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**FROM**

FM [REDACTED]

**CONTROLS**

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

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CITE: (U) [REDACTED]

SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) EL SALVADOR (ES).

SUBJ: [REDACTED] A/S ARONSON BRIEFS ESAF OFFICERS  
AT EMC/(431)(U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT  
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED  
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 900711.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

SOURCES: (U) [REDACTED]

SUMMARY: (C/NF) ON 900711 A/S ARONSON BRIEFED 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.

TEXT: 1. (C/NF) ON 900711 A/S ARONSON BRIEFED A GROUP  
OF 40 ESAF COMMANDERS, STAFF OFFICERS, AND CGSC  
STUDENTS. STRESSING THE SAME POINTS WHICH HE PRESENTED  
DURING A MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICERS ON 900710, A/S  
ARONSON ADDRESSED--U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD ES, THE  
U.S. POSITION ON GOES/FMLN NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION TO THE USG.

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E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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[REDACTED] THESE TOPICS:

2. (C/NF) 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.

--THE ARMED FORCES MUST FULLY SUPPORT THE GOES INVESTIGATION OF THE JESUIT CASE. IF THE JESUIT CASE IS INVESTIGATED FULLY AND ALL THE RESPONSIBLE ARE PROSECUTED BY THE COURTS, THE USG WILL CONTINUE MILITARY AID. A COVER UP WILL INSURE THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL CUT MILITARY AID AND THE ALLIANCE WILL BE THREATENED.

--EVERY ARMY, INCLUDING THE U.S. ARMY, HAS PEOPLE THAT BREAK RULES AND COMMIT ABUSES. THE QUESTION IS NOT AVOIDING THE COMMISSION OF ABUSES, RATHER PROSECUTING OFFENDERS. IN VIETNAM, THE U.S. ARMY TRIED THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES. THE SAME PROCESS MUST BE FOLLOWED ON THE JESUIT CASE.

3. (C/NF) A/S ARONSON ENDED THE BRIEFING WITH A NOTE OF OPTIMISM BY STATING THAT COMMUNISM WAS DYING AND DEMOCRACY WAS THRIVING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN ES THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY WAS DUE TO THE ARMED FORCES WHICH HAS DEFENDED THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THE OPPORTUNITY WAS CLOSE AT HAND TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THE ROAD WOULD NOT BE EASY BUT THERE IS STRONG HOPE THAT THIS GOAL COULD BE ATTAINED.

4. (C/NF) 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

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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. (C/NF) [REDACTED] 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 CONCENSUS 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.

2. (C/NF) [REDACTED] OVERALL REACTION TO THE ARONSON VISIT WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] STATED THAT IN A 900712 MEETING OF THE DIALOGUE COMMISSION ALL MEMBERS EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT THE VISIT ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVES OF DISPELLING THE PERCEPTION THAT THE USG WAS PROVIDING COUNSEL TO THE FMLN AND IMPROVING TEAMWORK BETWEEN THE GOES AND USG ON THE DIALOGUE PROCESS.

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//PSP: (U) [REDACTED]  
//COMSOBJ: (U) 431//

ADMIN

PROJ: (U)  
INSTR: (U) [REDACTED]  
PREP: (U) [REDACTED]  
ACQ: (U) EL SALVADOR [REDACTED]

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DISSEM: (U) [REDACTED] - AMEMBASSY EL SALVADOR.  
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NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS [REDACTED]

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