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CDS

CDSN = LGX429 MCN = 90241/45399 TOR = 902412232

RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS1655 2412233-CCCC--RUEALGX.

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DTG

291649Z AUG 90

FROM

FM [REDACTED]

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR [REDACTED]

CITE: (U) [REDACTED]

SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2012-010, document no. 1
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: July 10, 2018

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Defense Intelligence Agency
under statutory authority
of the Department of Defense,
10 USC § 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: [REDACTED] 1395 90/UNOFFICIAL RESPONSE TO JESUIT
PRIESTS' CLAIM THEY WERE FIRED UPON BY DM-1 SOLDIERS/
(431)(U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900820.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

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25X1, E.O.13526

B. (U) RADIO VENCEREMOS BROADCAST, 900823, AS REPORTED
BY FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE MSG, 231658Z
AUG.

C. (U) LOCAL RADIO BROADCAST, 900825, AS REPORTED BY
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE MSG, 252201Z AUG.

SUMMARY: (U) RADIO VENCEREMOS AND YSU RADIO REPORTED
THAT ON 900820 DM-1 SOLDIERS SHOT AT A VEHICLE IN WHICH
TWO JESUITS WERE TRAVELING IN CHALATENANGO. THERE HAS
BEEN NO OFFICIAL REPORT RENDERED TO THE EMC ON THIS

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INCIDENT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TROOPS FROM [REDACTED] UNIT TARGETED THE PRIESTS.

TEXT: 1. (U) ON 900823, RADIO VENCEREMOS, THE FMLN'S CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION REPORTED THAT TWO JESUIT PRIESTS WORKING IN CHALATENANGO, JOHN ((CORTINAS)) AND NICOLAS ((ALVARENGA)), HAD BEEN FIRED UPON BY DM-1 SOLDIERS ON 900821. THE PRIESTS' VEHICLE REPORTEDLY WAS HIT ONCE IN THE ROOF WHILE THEY WERE TRAVELING NEAR GUARJILA //GEOCOORD: 140100N885300W// IN CHALATENANGO. THE REPORT FURTHER STATED THAT THE PRIESTS TOOK REFUGE IN THE CONVENT IN GUARJILA WHERE THEY ALSO RECEIVED FIRE FROM THE DM-1 SOLDIERS.

2. (U) ON 900825, BOTH PRIESTS RELATED THEIR STORY IN GREATER DETAIL DURING A YSU RADIO INTERVIEW. THEY CLAIMED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT ON 900820 (RADIO VENCEREMOS STATED THAT IT OCCURRED ON 900821) THEY WERE FIRED UPON BY DM-1 SOLDIERS AND HAD NOT BEEN CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE BETWEEN ESAF TROOPS AND FMLN FORCES. THE FIRE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM AND THE NUN'S RESIDENCE BY DM-1 TROOPS. VARIOUS ROUNDS WERE FOUND INSIDE THE NUNNERY BUT WERE LARGER THAN THOSE USED BY THE M-16 RIFLE. ANOTHER ROUND WAS LATER FOUND INSIDE THE VEHICLE WHICH THE PRIESTS SPECULATED MUST HAVE COME FROM AN ESAF SNIPER.

3. (U) ON 900825, PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) DENIED THAT SOLDIERS HAD FIRED UPON THE JESUITS. HE STATED THAT THE PRIESTS WERE MOVING THROUGH A WAR ZONE AND WERE (PROBABLY) CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE THAT ENSUED AFTER A GUERRILLA FORCE HAD ATTACKED ESAF TROOPS.

4. (C) [REDACTED] THE LOCATION OF THE PURPORTED INCIDENT HAD BEEN THE SITE OF HEAVY COMBAT IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT [REDACTED] COULD NOT CORROBORATE THAT THE PRIESTS HAD BEEN DIRECTLY TARGETTED BY DM-1 TROOPS. IN EFFECT, NO ONE AT DM-1 WAS AWARE THAT THE JESUITS WERE IN THE AREA. FURTHER, UNIT SOLDIERS HAVE STANDING ORDERS NOT TO FIRE INTO POPULATED AREAS, ESPECIALLY THE REPATRIATE CAMPS BECAUSE OF THE BACKLASH THAT COULD OCCUR FROM SUCH AN INCIDENT. THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN SOLDIERS HAVE RECEIVED FIRE FROM INSIDE THOSE CAMPS, BUT THEY ARE GENERALLY RELUCTANT TO RETURN SUCH FIRE.

5. (C) [REDACTED] THE GUERRILLAS WERE TRYING TO PROVOKE FURTHER REPUDIATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL

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POLITICAL ARENA AGAINST THE ESAF, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE ON-GOING INVESTIGATION OF THE JESUIT MURDERS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE 8911 OFFENSIVE.

COMMENTS: 1. (C) [] COMMENTS. THE EMC DID NOT REPORT ON THIS INCIDENT DURING ITS MORNING BRIEFINGS. NOR HAS THE STORY BEEN REPORTED IN ANY OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

2. (C) WHAT SEEMS MORE CREDIBLE IS THAT THE PRIESTS WERE PASSING THROUGH A CONFLICTIVE ZONE DURING A FIREFIGHT AND AN ERRANT ROUND HIT THEIR VEHICLE. IF THE PROJECTILE WHICH HIT THE VEHICLE WAS LARGER THAN AN M-16 ROUND, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT IT CAME FROM AN AK-47 OR A DRAGUNOV SNIPER RIFLE. MACHINEGUN FIRE WOULD HAVE IMPACTED MORE TIMES ON THE TARGET. A BALLISTICS EXPERT COULD DETERMINE THE EXACT TYPE OF ROUND WHICH WAS FIRED.

3. (C) THERE ARE STILL A FEW QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE VERACITY OF THE REPORT--
--WHY DID THE JESUITS WAIT UNTIL 900825 TO TALK TO REPORTERS ABOUT THE RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORT?
--DID THE REPORTED INCIDENT OCCUR ON 900820 OR 900821?
--WHY WERE THERE NO REPORTS OF ENEMY ACTIVITY BY DM-1 TO THE EMC AT THE CITED LOCATION?

4. (C) [] ON 900828, [] CALLED [] [] TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION. [] RESPONDED THAT AS YET [] HAD NOT SEEN A COPY OF THE DM-1 REPORT. [] WAS RESPONSIVE TO THE RECOMMENDATION THAT [] BECOME PROACTIVE IN THIS CASE AND REQUEST A FORMAL INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED BY THE ESAF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, THE GOES HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, AND SOME REPRESENTATION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. [] STATED THAT []

[] WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

//IPSP: (U) []

//COMSOBJ: (U) 431//

ADMIN

PROJ: (U) []

COLL: (U) []

INSTR: (U) []

PREP: (U) []

ACQ: (U) EL SALVADOR []

DISSEM: (U) [] AMEMBASSY EL SALVADOR.

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DECL: OADR

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