CONFIDENTIAL

Withheld from public release by Defense Intelligence Agency under statutory authority of the Department of Defense, 10 USC § 424

**COMBINED MESSAGE**

**FROM**

**CONTROLS**

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR

NOFORN

CITATION: (U)

SERIAL: (U)

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: (U) ARONSON BRIEFS ESAF OFFICERS AT EMC/94(31)(U)

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

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

--

DOI: (U) 900711...

REOS: (U)

SOURCES: (U)

SUMMARY: (CNF) ON 900711 A/S ARONSON BRIEFS ESAF OFFICERS AT THE EMC ON USG FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD ES, THE USG POSITION ON GOES/FMLN NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE USG. HE EXHORTED THE ESAF TO FULLY SUPPORT GOES INVESTIGATION OF JESUIT CASE.

2. (CONFIDENTIAL) SPECIFICALLY ON THE ARMED FORCES A/S ARONSON STATED THAT:

--THE ARMED FORCES HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE SINCE 1979 AND MUST CONTINUE SUPPORTING REFORMS TO BETTER THE LIVES OF THE ES PEOPLE.

--THE ARMED FORCES HAS BORNE THE GREATEST BURDEN AND HAS PAID THE GREATEST PRICE IN DEFENDING DEMOCRACY. THIS HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE INSTITUTION HAS CHANGED ALONG WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THIS EVOLUTION MUST CONTINUE.


4. (CONFIDENTIAL) IN THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD A/S ARONSON EMPHASIZED THE POINTS THAT HE MADE DURING HIS BRIEFING. MOST NOTABLE WERE THE FOLLOWING--

--TO A QUESTION ON THE HISTORICAL USE OF THE DIALOGUE PROCESS BY COMMunist MOVEMENTS AS A PURELY MILITARY TACTIC, A/S ARONSON AGREED AND STATED THE GOES/ARMED FORCES MUST REMAIN ALERT FOR THIS POSSIBILITY. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE FMLN IS PREPARING ANOTHER OFFENSIVE, THEREFORE THE NEGOTIATING TEAM MUST
APPLY APPROPRIATE PRESSURE TO AVOID THIS EVENTUALITY. THE FMLN UNDERSTANDS THAT THEY WILL PAY A HEAVY POLITICAL PRICE IF THEY WALK AWAY FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND LAUNCH ANOTHER OFFENSIVE. DURING THE GOES/FMLN NEGOTIATIONS A UN MEDIATOR IS PARTICIPATING, WHICH ADDS A NEW TWIST. REGIONAL CONDITIONS HAVE ALSO CHANGED WHICH HAVE WEAKENED THE FMLN'S ABILITY TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WILL AUTOMATICALLY DISAPPEAR BECAUSE THEY ARE WELL-ORGANIZED, MOTIVATED AND A DANGEROUS FORCE. ONE FMLN OBJECTIVE IS THAT THE USG WILL END MILITARY AID TO ES, BUT THIS DECISION IS UP TO THE GOES AND ESAF. IF THE GOES AND THE ARMED FORCES SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS, PROSECUTE THOSE INVOLVED IN THE JESUIT CASE, AND DO NOT TOLERATE ABUSES OF POWER, CONGRESS WILL APPROVE AID.

COMMENTS: 1. [CONFIDENTIAL] IN SPITE OF SOME INAUDIBLE, LOW KEY MURMURING WHEN THE TOPIC OF A POSSIBLE USG REDUCTION IN AID WAS MENTIONED, THE BRIEFING WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE ASSEMBLED OFFICERS. FEEDBACK FROM SEVERAL WITH WHOM WE SPOKE WAS POSITIVE. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT IF AN ESAF OFFICER DID NOT BETTER UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND. TWO OFFICERS STILL BLAMED FMLN PROPAGANDA FOR THE POOR IMAGE OF THE ESAF IN THE U.S., RATHER THAN BLAMING INADEQUATE ESAF ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURES.
