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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: ARA NEWS ITEMS OF FEBRUARY 10, 1984

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 9 T.V. NEWSCASTS AND PROGRAMS:

-- CBS EVENING NEWS --

CENTRAL AMERICA MILITARY BUILDUP: CBS NEWS HAS LEARNED OF A MAJOR PLANNED U.S. MILITARY BUILDUP THIS YEAR OFF CENTRAL AMERICA. U.S. NAVAL OFFICERS TELL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MARTIN THAT TWO CARRIER BATTLE GROUPS WILL ALTERNATE OPERATIONS OFF CENTRAL AMERICA'S EAST COAST AND A THIRD MAY OPERATE OFF THE WEST COAST. ALSO, NAVAL EXERCISES NORMALLY CONDUCTED OFF PUERTO RICO NOW WILL MOVE TO CENTRAL AMERICA. (DAN RATHER)

-- MACNEIL-LEHRER NEWS HOUR --

INTERVIEW OF REUBEN ZAMORA, LEADER OF SALVADORAN REBELS: ZAMORA: PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A PROVISIONAL BROAD GOVERNMENT, A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD HOLD OFFICE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME AND WOULD INCLUDE DIFFERENT FORCES. THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE FIVE TASKS: 1) 3) EMERGENCY PROGRAMS FOR THE PEOPLE; 4) A POLICY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE WHICH WOULD DEVELOP A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.; 5) HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS.

ZAMORA BELIEVED THAT THE LOSSES BY THE SALVADORAN ARMY IS CONVINCING THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION THAT ITS POLICY IS GOING TO LEAD TO EITHER SENDING THE MARINES IN TO EL SALVADOR, OR TO ACCEPT ANOTHER DEFEAT IN THAT COUNTRY. HE BELIEVED THE REAGAN AR2NN

ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO ACCEPT THE NEED OF POLITICAL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AS THE ONLY WAY OUT IN EL SALVADOR.

HIS POSITION ON THE MARCH 25 ELECTIONS IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST THE ELECTION PROCESS. THOSE ELECTIONS ARE ALREADY DEFEATED BECAUSE THEY WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.

2. PRESS SUMMMARY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1984

-- WASHINGTON POST --

EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS/NICARAGUA: FRED HIATT FRONT PAGE ("UNAUTHORIZED SALVADORAN AID ALLEGED") NOTES REP. MICHAEL BARNES (D-MD) CHARGE THAT THE PENTAGON IS PREPARING TO SEND MORE MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR THAN CONGRESS HAS APPROVED. "KNOWLEDGABLE SOURCES SAID THE PLAN CALLS FOR THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO 'DRAW DOWN' WEAPONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WORTH ABOUT \$80 MILLION TO AID THE SALVADORAN ARMY IN ITS WAR AGAINST LEFTIST REBELS. IF CONGRESS APPROVES A \$179 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL 1984 MILITARY AID REQUEST, THE PENTAGON WOULD REPAY ITS RESERVE FUND," HIATT WRITES. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN MICHAEL BURCH, ASKED IF BARNES' REPORT WAS CORRECT, RESPONDED, "NO, NOT AT THIS TIME." ASKED WHETHER THE PENTAGON WAS PLANNING TO ADVANCE THE SALVADORANS MILITARY AID, BURCH DECLINED COMMENT, HIATT SAYS. HE NOTES CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING MILITARY AID ISSUE, WITH SOME CONGRESSMEN ACCUSING THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON A MILITARY RATHER THAN A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL TO PROVIDE MORE MILITARY AID IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALVADORAN ARMY'S MIXED SUCCESS. HIATT ALSO NOTES CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

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YESTERDAY BY SECDEF WEINBERGER, WHO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN HONDURAS. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF BOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST NICARAGUA. BOT; WEINBERGER AND SECSTATE SHULTZ URGED CONGRESS NOT TO APPROVE LEGISLATION THIS WEEK THAT WOULD LINK MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS. "WEINBERGER SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME EVENTS IN EL SALVDOR ARE INEXCUSABLE, CONGRESS SHOULD 'CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE' IN SUPPORTING THE ANTICOMMUNIST GOVERNMENT THERE."

