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ALL POSTS PASS PAOS
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TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ARA NEWS ITEMS OF JANUARY 31, 1983
1. SUMMARY OF NEWSPAPERS:
-- WASHINGTON POST --
PERU: PHILIP BENNETT PAGE 15 FROM LIMA (8 PERUVIAN
JOURNALISTS KILLED IN REBEL AREA) SAYS MUTILATED BODIES
OF EIGHT PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS WERE FOUND IN A COMMON
GRAVE NEAR AYACUCHO ON SATURDAY. EIGHT HAD BEEN MISSING
SINCE WEDNESDAY WHEN THEY TRAVELED TO INVESTIGATE A

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REPORTED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PEASANTS AND MAOIST GUERRILLAS IN A REMOTE VILLAGE NORTH OF THE CITY. BENNETT QUOTES GEN. ROBERTO NOEL Y MORAL, ARMY COMMANDER FOR THE REGION AND CHIEF OF ANTIGUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN AYACUCHO AS SAYING THAT THE JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED BY LOCAL PEASANTS WHO MISTOOK THEM FOR GUERRILLAS. TWO LOCAL GUIDES WHO WERE UNHARMED, HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING. ONLY TWO OF THE JOURNALISTS WERE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED ON THE SCENE; THE OTHERS HAD BEEN BEATEN BEYOND RECOGNITION. THEY WERE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM LA REPUBLICA, PERU'S LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER, EL OBSERVADOR AND EL DIARIO, THE TWO LEADING OPPOSITION DAILIES, AND THE NEWS WEEKLY OIGA. BENNETT NOTES THAT THE DEATHS WERE THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED SINCE 1500 PERUVIAN ARMY TROOPS TOOK CONTROL OF EIGHT CENTRAL ANDEAN PROVINCES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IN ORDER TO TRY TO END THE GUERRILLA PROBLEM IN THAT AREA. "PROGRESS AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS SINCE THE ARMY'S INTERVENTION HAS BEEN SLOW. GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE FAILED TO DRAW SENDERO LUMINOSO INTO AN OPEN CONFRONTATION, AND THE GUERRILLAS HAVE CONTINUED RAIDS AND ASSASSINATIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE," SAYS BENNETT.

GUATEMALA/MEXICO: UPI FROM SAN CRISTOBAL LAS CASAS, MEXICO, PAGE 15 (GUATEMALA TROOPS ARE SAID TO KILL REFUGEES IN MEXICO) SAYS GUATEMALAN SOLDIERS CROSSED THE BORDER INTO MEXICO LAST WEEK, KILLED THREE GUATEMALANS AND KIDNAPED ANOTHER IN TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS, ACCORDING TO WITNESSES. WITNESSES SAID ABOUT 500 REFUGEES FLED THE CAMP OF LA HAMACA AFTER ABOUT 60 SOLDIERS FROM A FORCE OF 200 GUATEMALAN TROOPS ARRIVED AT THE CAMP THURSDAY AND EXECUTED THE THREE MEN. IN A SEPARATE ATTACK, RELIEF WORKERS SAID ANOTHER GUATEMALAN FORCE CROSSED THE CLEARLY MARKED BORDER AT SANTIAGO IN MEXICO'S LAGUNAS DE MONTEBELLO NATIONAL PARK ABOUT A QUARTER-MILE INSIDE MEXICAN TERRITORY WEDNESDAY. THEY SAID THE SOLDIERS CAPTURED A 31-YEAR-OLD REFUGEE, WHOSE BULLET-RIDDLED BODY WAS LATER FOUND ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER NEAR SANTIAGO. MEXICAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT THE FONMINISTRY HAS ASKED GUATEMALA FOR A CLARIFICATION. INTERIOR MINISTRY SAID SECURITY WAS TIGHTENED ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER AND THAT A HIGH-LEVEL PROBE OF THE INCIDENTS WAS UNDER WAY. UPI SAYS GEN. RIOS MONTT HAS DENIED THAT GUATEMALAN TROOPS EVER CROSSED THE BORDER, BUT HAS CHARGED THAT THE REFUGEE CAMPS ARE "COMMUNIST" BASES. FIFTEEN MILES FROM SANTIAGO, IN GUATEMALA, A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND LEFTIST REBELS LEFT ONE SOLDIER AND EIGHT GUERRILLAS DEAD, ARMY SPOKESMEN SAID.

