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FROM

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CONTROLS

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CITE: (U)

SERIAL: (U)

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. 2
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: July 10, 2018

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: 1358 PART 34 IN JESUIT SERIES -

YOUNG FIELD GRADE OFFICER ADDRESSES THE JESUIT CASE/(431)

(U)

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

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900808.

REQS: (U)

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SUMMARY: (C/NF) IN THE
OPINION OF A MAJORITY OF THE CAPTAINS AND MAJORS, THE
JESUIT CASE SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND PUT IN THE
PAST. HE HAS EXPRESSED THIS SENTIMENT TO BOTH THE MOD
AND JEMC.

TEXT: 1. (C/NF) DURING A ONE HOUR CONVERSATION ON
900808, THE STATUS OF THE JESUIT CASE WAS THE ONLY TOPIC
DISCUSSED HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE
CASE APPEARED TO BE PROGRESSING VERY SLOWLY. HE WAS OF
THE DEFINITE OPINION THAT FOR THE GOOD OF THE MILITARY

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INSTITUTION THE INVESTIGATIVE STAGE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THE PROSECUTION PHASE BEGUN.

2. (C/NF) [] STATED THAT HIS VIEW WAS SHARED AT LEAST BY THE MAJORITY OF THE MAJORS AND COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS. WHILE HE HAS NOT CONDUCTED A COMPLETE POLL OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SPOKEN TO AT LEAST 30 CAPTAINS AND 25-30 MAJORS, ALL OF WHOM UNANIMOUSLY SHARE THIS OPINION.

3. (C/NF) [] THE ESAF LEADERSHIP COULD BE DOING MORE TO RESOLVE THIS CASE. []

[] THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOD) AND CHIEF OF THE JOINT STAFF (JEMC) TO INFORM THEM OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS. SO DIRECT WERE []

4. (C/NF) [] THE U.S. MISSION HAD APPLIED PRESSURE ON THE HIGH COMMAND AS WELL AS THE CHIEF OF THE SUPREME COURT AND 4TH CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE. [] NOT ONLY WAS PRESSURE APPLIED FROM EVERY LEVEL WITHIN THE MISSION ON EVERY GOES/ESAF OFFICIAL (STARTING WITH THE PRESIDENT) WHO WAS REMOTELY INVOLVED WITH THE CASE, BUT THAT THIS EXHORTATION WAS REINFORCED BY EVERY VISITING USG DIGNITARY, INCLUDING REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN.

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5. (C/NF) [] A POSSIBLE WAY TO SPEED UP THE CASE WOULD BE IF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, DR. MAURICIO ((GUTIERREZ)) CASTRO, WOULD INDICATE IN ONE OF HIS PRESS RELEASES WHAT EVIDENCE IS NEEDED BY THE COURT WHICH IS NOT BEING PROVIDED BY THE ESAF. []

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COMMENT--INTERESTING THAT [] WOULD ASSUME THE HIGH COMMAND WAS NOT COOPERATING WITH THE JUDGE.) IN THIS WAY, [] THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH REGARD TO THE CASE AND BE ABLE TO APPLY PRESSURE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION.

6. (C/NF) TO THE SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS THE LEADERS OF EACH YEAR GROUP OF CPT'S AND MAJ'S COULD SPEAK INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY TO COL RENE ((PONCE)), THE JEMC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS ON THE CASE, [] THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN IDEA WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH. THE PROBLEM, []

[] IS THAT EACH TANDA LEADER WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST

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AN APPOINTMENT IN WRITING AND THAT SUCH A FLOOD OF REQUESTS POSSIBLY COULD BE PERCEIVED AS SOME KIND OF CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE HIGH COMMAND.

7. (CNF) AS AN ALTERNATIVE, [] THAT WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK PONCE HAD CALLED A MEETING OF ALL BIC AND BIAT COMMANDERS AS WELL AS OTHER LEADERS WITHIN THE POLICE FORCES AT AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL -- IN TOTAL, SOME 200 SENIOR LT'S, CPT'S, AND JUNIOR MAJORS WHO WERE COMMANDING THE TACTICAL UNITS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO PASS INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THESE OFFICERS REGARDING THE STATUS OF GOES-FMLN NEGOTIATIONS AND PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY THE GOES/ESAF REGARDING THE MILITARY INSTITUTION. []

COMMENT--THIS SAME INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO SENIOR COMMANDERS OF BDE'S, DM'S, AND BIRI'S TWO WEEKS AGO, HOWEVER, []

[] ONLY 20-25 PERCENT OF THE CONTENTS WERE RELAYED TO THE SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS.) []

[] SINCE THE JESUIT CASE IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE DIALOGUE, THE TOPIC WOULD CERTAINLY BE RAISED AND PURSUED BY SOME OF THE YOUNGER OFFICERS. []

[] TO SOME OF THOSE WHO WOULD BE PRESENT TO INSURE THE JESUIT CASE WAS ADDRESSED. []

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2. (CNF) WE FIND [] COMMENTS ABOUT THE DEGREE OF DISSATISFACTION AT THE JUNIOR RANKS REGARDING THE JESUIT CASE TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. THEY TEND TO PUT [] PREVIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL ATTITUDES INTO PERSPECTIVE (I.E., THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING CONSCENSUS WITHIN THE ESAF REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS, BUT A SIMILAR CONSCENSUS DOES NOT EXIST WITH REGARD TO THE JESUIT CASE.)

3. (CNF) [] THAT ONE OF THE STUMBLING BLOCKS ON THIS CASE WAS THE INGRAINED ATTITUDE OF PLACING LOYALTY TO ONE'S PEERS OVER LOYALTY TO THE

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INSTITUTION. OUR BEST READING OF THE SITUATION AT THIS TIME IS THAT IN GENERAL--

--THE JUNIOR OFFICERS WANT JUSTICE TO BE CARRIED OUT, BUT THEY ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE LIEUTENANTS ACCUSED OF THE ASSASSINATION WILL BE FOUND GUILTY WHILE THE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO ORDERED THE CRIME ARE EXONERATED.

--TODAY THERE ARE TWO SENIOR OFFICERS WHO APPEAR TO BE DEEPLY IMPLICATED IN THE CASE -- COL GUILLERMO ALFREDO ((BENAVIDES)) ('66 YEAR GROUP) AND LTC CAMILO ((HERNANDEZ)) ('73 YEAR GROUP). MANY COLLEAGUES FROM THESE TWO YEAR GROUPS, THE LARGEST BY FAR IN THE RANKS OF COL AND LTC, MAY NOT WANT COMPLETE JUSTICE TO BE CARRIED OUT.

--FINALLY, THE SMALLER YEAR GROUPS OF 1967-1972, ALSO COL'S AND LTC'S, MOST LIKELY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE CASE COMPLETELY RESOLVED--SOME FOR ALTRUISTIC REASONS AND OTHERS OUT OF AMBITION.

//IPSP: (U) [REDACTED]

//COMSOBJ: (U) 431//.

ADMIN

PROJ: (U) .

COLL: (U) [REDACTED]

INSTR: (U) [REDACTED]

PREP: (U) [REDACTED]

ACQ: (U) EL SALVADOR [REDACTED]

DISSEM: (U) [REDACTED] AMEMBASSY EL SALVADOR.

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