EL SALVADOR: WILLIAM ORNE PAGE 29 FROM MEXICO CITY ("REBELS VOW NOT TO DISRUPT SALVADORAN VOTING IN MARCH" SUBHEAD "FRONT PRESSES FOR COALITION") QUOTES GUILLERMO UNGO, HEAD OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT, AS SAYING GUERRILLA FORCES WILL NOT DISRUPT THE MARCH 25 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. "WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS MILITARILY," UNGO SID. ;IS OPPOSITION COALITION, WHICH INCLUDES THE GUERRILLAS, ALSO REFORMULATED PAST PROPOSALS FOR A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING OFFICIAL AND INSURGENT FORCES, ORME SAYS. SALVADORAN GOVERNMENTS, WITH U.S. SUPPORT, HAVE REJECTED SUCH PROPOSALS IN THE PAST AND ARGUED THAT THE REBELS SHOULD SEEK A ROLE THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS. HE NOTES. "THE REBELS' INITIATIVE, WHICH INCLUDES A PLAN FOR A NEGOTIATED CEASE-FIRE, IS INTENDED TO 'TRANSCEND' THE ELECTIONS, UNGO SAID. AFTER THE VOTING, THE LEFT WILL INVITE THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO A 'DIRECT, UNCONDITIONAL DIALOGUE' CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SUCCESSOR REGIME 'OF BROAD PARTICIPATION, WHERE NO ONE FORCE WILL PREDOMINATE,' HE SAID. THE OPPOSITION RECOGNIZES THAT 'MANY PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO PARTICIPATE' IN THE MARCH BALLOTING BECAUSE VOTING IS OBLIGATORY IN EL SALVADOR, AND THE PROCEEDINGS WILL THEREFORE NOT BE A TARGET OF 'DIRECT MILITARY ATTACKS,' UNGO STATED." IN CONTRAST TO THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HELD IN EL SALVADOR TWO YEARS AGO, THE REBELS WILL NOT SEIZE BUSES OR OTHERWISE BLOCK TRANSPORTATION DURING NEXT MONTH'S VOTING, THE LEADERS INDICATED. "RUBEN ZAMORA OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONT SAID THE VOTING THEORETICALLY COULD TAKE PLACE EVEN IN GUERRILLA-OCCUPIED ZONES, BUT NOTED THAT THE LEFT 'HAS NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST' FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR SUCH COOPERATION.

YET, NOTES ORME, "WHILE THE REBELS PLEDGED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTION, THEY CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THEY WILL NOT ENCOURAGE THE VOTING;. LEFTIST LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGE PRIVATELY THAT THEY SUFFERED POLITICALLY AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACKS ON BUSES AND POLLING PLACES IN THE MARCH 1982 ELECTIONS. BUT THEY CONTINUE TO CONDEMN THE ELECTION PROCESS, REITERATING TODAY THEIR REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ELECTORAL EXERCISE SPONSORED BY THE CURRENT US-BACKED GOVERNMENT." THE GUERRILLAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT THEY PROPOSE WOULD BE TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS. "THE PROPOSED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT... WOULD

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BE RUN BY A THREE- TO FIVE-MEMBER JUNTA ADVISED BY A COUNCIL OF STATE, WITH REPRESENTATION BY THE LABOR MOVEMENT, BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PEASANT GROUPS. ALSO PARTICIPATING WOULD BE OFFICIALS OF THE REGULAR SALVADORAN ARMY, FOLLOWING A 'PURGE' OF THOSE OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR 'GENOCIDE, TORTURE AND POLITICAL CRIME,' ONE SPOKESMAN SAID. A 20-POINT PROGRAM OF 'IMMEDIATE MEASURES' TO BE TAKEN BY THE PROPOSED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDES SUCH STEPS AS THE ABOLITION OF THE 'ANTI- DEMOCRATIC' CONSTITUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR, THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THE PUNISHMENT OF BOTH 'CIVILIAN AND MILITARY' FIGURES FOUND GUILTY OF DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY."

UNGO SAID ALL BUT ONE OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL PARTIES COULD CONTINUE FUNCTIONING UNDER THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. "THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ARENA," HE DECLARED, DEMANDING THE LEGAL DISSOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL PARTY OF RIGHTIST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON. ARENA IS "THE POLITICAL ARM OF THE DEATH SQUADS," THE REBEL FRONT'S STATEMENT SAID. DIPLOMATICALLY, THE DOCUMENT CALLS FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH THE US, AND PLEDGES THAT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT THE PLACING OF MISSILES OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES ON SALVADORAN SOIL, ORME WRITES. "THE LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROGRAM REPRESENTS NO MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM EARLIER POLICY STATEMENTS: 'THIS PROPOSAL ISN'T A POLICY CHANGE,' (SAID ZAMORA), 'BUT RATHER A CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLITICAL POSITION.' LACKING SIGNIFICANT NEW CONCESSIONS OR CONCILIATORY GESTURES TOWARD THE US AND THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, THE POLICY STATEMENT WAS SEEN HERE AS A REFLECTION OF THE GROWING MILITARY CONFIDENCE OF THE REBEL FORCES, WHO ARE SAID TO BE CONVINCED THAT THEY ENJOY INCREASING STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES IN THE COUNTRY."

EL SALVADOR: JACKSON DIEHL PAGE 29 FROM ATIOCOYO ("GUERRILLA ATTACK REOPENS FRONT IN EL SALVADOR") SAYS GUERRILLAS REOPENED A WESTERN WAR FRONT WITH UNEXPECTED STRENGTH AND DEALT A NEW BLOW TO THE GOES FORCES WEDNESDAY BY OVERRUNNING AN ARMY POST AND KILLING 29 SOLDIERS AND CIVIL DEFENSE GUARDS. "MILITARY ANALYSTS SAID THE ATTACK REINFORCED A RECENT TREND OF LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS BY GUERRILLAS OPERATING IN BATTALION-SIZED UNITS AND SEEKING TO INFLICT MAXIMUM DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES IN SINGLE BLOWS."