EL SALVADOR: FIVE-COLUMN UPI PHOTO TOP OF PAGE 15 SHOWS GOES TROOPS FRIDAY PATROLLING PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY, AFTER REBELS BOMBED TWO KEY BRIDGES ALONG THE ROAD.

NICARAGUA: NEWS BRIEF FROM MIAMI IN "AROUND THE NATION" COLUMN (SLAIN GENERAL'S KIN SHOT) NOTES INCIDENT IN WHICH THREE MEN STORMED INTO THE HOME OF MARY LOUIS PEREZ-VEGA, WIDOW OF GEN. REINALDO PEREZ-VEGA, WHO WAS KIDNAPED AND MURDERED IN NICARAGUA IN 1978. THREE MEN KILLED WIDOW'S

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EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SON AND INJURED HER. POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR THEM.

-- WASHINGTON TIMES --

SURINAME: TED THOMAS HAS NEWS ANALYSIS PAGE 6 FROM PARAMARIBO (SURINAME'S TROOPS MAY BE THE KEY) IN WHICH HE SAYS, "AS LEFTIST STRONGMAN DESI BOUTERSE TRIES TO COUNT THE GUNS THAT WILL BE TURNED AGAINST HIM IF A RUMORED COUNTER-COUP MATERIALIZES TO CHALLENGE HIS BRUTAL REGIME, HIS SOLDIERS INDIVIDUALLY AND QUIETLY ARE DECIDING WHERE THEY WILL STAND. THEIR DECISIONS COULD DETERMINE THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FATE OF THIS TINY SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC THAT BOUTERSE HAS BEEN NUDGING TOWARD MARXISM." THOMAS NOTES PERSISTENT RUMORS IN PARAMARIBO THAT SURINAME REFUGEE MILITARY LEADERS, PERHAPS REINFORCED BY SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE FROM FLORIDA, ARE BIDDING THEIR TIME TO OVERTHROW BOUTERSE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR THE RETURN OF BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS NEEDED TO MAKE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM WORK. SOME EXPERTS ON SURINAME, HOWEVER, SAYS THOMAS, BELIEVE THE TALK OF AN INVASION BY EXILE OFFICERS AND MERCENARIES IS JUST RUMOR. THOMAS NOTES EVENTS OF LAST DECEMBER, AND CUTOFF OF AID BY THE US AND HOLLAND IN REACTION. "BOUTERSE DISPLAYS INCREASED HOSTILITY TOWARD THE US AND IS MOVING MORE OPENLY TOWARD LINKS WITH CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION, GRENADA AND OTHER LEFTIST COUNTRIES."

CENTRALER AMERICA: AP FROM MEXICO CITY PAGE 7 (DIRECT CLERGY ROLE IN LATIN POLITICS SHOWS DROP) SAYS DESPITE PAPAL ORDER BANNING CLERGYMEN FROM POLITICAL ACTIVISM, FIVE PRIESTS HOLD HIGH GOVERNMENT POSTS IN NICARAGUA AND OTHERS ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA. "FOR THE MOST PART, HOWEVER," SAYS AP, "DIRECT CLERGY INVOLVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS APPEARS TO HAVE DECREASED SINCE ITS HIGH POINT IN THE 1970S." THE POPE'S CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL POPULARITY IN LATIN AMERICA, COMBINED WITH HIS STAND THAT PRIESTS AND NUNS ARE DUTY-BOUND TO HELP THE POOR, HAS WORKED TO PERSUADE THE CLERGY IN MOST COUNTRIES TO BE MORE LOW-KEY, CHURCH OBSERVERS SAY. EXCEPTION IS NICARAGUA, WHICH MAY BE SOURCE OF EMBARRASSEMENT TO THE POPE WHEN HE VISITS IN MARCH. CHURCH LEADERS ASKED THE FIVE PRIESTS IN THE GRN, INCLUDING FONMIN D'ESCOTO, TO RESIGN IN 1981. AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WHEREBY THE PRIESTS WERE BARRED FROM PRACTICING THEIR MINISTRY IN PUBLIC AS LONG AS THEY REMAINED IN GOVERNMENT.

