URBANIZATION LOS
CONACASTES IN SOYAPANGO HAD MOVED TO COLONIA GUADALUPE. THE
BELLOSO IMMEDIATE REACTION INFANTRY BATTALION IS STILL POSITIONED
NORTH OF THE TOWN, BUT IS NOT ENGAGED IN COMBAT.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS CALLED FOR A TRUCE TO
ALLOW THE RED CROSS AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO
EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM THE CONFLICTIVE AREAS. THERE IS NO
INDICATION THAT A TRUCE WILL BE CALLED.

6. SALVADORAN PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) HAS AGAIN
CONDEMNED CUBAN AND NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO THE FMLN.
CRISTIANI CLASSIFIED THE FMLN ATTACKS AS ACTS OF TERRORISM
AGAINST DEFENSELESS PEOPLE AND STATED THAT IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE
THAT THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN SUPPORT SUCH ACTS. HE HAS AGAIN
CALLED UPON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION TO REMAIN CALM AND TO
CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. ALSO,
COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT OSCAR ((ARIAS)) HAS CONDEMNED THE FMLN
OFFENSIVE AND IS URGING THE FMLN TO GO TO CARACAS ON 20 NOVEMBER
AND TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS BEGUN IN SEPTEMBER.

7. AS OF THE EVENING OF 15 NOVEMBER, AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER
OF INSURGENTS WERE IN A GULLY IN COLONIA LAS MAGNOLIAS IN THE
AYUTUXTEPEQUE/CUSCATANCINGO AREA AND WERE USING THE GULLY AS A
STAGING AREA. THEY APPEARED TO BE ABLE TO COME AND GO FROM THIS
AREA AT WILL; THERE WAS NO COMBAT IN THE AREA.

THE INSURGENTS APPEARED TO BE IN
CONTROL OF CIUDAD DELGADO AS OF LATE 15 NOVEMBER. THE INSURGENTS
SEEMED TO BE ENTERING AND LEAVING CIUDAD DELGADO AT WILL. ALSO,
A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN GREEN CROSS STATED THAT THE INSURGENTS

APPEARED TO BE IN CONTROL IN APOPA, NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR, AS
OF LATE 15 NOVEMBER. INSURGENTS IN APOPA WERE MOUNTING REGULAR
FOOT PATROLS IN THE TOWN.

COMMENT: REPORTS FROM APOPA
SEEM TO CORROBORATE THE ABOVE INFORMATION THAT THE INSURGENTS
ARE IN CONTROL OF APOPA.)

8. ESAF ELEMENTS BATTLING INSURGENTS IN MEJICANOS ARE
REPORTING THAT PROGRESS AGAINST THE INSURGENTS IS SLOW.
CIVILIANS IN MEJICANOS AND OTHER NORTHERN SAN SALVADOR SUBURBS
ARE TRYING TO LEAVE THE AREAS; HOWEVER, THE INSURGENTS ARE NOT
ALLOWING THEM TO LEAVE. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR,
ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST BRIGADE FOUND A CAR FILLED WITH MOLOTOV
COCKTAILS. THE CAR LOOKED LIKE A PRESS CAR.

THE CAR HAD THE LETTERS "T.V." IN ITS WINDOW. MOST
PRESS ELEMENTS IN EL SALVADOR PUT THE LETTERS "T.V." IN THEIR
CAR WINDOWS TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT
AND THE INSURGENTS.

9. ON 16 NOVEMBER, PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY LEADER
"JOAQUIN VILLALOBOS" SPOKE DURING A "RADIO VENCEREMOS" BROADCAST
AND URGED THE INSURGENTS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.