BRAZIL: THIRD OF FOUR EDITS PAGE 18 ("BRAZILIAN STEEL AND SUBSIDIES") SAYS COMMERCE DEPT.'S UNSURPRISING FINDING THAT BRAZIL HEAVILY SUBSIDIZES THE STEEL IT SELLS TO THE US "CONFRONTS THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WITH AN UNPLEASANT CHOICE -- BUT NOT A DIFFICULT ONE." IF THE PRELIMINARY FINDING IS CONFIRMED, AS IT SURELY WILL BE, US LAW REQUIRES THE ADMINISTRATION TO PUT A DUTY ON IMPORTED STEEL EQUAL TO THE SUBSIDY. "THAT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO DO, BECAUSE BRAZIL IS TRYING DESPERATELY TO PAY OFF ITS ENORMOUS FOREIGN DEBT -- MUCH OF IT TO AMERICAN BANKS -- AND ONE WAY TO DO IT IS TO SELL STEEL IN THE US. PUTTING

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DUTIES ON THE BRAZILIAN STEEL WILL PROBABLY END THE SALES, MAKING BRAZIL'S FINANCIAL TROUBLES THAT MUCH WORSE. THOSE DEBTS ARE DANGEROUS TO THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND AGGRAVATING THE STRAIN ON THE DEBTORS IS A THING THAT NO GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO DO WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION."

BUT THE ALTERNATIVE IS WORSE, SUGGESTS EDIT. AMERICAN STEEL PRODUCERS ARE OFFERING A DEAL, WHEREBY STEEL IMPORTERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A QUOTA OF 15 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN MARKET. "BUT IMPORT QUOTAS WOULD MEAN THAT THE AMERICAN PRODUCERS COULD KEEP RAISING THEIR OWN PRICES WITHOUT RISKING ANY LOSS OF THEIR SHARE OF THE MARKET." WORLDWIDE, THE STEEL INDUSTRY IS GROSSLY OVERBUILT, SAYS EDIT. "THE AMERICAN COMPANIES SEE THEMSELVES THE VICTIMS OF UNFAIR COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN PRODUCERS, FREQUENTLY GOVERNMENT- OWNED, THAT OPERATE WITH HUGE SUBSIDIES TO AVOID LAYING OFF WORKERS; THEIR STEEL IS THEN DUMPED IN THE US AT WHATEVER PRICE IT WILL BRING. WHILE THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT TRUE OF ALL IMPORTED STEEL, IT'S NOT AN UNFAIR DESCRIPTION OF A SUBSTANTIAL FRACTION OF IT. BUT THE ANSWER IS NOT A SYSTEM OF IMPORT QUOTAS THAT PENALIZES SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED IMPORTS EQUALLY. THE PROPER REMEDY IS TO ENFORCE THE LAW THAT PENALIZES SUBSIDIES. THE STEEL INDUSTRY IS ENTITLED TO PROMPT AND EFFICIENT ACTION. THE BRAZILIANS ARE ENTITLED TO MANY KINDS OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FROM THE US, BUT NON-ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING TRADE LAW IS NOT ONE OF THEM."

GRENADA: JOANNE OMANG PAGE 32 ("DOCUMENTS SHOW GRENADA PLANNED WATCH ON STUDENTS") WRITES OF NEWLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS FOUND ON GRENADA. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST DOCUMENTS, RELEASED BY THE STATE DEPT. YESTERDAY, ASSASSINATED PM MAURICE BISHOP'S GOVERNMENT HAD CONTINGENCY PLANS TO MONITOR US MEDICAL STUDENTS ON THE ISLAND OR SABOTAGE THEIR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IN THE EVENT OF A THREAT BY THE US. TELEPHONES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WERE TO BE TAPPED, THE PAPERS SHOW. THE NEW PAPERS ARE THE FOURTH SET OF SUCH DOCUMENTS TO BE RELEASED SINCE THE OCTOBER INVASION.

-- WASHINGTON TIMES --

HAITI: FRANCES MACLEAN PAGE 6 ("HAITI TO HOLD FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS") NOTES THAT HAITI, "WHICH HAS BEEN RULED BY VARYING DEGREES OF DUVALIER DESPOTISM FOR THE LAST 27 YEARS, WILL HOLD ITS FIRST DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SUNDAY." AT STAKE, MACLEAN SAYS, IS THE \$55 MILLION IN FOREIGN AID THE US CONGRESS HAS PROMISED TO WITHHOLD IF THE ELECTIONS ARE MARRED BY CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE. AN ESTIMATED 300 CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING FOR THE 57 SEATS IN THE SINGLE-CHAMBER ASSEMBLY. THERE IS NO DIRECT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT- FOR-LIFE JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, "GENERALLY REGARDED AS LESS REPRESSIVE AND ECONOMICALLY MORE FORWARD LOOKING THAN HIS FATHER, FRANCOIS 'PAPA DOC' DUVALIER, WHOSE NAME HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE BRUTALITY. NO POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE REPRESENTED ON SUNDAY. THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT DENIED A VISA TO GREGOIRE EUGENE, THE EXILED LEADER OF THE HAITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. AND THE SMALL IN-COUNTRY CHRISTIAN

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DEMOCRATS ARE SAID TO BE TOO FRIGHTENED TO RUN THEIR OWN CANDIDATE, SYLVIO CLAUDE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL VIGOROUS INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGNS AROUND THE COUNTRY," MACLEAN NOTES. "OPTIMISTS VIEW THIS AS A STEP FORWARD FOR A COUNTRY WITH AN ADULT LITERACY RATE OF 23 PERCENT AND WHERE INCARCERATION AND BEATING HAS BEEN -- AND PESSIMISTS CLAIM STILL IS -- THE USUAL RESPONSE TO CRITICISM OF THE REGIME."

