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 TO AIG 4677
 RHEPAAB/TAC IDHS FACILITY LANGLEY AFB//IDHS//
 RUEGKW/FBIS KEY WEST FL
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CEN/ES//
 RUEHSE/US SECRET SERVICE WASHINGTON DC//ID-FIB//
 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 ZEN/USARSO COROZAL PM
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SERIAL: PA1701003790

BODY

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
 SUBJ: MILITARY SUSPECTS IN JESUITS CASE APPEAR BEFORE JUDGE

REF: PA1301231490 AND ADD SAN SALVADOR DOMESTIC SPANISH
 132100 -- CRISTIANI NAMES SUSPECTS IN JESUIT CASE

SOURCE: PANAMA CITY ACAN IN SPANISH 2348 GMT L16 JAN 90
 TEXT:

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR, 16 JAN (ACAN-EFE) -- FOUR OFFICERS AND FOUR SALVADORAN ARMY SOLDIERS WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AND TWO WOMEN, APPEARED THIS AFTERNOON BEFORE THE JUDGE.

THE EIGHT SOLDIERS WERE TRANSFERED, UNDER STRICT SECURITY, FROM THE GARRISONS IN WHICH THEY ARE BEING HELD TO THE COURT.

PRESIDENT ALFREDO CRISTIANI NAMED ON 14 JANUARY COLONEL GUILLERMO BENAVIDES OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY; TWO LIEUTENANTS, A SUBLIEUTENANT, TWO NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS, A CORPORAL, AND TWO SOLDIERS AS SUSPECTS IN THIS CRIME. HE ALSO SAID ONE OF THE SOLDIERS IS AT LARGE.

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION WAS IN CHARGE OF GATHERING EVIDENCE, WHICH AFTERWARDS WAS SENT TO THE ARMY HONOR COMMISSION TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CRIMES.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN SALVADORAN HISTORY THAT ARMY MEMBERS HAVE APPEARED BEFORE A JUDGE AS SUSPECTS IN A POLITICAL CRIME.

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