-- SUNDAY WASHINGTON POST --

MEXICO/FINANCE: DON OBERDORFER FRONT PAGE (MEXICO CRISIS ALTERED US FOREIGN LOAN VIEWS) HAS LONG STORY ON ADMINISTRATION'S SHIFT IN ATTITUDE TOWARD SUPPORT FOR THE TROUBLED WORLD ECONOMY, SHIFT WHICH MANY BELIEVE STEMS FROM "THE MEXICAN WEEKEND" OF AUGUST 14-15 WHEN US AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE US TO PUMP NEARLY \$3 BILLION INTO MEXICO TO STAVE OFF A DEFAULT ON THAT COUNTRY'S DEBTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR SITUATION IN BRAZIL, MEXICAN TROUBLES MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON THE ADMINISTRATION, SAYS OBERDORFER. "PRESIDENT REAGAN AND

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HIS AIDES CAME INTO OFFICE DEDICATED TO THE 'MAGIC OF THE MARKETPLACE' AS A CURE FOR TROUBLED ECONOMIES AND DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE AID THEY DISPERSE. NOW, SAYS SEN. CHARLES MATHIAS (R-MD), WHO WAS A CRITIC OF THOSE ORIGINAL POLICIES, 'I GIVE THEM CREDIT... THEY'VE ABANDONED THE MIND SET AND ARE DEALING WITH THE REAL WORLD.' SINCE 'THE MEXICAN WEEKEND'...THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS SET IN MOTION A MAJOR COMMITMENT OF NEW BILLIONS FOR THE IMF, AND THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL BORROWING FUND TO TIDE OVER DEBT-BURDENED NATIONS WHOSE WOES SERIOUSLY THREATENED GLOBAL STABILITY." OBERDORFER SAYS AS THE US AND THE REST OF THE WORLD SUFFER FROM THE LONGEST-LASTING SLUMP SINCE THE 1930S, "IT IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT ECONOMIC TROUBLE FROM ABROAD IS A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER ON THE OFER, OF NOT SURPASSING, THE MILITARY HAZARDS AROUND THE WORLD." HE NOTES THE DEPENDENCE OF THE US ECONOMY ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETS, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE US BANKING SYSTEM WITH OVERSEAS FINANCING. "IT IS A REFLECTION OF AMERICA'S STAKE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY THAT, DESPITE THE GENERAL FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARING TO ASK CONGRESS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO AUTHORIZE \$7 BILLION TO \$10 BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE IMF CAPITAL INCREASE AND SPECIAL EMERGENCY FUND, PLUS NEARLY \$5 BILLION IN NEW CAPITAL FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, MORE THAN \$1 BILLION FOR THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND \$150 MILLION FOR THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK." ALTHOUGH POLICY MAKERS ARE AWARE THAT THE CLIMATE IN CONGRESS IS CHILLY, THEY HAVE BEGUN TO MAKE THEIR CASES, SAYS OBERDORFER, WHO NOTES THAT BEFAUSE THE US WILL RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ASSETS IN RETURN OR BECAUSE THE DOLLARS ARE APPLIED AS GUARANTEES, THESE FUNDS WILL NOT SHOW UP AS CHARGES AGAINST THE FEDERAL BUDGET EVEN THOUGH CONGRESS IS REQUIRED TO APPROVE THE COMMITMENTS. OBERDORFER DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE EVENTS OF "THE MEXICAN WEEKEND." HE QUOTES DEPUTY TREASURY SECY. R,T, MCNAMAR AS DENYING THAT THERE HAS BEEN A BASIC POLICY SHIFT ON THE PART OF THE USG, BUT SAYING, "WHAT THE MEXICAN SITUATION DID WAS TO FUCUS THE ATTENTION OF BANKERS, THE PRESS AND GOVERNMENTS AT HIGHER LEVELS, ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION...THAT CRYSTALLIZED OUR THINKING THAT WWE SHOULD HAVE (AN INCREASE IN IMF FUNDS) SOONER RATHER THAN LATER."

SATURDAY WASHINGTON POST --

ELSALVADOR: IN PAGE 1 STORY RIGHTIST COALITION COLLAPSES IN EL SALVADOR, CHRIS DICKEY WRITES (FROM MEXICO CITY) THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THE RIGHT-WING COALITION "THAT HAS DOMINATED EL SALVADOR'S ASSEMBLY FOR ALMOST A YEAR" REOPENS THE QUESTION OF "WHO IS RULING THE COUNTRY JUST AS THE GOVERNMENT'S WAR WITH LEFTIST GUERRILLAS HAS ESCALATED." MODERATE POLITICIANS, WHILE STRENGTHENED BY THE "DISARRAY" IN THE BLOC LED BY D'AUBUISSON, "SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED DEATH THREATS, RAISING THE SPECTER THAT DEATH-SQUAD VIOLENCE COULD