EL SALVADOR: AP FROM SAN SALVADOR PAGE 6 ("SALVADORAN TROOPS HUNT LEFTISTS WHO KILLED 39") NOTES FIGHTING IN THAT COUNTRY, INCLUDING SEARCH BY ABOUT 1000 GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN THE NORTHWEST FOR GUERRILLAS WHO KILLED 39 SOLDIERS WEDNESDAY. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE 39 HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY THE GUERRILLAS.

PARAGUAY: WIRE SERVICES FROM ASUNCION PAGE 6 ("NAZI HUNTER SEARCHING PARAGUAY FOR MENGELE") SAYS NAZI-HUNTER BEATE KLARSFIELD HEADED FOR PARAGUAY THURSDAY TO SEARCH FOR WAR CRIMINAL DR. JOSEPH MENGELE, THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" ACCUSED OF CONDUCTING BIZARRE EXPERIMENTS ON CONCENTRATION CAMP INMATES. KLARSFIELD WAS ARRESTED TWICE IN CHILE THIS WEEK AS SHE ATTEMPTED TO SEEK THE EXPULSION OF ANOTHER NAZI FUGITIVE, WALTER RAUFF.

HONDURAS: AP PHOTO P. 6 SHOWS CEREMONY ENDING AHUAS TARA EXERCISES.

EL SALVADOR: LEAD EDIT PAGE 11 ("SKIRMISHING ON HUMAN RIGHTS") COMMENTS ON HENRY KISSINGER TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FAC THIS WEEK. "MR. KISSINGER'S RESPONSES TO THE OFTEN RHETORICAL QUESTIONS WERE AS FINELY CRAFTED AS THE DOCUMENT ON AID TO LATIN AMERICA THAT BEARS HIS NAME." PRICE TAG FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY MEASURES PROPOSED BY KISSINGER COMMISSION IS OPTIMISTICALLY PUT AT \$8 BILLION, EDIT NOTES, "BUT EVEN TWICE THAT WOULD BE A SMALL AMOUNT TO PAY FOR STABILITY IN OUR OWN BACKYARD. YET THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE ON THE HILL WHO FIND IT EXPEDIENT IN THIS ELECTION YEAR TO PICK APART THE COMMISSION'S REPORT, OR ARE USING 'HUMAN RIGHTS' AS A CLUB TO BLUNT EFFORTS TO DEAL EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH A CRISIS THAT DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION." MR. KISSINGER REAFFIRMED TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AGREED THAT PROGRESS IN THAT AREA IS ESSENTIAL, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE "ALL OR NOTHING" BASIS OF THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE. "WE AGREE," STATES EDIT.

"PROGRESS" IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, AND "THE RESULT IS THAT WHILE LAWMAKERS IN WASHINGTON FRET OVER REAL OR IMAGINED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ALIENATED BY WHAT IT SEES AS UNWARRANTED INTRUSION ON ITS SOVEREIGNTY. INDEED, ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON, ... THE LIKELY VICTOR IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIN, HAS THREATENED TO CLOSE THE NATION'S BORDERS AND FIGHT THE KIND OF BRUTAL, SWIFT WAR THAT WOULD LEAVE WASHINGTON'S HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIALISTS AGHAST."

"WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THE OLD MASTER CAN HELP FORGE A

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COMPROMISE ON THE THORNY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND MAKE THE CASE FOR SWIFT ACTION ON THE COMMISSION'S FULL AGENDA, EED FOR INCREASED MILITARY AID," EDIT CONCLUDES. "VICTORY OVER THE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR IS, BY DEFINITION, THE FIRST STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PACKAGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS IN THAT EMBATTLED NATION. THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS THAT OFTEN DON'T MEASURE UP TO CONGRESS' DEFINITION OF THE MOMENT, AND NO RIGHTS AT ALL."

-- NEW YORK TIMES --

EL SALVADOR: RICHARD J. MEISLIN, REPORTING INSIDE PAGE 6 FROM MEXICO CITY WITH PHOTO OF ANA GUADALUPE MARTINEZ, GUILLERMO MANUEL UNGO AND RUBEN ZAMORA ("SALVADORAN REBELS WON'T TRY TO DISRUPT ELECTION"), NOTES SALVADORAN GUERRILLA LEADERS PLEDGE AS NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT NEXT MONTH'S ELECTION "WILL NOT BE THE OBJECT OF DIRECT MILITARY ATTACKS." "THE ELECTIONS OF MARCH 25," STATED UNGO "ARE NO SOLUTION AND WILL FURTHER TEND TO MAKE MORE COMPLICATED THE OBJECTIVE OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION." HE ADDED THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, WHICH HE SAID HAD "NO CREDIBILITY," AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE ITS BATTLE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE AND AFTER THE VOTE. "BUT MR. UNGO SAID THE GUERRILLAS WOULD NOT SPECIFICALLY TRY TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE THEY REALIZED THAT MANY SALVADORANS WOULD FEEL THEY HAD TO VOTE IN ORDER 'NOT TO RISK THEIR LIVES, THEIR SECURITY, THEIR TRANQUILITY,'" MEISLIN WRITES.

