

P b1, 1.5(b), (d)

EXCISE 2

PTQ6030

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR B Date: 2/1/97
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations 1.5 (b), (d)
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions B1 TS authority to
RA Exemptions () CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

PTQ6030

EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	A-00	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/037W					

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R 171501Z JAN 97
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723
INFO ALCA COLLECTIVE
DIR FSINFATC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY LIMA

[REDACTED] SAN SALVADOR 000231

STATE FOR ARA/CEN -- J. FEELEY
DIR FSINFATC FOR SPAS/POL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/15/06
TAGS: PTER, MARR, PGOV, PREL, ES
SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGES EX-FMLN GUERRILLAS TIED TO PERU'S MRTA --
FMLN DENIES ANY LINK

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY GREGORY E. PHILLIPS, A/POLCOUNS. REASON:
1.5 (B) AND (D).

FORMER FMLN GUERRILLAS HELP MRTA?

2. (U) ON JANUARY 15, EL SALVADOR'S MAJOR RIGHT-WING DAILIES, DRAWING FROM A REUTER'S RELEASE FROM LIMA, REPORTED THAT TWO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI FRONT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (FMLN) HELPED TRAIN MEMBERS OF PERU'S TUPAC AMARU REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (MRTA). THE "PRENSA GRAFICA" AND THE "DIARIO DE HOY" CITED CHARGES BY PERU'S NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM OFFICE (DINCOTE) THAT TWO FORMER FMLN GUERRILLAS, OPERATING UNDER THE PSEUDONYMS "OSMIN" AND "ROMAN," WORKED WITH THIRTY MEMBERS OF THE MRTA FOR THIRTY DAYS IN THE PERUVIAN DEPARTMENT OF JUNIN. ALLEGEDLY THE TWO MEN HELPED CHOOSE THE TERRORISTS WHO ORCHESTRATED THE TAKEOVER OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON DECEMBER 17, 1996. "EL DIARIO DE HOY" CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MRTA ATTENDED THE SAO PAOLO FORUM IN SAN SALVADOR IN JULY 1996 -- GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE FMLN, THE PAPER POINTED OUT.

PRESIDENT "DEPLORES" INVOLVEMENT

3. (U) PRESIDENT ARMANDO CALDERON SOL PUBLICLY "DEPLORED" CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EX-GUERRILLAS AND THE MRTA, AND CALLED ON THE FMLN TO HELP IDENTIFY THE TWO EX-GUERRILLAS AND TO CONDEMN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THEIR ACTIONS.

FMLN DENIES TIES

4. (U) FOR ITS PART, THE FMLN HAS DENIED CONTACTS WITH THE MRTA. IT CHARACTERIZED THE CHARGES OF AN FMLN/MRTA LINK AS A

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE FMLN'S ELECTORAL PROSPECTS IN ADVANCE OF THE MARCH LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. PARTY LEADER SCHAFIK HANDAL SAID AT THE FMLN'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICKOFF EVENT THAT "WE'VE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT." ELECTION COORDINATOR FACUNDO GUARDADO RESPONDED MORE SHARPLY, SAYING THE GOVERNING ARENA PARTY SPREAD THE CHARGES BECAUSE IT HAD "NOTHING GOOD TO SAY" TO BEGIN ITS CAMPAIGN. FMLN DEPUTY MARIA MARTA VALLADARES (AKA NIDIA DIAZ) WENT EVEN FURTHER, CALLING THE ALLEGATIONS A "PLOT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHT," AND ASSERTING THAT THE FMLN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

 TIMING OF REPORT STEALS FMLN THUNDER

5. (C) THE FACT THAT THE REPORTS FROM LIMA HIT THE SALVADORAN PRESS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WAS A HAPPY COINCIDENCE FOR A CONSERVATIVE PRESS WHICH LOSES NO OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE FMLN'S GUERRILLA ROOTS. (IN THIS VEIN, WE RECALL THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE EMBASSY TAKEOVER, "EL DIARIO" PUBLISHED A PHOTO PURPORTING TO SHOW LORI BERENSON WITH FMLN LEADER SANCHEZ CEREN AND OBSERVED THAT BERENSON -- AND BY

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 INFERENCE THE MRTA -- HAD MAINTAINED STRONG TIES WITH THE FMLN.)

DAWSON