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REEMERGE AGAINST THE RIGHTISTS' ADVERSARIES." THE RIGHTISTS' COALITION FELL APART, HE SAYS, IN A SHOWDOWN OVER D'AUBUISSON'S ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW HEALTH MINISTER. "IN KEY VOTES OF 39 TO 0, WITH 19 RIGHTIST LOYALISTS ABSENT, DELEGATES APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT AND ESTABLISHED NEW PROCEDURES TO WEAKEN D'AUBUISSON'S POWER AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHICH HE HAS CONTROLLED SINCE HIS COALITION WON A MAJORITY IN ELECTIONS LAST MARCH." DICKEY NOTES THIS OCCURRED TWO WEEKS AFTER "MUTINY...OF A BATTLEFIELD COMMANDER THAT APPEARED TO HAVE RESHUFFLED POWER IN THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND" AND UNDERMINED THE POSITION OF DEFMIN GARCIA. DICKEY SAYS MAGANA, WHO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "FIGUREHEAD" AND "GARCIA'S PUPPET," APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY WINNER TO EMERGE FROM THE CONFUSION FOR THE MOMENT.

DICKEY GOES ON: "EIGHT OF YESTERDAY'S VOTES AGAINST D'AUBUISSON BELONGED TO CONSERVATIVE DEPUTIES WHO HAVE VOTED WITH HIM AS A BLOC ON OTHER ISSUES. OTHER CONSERVATIVES HAD DEFECTED EARLIER, AND POLITICAL SOURCES SAID THAT EVEN WITHOUT THE EIGHT VOTES THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAD FORGED A NEW COALITION WITH A ONE-VOTE MAJORITY GOING INTO LAST NIGHT'S SESSION."

CITING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER JULIO REY PRENDES "AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE" AS HIS SOURCE, DICKEY WRITES, "DURING THE CRITICAL ASSEMBLY SESSION YESTERDAY...AT LEAST NINE DEPUTIES RECEIVED ANONYMOUS DEATH THREATS AGAINST THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILIES AND EXTRA UNITS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE WERE CALLED OUT TO PROTECT THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING."

REVIEWING D'AUBUISSON'S BACKGROUND, PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES AND ACCUSATIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN CLOSELY LINKED TO DEATH SQUAD KILLINGS, DICKEY SAYS, "D'AUBUISSON REPEATEDLY HAS DENIED ANY ROLE IN DIRECTING SUCH DEATH SQUADS, AND NO ONE IN EL SALVADOR IS MAKING PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM NOW. 'WE WILL HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PRUDENCE,' REY PRENDES SAID."

DICKEY MAKES THE POINT THAT UNTIL RECENTLY, THE "ESSENTIAL DISPUTE" INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT WAS THOUGHT TO BE BETWEEN D'AUBUISSON AND GARCIA, BUT THE OCHOA INCIDENT AND MAGANA'S "ADROIT HANDLING" OF IT, SERVED TO WEAKEN GARCIA AS MAGANA GAINED IN STRENGTH AND POWER.

"MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH OCHOA WAS A LONG-TIME FRIEND AND SOMETIME POLITICAL ALLY OF D'AUBUISSON'S, THE REBELLION APPEARS FINALLY TO HAVE WORKED AGAINST THE ASSEMBLY LEADER. REY PRENDES CITED D'AUBUISSON'S 'POSTURE OF INTRODUCING POLITICAL PROBLEMS INTO THE ARMED FORCES' AS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION AMONG MANY OF THE DEPUTIES WHO VOTED AGAINST HIM YESTERDAY, ESPECIALLY THE BLOC OF CONSERVATIVES IN WHAT IS NOW BEING CALLED THE AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY. AS ONE DEPUTY PUT IT, THAT GROUP 'IS MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO THE EXISTING MILITARY STRUCTURE, THE OLD OFFICIAL PARTY IDEA, NOT THE NAZI-FASCIST TENDENCY OF ARENA.'" YESTERDAY'S ISSUE PITTED D'AUBUISSON DIRECTLY AGAINST MAGANA, "WHO HAS BEEN

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TRYING SINCE NOVEMBER TO REMOVE THE HEALTH MINISTER, AN ARENA PARTY MEMBER."

FINALLY, DICKEY NOTES THAT THE INTERNAL DISPUTE AROSE AS THE FMLN GUERRILLAS "LAUNCHED THEIR LARGEST OFFENSIVES IN MONTHS, INCLUDING ATTACKS IN SEVEN OF EL SALVADOR'S 14 PROVINCES."