"BY STATING NOW THAT THEY WOULD NOT TRY TO BLOCK THE ELECTIONS, THE LEFTIST FORCES ALSO APPEARED TO BE SEEKING TO AVOID THE KIND OF POLITICAL DAMSAGE THEY SUFFERED AFTER THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF 1982. AT THAT TIME, ANNOUNCED GUERRILLA ACTIONS TO BLOCK THE ELECTIONS LARGELY FAILED TO MATERIALIZE AND PEOPLE VOTED IN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE NUMBERS." RUBEN ZAMORA NOTED THAT "WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN THE AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE F.D.R.-F.M.L.N."

THE GROUP ONCE AGAIN CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF WIDE PARTICIPATION" THAT WOULD PERMIT AN ELECTION INCLUDING OPPOSITION CANDIDATES. WHILE INCLUDING WIDE REPRESENTATION, UNGO SAID IT WOULD EXCLUDE ARENA WHICH "CONDENSES ALL OF THE REPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS OF THE OLIGARCHY" IN EL SALVADOR. MEISLIN OBSERVES THAT "THE OPPOSITION PLAN CONTAINED LITTLE NEW BUT PROVIDED WHAT MR. ZAMORA CALLED A 'CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLITICAL POSITION.'" IT CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISERS AND AID, AN END T DEATH SQUADS, THE "PURIFICATION OF THE ARMY" AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH GUERRILLA FORCES. IT ALSO CALLS FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF "CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, POLITICAL CRIMES, TORTURE, DISAPPEARANCES AND ILLEGAL DEPRIVATION OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES." IT PROMISES A FOREIGN POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT. UNGO PROPOSED THAT THE PLAN BE WORKED OUT

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AMONG THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION, THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES OF EL SALVADOR AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US, WITH THE HELP OF MEDIATORS AND BEFORE INTERNATIONAL WITNESSES SUCH AS THE CONTADORA GROUP.

EL SALVADOR: UPI-MERIDA, MEXICO IN NEWS BRIEF ("RISE IN US ADVISERS CHARGED," P. 6) NOTES THAT SWEDISH DEPUTY FOMIN PIERRE SCHORI, WHO IS ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME ON A CENTRAL AMERICAN TOUR, SAID WEDNESDAY THAT PALME AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS HAD MET WITH TWO SALVADORAN REBEL LEADERS IN MEXICO CITY AND INFORMED THAT THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY ADVISERS IN EL SALVADOR HAS RISEN "DRAMATICALLY." NO SPECIFIC FIGURE WAS PROVIDED, BUT LAST WEEK RUBEN ZAMORA CHARGED THERE WERE AT LEAST 300 AMERICAN ADVISERS. "WHAT THEY HAVE ALSO SEEN IS THE TRANSFER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM HONDURAS TO A BASE IN LA UNION IN SALVADOR," SCHORI SAID.

GRENADA: REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON ("JOINT CHIEFS PLAN NEW PRESS POLICY: MOVE SAID TO RECOGNIZE THAT KEEPING REPORTERS OUT OF GRENADA WAS MISTAKE," P. 7), JONATHAN FRIENDLY WRITES THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS HAVE ADOPTED NEW PROCEDURES TO PLAN FOR PRESS COVERAGE DURING MILITARY OPERATIONS, A PENTAGON PANEL WAS TOLD YESTERDAY. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL, MAJ. GEN. WINANT SIDLE, RETIRED, AND OTHER MEMBERS SAID THE ACTION "INDICATED A RECOGNITION BY THE MILITARY THAT BLOCKING PRESS COVERAGE OF THE UNITED STATES INVASION OF GRENADA OCT. 25 HAD BEEN A MISTAKE AND SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED," FRIENDLY WRITES. THE POLICY REPORTEDLY SAYS THAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE UNLESS IT IS CURRENTLY AND VALIDLY CLASSIFIED AND THAT INFORMATION "WILL NOT BE CLASSIFIED OR OTHERWISE WITHHELD TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT FROM CRITICISM OR EMBARRASSMENT. THE POLICY DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF PRESS ACCESS TO FIGHTING, BUT SAYS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES."

HONDURAS/HUMAN RIGHTS: INSIDE PAGE 8 NOTES THAT THREE HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING GROUPS (LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR-ERICAS WATCH AND THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA) ISSUED A 71-PAGE REPORT IN NEW YORK CHARGING THAT THE HONDURAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL INVESTIGATION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL KILLINGS, DISAPPEARANCES, AND TORTURE WHICH HAD INCREASED IN HONDURAS LAST YEAR. BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A SIX-MEMBER DELEGATION WHICH SPENT TEN DAYS IN HONDURAS LAST OCTOBER, THE REPORT STATES "THE UNITED STATES HAS FAILED TO EXERT MEANINGFUL PRESSURE ON THE MILITARY TO CURB MOUNTING ABUSES...AT BEST, IT HAS REMAINED SILENT WHEN QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE RAISED. AT WORST, IT HAS DEFENDED MILITARY ABUSES." THE DELEGATION SAID IT HAD DOCUMENTED 49 CIVILIAN DEATHS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1983 ATTRIBUTABLE TO GOVERNMENT FORCES. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, PAULA KUZMICH, SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT YET REVIEWED THE REPORT AND COULD NOT COMMENT ON

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ITS ASSERTIONS ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S OWN WORLD WIDE REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WOULD BE ISSUED TODAY.

-- WALL STREET JOURNAL --

EL SALVADOR: LEAD EDIT ("WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS?") BEGINS BY NOTING AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FROM SAN SALVADOR YESTERDAY QUOTING EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE SUMMARY EXECUTION BY SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS OF CAPTURED GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AT A MILITARY POST 35 MILES NORTHEAST OF SAN SALVADOR. "THIS SAVAGE EPISODE IS BUT THE LATEST OF THOUSANDS IN THE FOUR YEARS OF WAR IN EL SALVADOR. PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES GET KILLED. OLD RULES OF WAR -- ABOUT TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, FOR EXAMPLE -- SOMETIMES GO UNOBSERVED...A SPECIAL TWIST TO THE SALVADORAN WAR IS POLITICAL ASSASSINATION, IN WHICH THE GRUDGES AND GRIEVANCES THAT PILE UP IN ANY POLITICAL UPHEAVAL ARE SETTLED WITH BULLETS AND BOMBS."

"THE ONLY THING REMARKABLE ABOUT ANY OF THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS BECOME DISTORTED IN THE U.S. POLITICAL DEBATE. VERY FEW AMERICAN POLITICIANS SAY THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE SL SALVADOR TURNED OVER TO COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. BUT SOME ARGUE VEHEMENTLY, WITH SPECIOUS REASONING, THAT THE U.S. SHOULD DETACH ITSELF FROM THOSE SALVADORANS WHO ARE TRYING TO PREVENT THE TAKEOVER FROM HAPPENING.

"THIS REASONING TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO TOOK THE LINE THAT THE GUERRILLAS WERE NOT REALLY COMMUNISTS, JUST DISGRUNTLED PEASANTS. THAT ARGUMENT WAS MADE UNTENABLE BY OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT THE SALVADORAN INSURGENCY WAS BEING COORDINATED FROM HAVANA AND MANAGUA AND THAT SALVADORAN PEASANTS WERE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL VICTIMS. THE FALLBACK POSITION HAS BEEN THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABUSING 'HUMAN RIGHTS' AND HENCE IS NOT WORTHY OF AMERICAN SUPPORT." - -

THE EDIT NOTES SALVADORAN CONFUSION AS TO THE U.S. REACTION TO ITS EFFORTS TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST COMMUNISM. WHY THE U.S. RELUCTANCE ASKS THE JOURNAL? "ONE ANSWER IS THAT IN THE AMERICAN DEBATE, EL SALVADOR IS NOT A COUNTRY, BUT A METAPHOR. AMERICAN LEFTISTS WHO WOULD NEVER DARE ADVOCATE NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN FARMS AND BANKS OR SUPPORT GUS HALL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY CAN QUITE SAFELY DESCRIBE EL SALVADOR AS A PLACE GOVERNED BY MONSTERS AND ITS ASSAILANTS AS LIBERATORS. VERY FEW AMERICANS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PLACE

OF COURSE, SOME AMERICANS HAVE COME TO SEE HOW COMMUNISTS STOLE THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION AND ARE TURNING THAT COUNTRY INTO A POLICE STATE. BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP THE U.S. HOUSE FROM VOTING THIS WEEK TO CONDITION U.S. AID TO EL SALVADOR ON FINDINGS THAT THAT COUNTRY IS MAKING PROGRESS IN CONTROLLING THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

"THIS IS A VERY STRANGE WAY TO APPROACH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM -- THAT IS TO SAY THE KILLING -- IN EL SALVADOR. THE LOGICAL WAY WOULD BE TO INCREASE U.S. AID, NOT CUT IT

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OFF. STANDARD U.S. MILITARY DOCTRINE FOR FIGHTING A GUERRILLA WAR CALLS FOR PROTECTING THE CIVILIAN POPULATION FROM BOTH MILITARY AND GUERRILLA ABUSES, SO AS TO RETAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, SALVADORAN MILITARY UNITS THAT HAVE RECEIVED U.S. TRAINING CAUSE FAR FEWER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES THAN GREEN TROOPS WHO HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF GUERRILLA TACTICS.

"BUT A LOT OF AMERICANS ARE DEALING ONLY WITH METAPHORS, NOT REALITY. THE REALITY IS ON THE GROUND, AT THAT MILITARY POST WHERE 29 SOLDIERS WERE SHOT. ONE MIGHT SAY THAT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS WERE ABUSED, BUT WE MAY HAVE TO WAIT IN VAIN FOR CONDEMNATION OF THE GUERRILLAS BY PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH THINGS."

EL SALVADOR/HUMAN RIGHTS: DAVID ASMAN, EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL'S AMERICAS COLUMN, HAS OP-ED PIECE ("BEHIND THE HUMAN-RIGHTS TALLIES" WITH BOXED QUOTE: "MANY SO-CALLED POLITICAL EXECUTIONS TURN OUT, ON CLOSER INSPECTION, TO BE ECONOMIC MURDERS OR CRIMES OF PASSION EXECUTED WITH AN ATTEMPT AT MASQUERADING AS POLITICAL MURDERS").