SATURDAY NEW YORK TIMES --

EL SALVADOR: INSIDE PAGE CARRIES REUTERS STORY SALVADOR ARMY REPORTS GAINS. GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE RECAPTURED "SEVERAL" TOWNS AND VILLAGES FROM THE GUERRILLAS IN MORAZAN PROVINCE ACCORDING TO DEFMIN GARCIA. GARCIA GAVE NO NUMBERS BUT DID SAY THAT MEANGUERA WAS BACK IN GOVERNMENT HANDS. HE SAID ABOUT 6,000 US-TRAINED TROOPS PENETRATED GUERRILLA POSITIONS THURSDAY AFTER RESUMING A DRIVE THAT HAD BEEN HALTED FOR THE LAST SIX DAYS (FOR REGROUPING AND REINFORCEMENT, STORY STATES FURTHER ON, CITING "MILITARY OFFICERS") HE DENIED THAT HONDURAN TROOPS WERE HELPING IN THE DRIVE. GUERRILLA RADIO REPORTS THURSDAY NIGHT SAID HONDURAN FORCES HAD PUSHED SOUTH AND CROSSED THE BORDER IN A PINCER OPERATION WITH SALVADORAN TROOPS ADVANCING NORTH TO TRAP THE INSURGENTS.

ARGENTINA: EDITORIAL HEADED RETURN TO THE FALKLAND RIDDLE ECHOES FORMER UK AMBASSADOR TO THE US SIR NICHOLAS HENDERSON'S DEFINITION OF BRITAIN'S DILEMMA: "WITHOUT A DEAL WITH ARGENTINA, THE ISLANDS' DEVELOPMENT WILL LAG AND BRITAIN WILL BE SADDLED WITH A HUGE MILITARY BURDEN. BUT, HE WISELY ADDS, THERE'LL BE NO DEAL UNTIL ARGENTINA GETS SOME SATISFACTION CONCERNING 'SOVEREIGNTY.'" IN THE END, EDIT ALSO ENDORSES HENDERSON'S VIEW AS TO HOW THE ISLANDERS' POLITICAL RIGHTS CAN BE PROTECTED WHILE THE ARGENTINES' NATIONALIST PRIDE IS SATISFIED: "'I AM SURE THAT IN SOME WAY AT SOME STAGE THE PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE INTERNATIONALIZED.'"

IN BETWEEN, EDIT POINTS OUT THE UNLIKELYHOOD OF COMPROMISE BY BRITAIN ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE ANY TIME SOON, GIVEN BRITISH LOSSES IN THE WAR, A LOOMING ELECTION, AND THE FACT THAT THE FRANKS REPORT FOUND NO JUSTIFICATION FOR "ATTACHING ANY CRITICISM OR BLAME" TO THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT "'FOR THE ARGENTINE JUNTA'S DECISION TO COMMIT ITS ACT OF UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION.' BUT, THE EDIT GOES ON, THE FRANKS REPORT ALSO "RECORDS THE FAILURES OF SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO FIND A RATIONAL SOLUTION TO WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MINOR TERRITORIAL DISPUTE." FROM 1965 TO THE WAR LAST SPRING, NO FORMULA WAS FOUND TO SATISFY THE 1,800 ISLANDERS AND THEIR FRIENDS IN PARLIAMENT. "FROM THIS HISTORY HAS COME THE TOO-SIMPLE BELIEF THAT BRITAIN IS BOUND BY WHATEVER THE FALKLANDERS WANT."

THE FACTS ARE, SAYS THE EDIT, THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THEIR PREFERRED FUTURE; EVEN SELF-DETERMINATION IS "A SLIPPERY DOCTRINE" -- ACCORDING TO A 1965 HARVARD STUDY, IN FACT MADE AVAILABLE ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS TO CERTAIN PEOPLE UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES; BRITAIN "SAW NOTHING SHAMEFUL IN REMOVING 1,500 PROTESTING RESIDENTS FROM DIEGO GARCIA" IN 1981 SO

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THE US COULD BUILD A BASE THERE; AND "FOR ITS PART, THE US SENATE FINALLY SETTLED A LONGSTANDING DISPUTE WITH PANAMA BY APPROVING A TREATY OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED BY 40,000 AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE CANAL ZONE."