"AMERICANS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY APPALLED BY THE KILLING IN EL SALVADOR AND WOULD LIKE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP IT," WRITES ASMAN, "BUT THOSE POLITICAL FORCES IN THE U.S. THAT INSIST ON THE 'HUMAN-RIGHTS' CONDITION FREQUENTLY AND INACCURATELY EQUATE THE POLICY OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WITH SO-CALLED 'RIGHT-WING DEATH SQUADS' AND HENCE TEND TO LUMP POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS, NONPOLITICAL MURDERS AND COMBAT CASUALTIES TOGETHER." NOTING THE VARIETY OF SOURCES AND DISPARITIES IN THEIR DATA, ASMAN OBSERVES THAT "THESE CONFLICTING NUMBERS RAISE SEVERAL QUESTIONS CRUCIAL TO THE SALVADORAN DEBATE: WHERE EXACTLY DO THESE FIGURES COME FROM, HOW ARE THEY VERIFIED, AND HOW MUCH RELIANCE CAN BE PLACED ON THEIR ACCURACY? A CLOSE EXAMINATION SUGGESTS THAT THEY BE VIEWED WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SKEPTICISM -- PARTICULARLY THOSE NUMBERS THAT IMPLY THAT THE WAR IN EL SALVADOR IS A ONE-SIDED AFFAIR IN WHICH THE 'GOVERNMENT' SIDE, LOOSELY DEFINED, IS DOING MOST OF THE KILLING."

ASMAN FINDS TUTELA LEGAL AS MORE RELIABLE THAN ITS SUCCESSOR SOCORRO JURIDICO WHICH THE ARCHBISHOPRIC CUT OFF FROM FUNDING IN MAY 1982 AND WHICH ARCHBISHOP RIVERA Y DAMS SAID IN MARCH 22, 1981 IN A NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW THAT "THEY HAVE YET TO ATTRIBUTE A VICTIM TO GUERRILLA GROUPS, EVEN THOUGH THE GUERRILLAS CLAIM SOME OF THE DEATHS THEMSELVES." ASMAN FINDS THAT THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TUTELA LEGAL AND EMBASSY COUNTS DERIVES FROM TUTELA LEGAL'S INCLUSION OF MASAS DEATHS AS NONCOMBAT MURDERS BY THE MILITARY. "ANOTHER FACTOR IN THE DEBATE IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. DESPITE ARCHBISHOP RIVERA'S ATTEMPTS AT DEPOLITICIZING THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH WITH REGARD TO HUMAN-RIGHTS REPORTING IN EL SALVADOR, IT IS STILL HIGHLY POLARIZED BY THE SO-CALLED 'LIBERATION THEOLOGY' CONDEMNED

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BY POPE JOHN PAUL II...FINALLY, THERE ARE THOSE 'RIGHT-WING' DEATH SQUADS.' THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY EXIST. SOME MEMBERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE HIRED GUNS WORKING FOR FORMER LANDOWNERS DISPOSSESSED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LAND REFORM. SINCE THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, RETALIATING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT -- OR AT LEAST A PART OF IT -- IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY PLAUSIBLE TO BLAME THE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES."

"IT IS OUT OF THIS WARTIME COMPLEX OF KILLING THAT THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMANDS A 'HUMAN-RIGHTS' POLICY," CONCLUDES ASMAN. "SALVADOR NEEDS A BETTER-TRAINED MILITARY, A RELIABLE POLICE FORCE AND JUDICIARY, AND A MORE-STABLE GOVERNMENT. BUT TO SAY THAT IT WILL GET ALL THESE THINGS BY BEING LEFT AT THE MERCY OF GUERRILLA BANDS WHO THEMSELVES HAVE SHOWN NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE REQUIRES A GREAT STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION."

HAITI: RAYMOND A. JOSEPH, STAFF REPORTER AND MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN HAITI, HAS OP-ED PIECE ("COMING HAITIAN ELECTIONS ARE JUST FOR SHOW") NOTING THAT THE UPCOMING SUNDAY ELECTIONS "ARE A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, BECAUSE ONLY THE JEAN-CLAUDIST PARTY, NAMED AFTER PRESIDENT-FOR-LIFE JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER, IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE." NOTING THE EFFORT TO SATISFY THE U.S. CONGRESS WHICH STIPULATED THAT HAITI SHOULD DEMOCRATIZE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING U.S. AID, "THE HAITIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE, NEVERTHELESS, DECIDED TO FLOUT DEMOCRATIC NORMS" INCLUDING THE JAILING OCTOBER 9 OF SYLVIO CLAUDE, WHO WAS RELEASED LAST CHRISTMAS EVE, BUT WHO IS CURRENTLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST. "THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS BLOCKED THE PARTICIPATION OF GREGOIRE EUGENE, FORMER PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAITI AND PRESIDENT OF HAITI'S CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PARTY."

CONTINUING, JOSEPH WRITES THAT "THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE DUVALIER DICTATORSHIP Baffles PROPONENTS OF PEACEFUL CHANGE...MR. SHULTZ CONSIDERS THE COMING ELECTIONS A POSITIVE STEP IN A PROCESS THAT BEGAN LAST YEAR...ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDES THAT THERE WERE 'PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS' IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND THAT THE ELECTIONS 'WERE MARRED BY THE DETENTION OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS'..." JOSEPH CONCLUDES BY QUOTING THE SECRETARY WITH RESPECT TO NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS AND SEES A PARALLEL WITH HAITI: "AN ELECTION JUST AS AN ELECTION DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. THERE ARE ELECTIONS HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION...THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT IF THERE IS TO BE AN ELECTORAL PROCESS, IT BE OBSERVED NOT ONLY AT THE MOMENT WHEN PEOPLE VOTE, BUT IN ALL THE PRELIMINARY ASPECTS THAT MAKE AN ELECTION REALLY MEAN SOMETHING."

PERU: NEWS BRIEF PAGE 30 FROM NEW YORK ("PERU WINS BETTER TERMS ON LATEST DEBTPACKAGE") SAYS PERU HAS WON BETTER REFINANCING TERMS THAN IT GOT IN 1983 IN ARRANGING

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MORE THAN \$2 BILLION OF CREDITS FROM A GROUP OF BANKS ADVISING THE COUNTRY ON ITS \$12 BILLION FOREIGN DEBT. NEARLY 300 OTHER LENDERS STILL MUST AGREE TO THE TERMS. "CONTRARY TO SOME EXPECTATIONS, PERU DIDN'T ASK THE BANKS FOR ANY NEW LOANS THIS YEAR. BUT THE LATEST AGREEMENT CALLS FOR BANKS TO MAINTAIN THROUGH NOVEMBER 1985 ABOUT \$880 MILLION IN SHORT-TERM TRADE CREDITS."

- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR --

COSTA RICA: NEWS BRIEF FROM SAN JOSE PAGE 2 ("COSTA RICA HAILS NEWS OF PEACE PRIZE PROSPECT") SAYS COSTA RICA WELCOMED ITS BEING NOMINATED FOR THE 1984 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WEDNESDAY FOR ITS ABILITY TO SURVIVE WITHOUT AN ARMY. A FONMIN SPOKESMAN SAID IT SHOWED THE WORLD WAS AWARE HOW THIS SMALL, UNDER- DEVELOPED COUNTRY HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF ITS RESOURCES AND DEVOTE FUNDS TO SOCIAL WELFARE WHICH IN OTHER COUNTRIES WERE SPENT ON ARMS.

-- BALTIMORE SUN --

EL SALVADOR: JAMES BOCK PAGE 2 FROM MEXICO CITY ("SALVADOR GUERRILLA LEADERS PROPOSE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS") WRITES OF GUERRILLA POLITICAL LEADERS' PROPOSAL FOR A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR. THE REBELS AGAIN CALLED FOR DIRECT US INVOLVEMENT IN TALKS TO SET UP SUCH A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

ARGENTINA: RICHARD O'MARA, SUN FOREIGN EDITOR, PAGE 5 FROM B.A. ("ALFONSIN SETS OUT TO CHALLENGE UNIONS") SAYS NEW PRESIDENT RAUL ALFONSIN "WILL FACE HIS FIRST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TODAY, AS THE MINIONS OF LABOR ASSEMBLE AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS TO PROTEST NEW LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REORGANIZE THE UNIONS THAT FOR SO MANY DECADES HAVE HELD SWAY OVER ARGENTINA'S POLITICAL LIFE." A THOUSAND FACTORY WORKERS WENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TUESDAY TO DEMAND A 70 PERCENT PAY RAISE. JANUARY'S COST OF LIVING RAISE, ANNOUNCED MONDAY, WAS 12.5 PERCENT. THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO AN EMERGENCY PAY RAISE OF ABOUT \$4 A MONTH, BUT "THE MEASURE IS NOT LIKELY TO CALM THE INCIPIENT UNREST," SAYS O'MARA. "THE UNIONS ARE THE 'OTHER ARMY' OF ARGENTINA, A BIGGER DRAGON FOR MR. ALFONSIN TO SLAY...THEY WERE FORGED AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS BY JUAN PERON IN THE LATE 1940S. THROUGH THE YEARS THEY HAVE EITHER SHARED OR DISPUTED POWER WITH THE MILITARY. NOW, ARGENTINA IS RULED BY A PRESIDENT FROM THE RADICAL PARTY WHO WILL TRY TO UNDERCUT THE POWER OF THE UNIONS BY MAKING THEM MORE DEMOCRATIC, MORE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR OWN MEMBERSHIP -- IN SHORT, LESS POLITICAL." THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE UNIONS AND THE NEW PRESIDENT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TIME FOR ALFONSIN, SUGGESTS O'MARA. "UNION LEADERS ARE IN BAD ODOR," WIDELY THOUGHT OF AS, AT BEST, COLLABORATORS WITH THE DISCREDITED MILITARY REGIME AND, AT WORST, SIMPLE

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GANGSTERS.

-- USA TODAY --

NICARAGUA/EL SALVADOR: NEWS BRIEF FROM MANAGUA IN
"WORLD" COLUMN PAGE 4 ("POW SAYS US AIDING REBELS") SAYS
THE GRN THURSDAY PRESENTED A CAPTURED HONDURAN SOLDIER WHO
CLAIMED US AND HONDURAN PILOTS WERE FLYING MISSIONS TO
SUPPORT REBELS FIGHTING THE SANDINISTAS. THE CAPTURED
SOLDIER ALSO SAID HE SAU HONDURAS' TOP MILITARY CHIEF,
GEN. GUSTAVO ALVAREZ, TAKING PART IN A REBEL BATTLE WITH
SANDINISTA TROOPS THE ALLEGATIONS WERE DENIED BY HONDURAN
MILITARY SOURCES. BRIEF ALSO NOTES SALVADORAN REBEL'S
PROPOSALS FOR A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

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