-- NEW YORK TIMES, 1/31 --

SURINAME: THIRD OF FOUR EDITORIALS ("NIGHTFALL IN SURINAME" P. 24) STATES: "FRIENDS OF DESI BOUTERSE, THE RULER OF SURINAME, PROBABLY CONTEND THAT HE HAS THE BEST INTENTIONS FOR HIS SAD, SICK COUNTRY. AND THAT HE'S KIND TO CHILDREN. THEY WILL SAY HE REALLY DIDN'T LIKE HAVING TO ORDER THE BUTCHERY OF 15 OPPOSITION LEADERS ON DEC. 8. AND, AS HIS FRIENDS IN CUBA, PARTICULARLY, LIKE TO SAY, IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND MULTINATIONALS ANYWAY.

"TOOTH FAIRIES ARE EASIER TO CREDIT. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SURINAME REEKS OF BARBAROUS OPPORTUNISM. ON THE EVIDENCE, COLONEL BOUTERSE WILL EMBRACE ANY PRINCIPLE TO JUSTIFY HIS SELF-ENTHRONEMENT. NOT LONG AGO, HE WAS JAILING MEN NOW HOLDING POSTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT ON CHARGES THAT THEY WERE PRO-CUBAN LEFTISTS. HAVING SLAUGHTERED CENTRIST LEADERS, HE NOW EMBRACES THE LEFT, AND THE SINISTER. AND CUBA, TO ITS SHAME, HAILS THIS PIRATE AS A REVOLUTIONARY.

"SURINAME'S PROBLEMS HAVE HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH POVERTY OR EXPLOITATION. A NEW NATION OF 350,000, IT HAS BEEN GETTING MORE THAN \$100 MILLION A YEAR FROM HOLLAND, WHICH GAVE IT INDEPENDENCE IN 1975. NOT LACK OF MONEY BUT LACK OF CONFIDENCE HAS SAPPED THE SOCIETY -- A FEAR THAT HONEST AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WAS IMPOSSIBLE AMONG A PEOPLE WHOSE ORIGINS ARE EAST INDIAN, AFRICAN, JAVANESE AND CHINESE AND DIVIDED INTO MANY OTHER SUBGROUPS.

"YET DESPITE THIS EXOTIC AMALGAM, SURINAME'S POLITICS HAD BEEN REMARKABLY NONVIOLENT. AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT FELL WITH ONLY SIX CASUALTIES IN 1980, WHEN A GROUP OF SERGEANTS SEIZED POWER, ALLEGEDLY TO UNIONIZE THE 2,000-MAN ARMY. SERGEANT BOUTERSE, A PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR, LED THE COUP, THEN INFLATED HIS RANK, THEN MADE HIMSELF DICTATOR AND FINALLY TURNED LEFT AND EAST FOR HELP.

"SURINAME'S NATURAL LINK IS TO THE NETHERLANDS, WHERE PERHAPS A THIRD OF ITS POPULATION NOW LIVES. SINCE THE DECEMBER MASSACRE, THE DUTCH HAVE SUSPENDED AID, AND COLONEL BOUTERSE'S NEW FRIENDS ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE UP THE LOSS. HALF HIS OFFICER CORPS NOW WANTS OUT OF THE ARMY, AND COUNTRY. EXPERIENCE ARGUES THAT SURINAME'S TYRANT IS INVITING THE FATE HE HAS VISITED ON OTHERS."

EL SALVADOR: LYDIA CHAVEZ, REPORTING FROM SAN SALVADOR ("SALVADOR REBELS PUSHING DRIVE IN 3 PROVINCES") ON FRONT PAGE, NOTES THAT THE MOST SERIOUS FIGHTING IS TAKING PLACE IN USULUTAN IN THE SOUTHEAST OVER A BATTLE FOR THE TOWN OF BERLIN, A TOWN OF 35,000. "THE MOST SERIOUS SETBACK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN AND SALVADORAN OFFICIALS, IS THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO BRIDGES AND BUSES. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIALS SAID, THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT AMONG THE FIVE MILLION SALVADORANS

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IS THREATENED WHEN CIVILIANS BEGIN TO FEEL THAT THE ARMY IS UNABLE TO PROTECT THEM." CHAVEZ NOTES THAT SOME 6,000 TROOPS, INCLUDING THREE US-TRAINED BATTALIONS, ARE CONCENTRATED IN MORAZAN. SO FAR, WRITES CHAVEZ, THE ARMY HAS NOT MADE A MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN EITHER USULATAN OR CHALETENANGO. ONE OF THE REMAINING QUESTIONS, SHE WRITES, IS HOW MANY TROOPS THE GOES WILL LEAVE IN MORAZAN, PARTICULARLY IN THE RETAKEN CITY OF MEANGUERRA. A STRONG ENOUGH MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD GIVE THE GOES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT OPERATIONS FARTHER NORTH AND PERHAPS DISRUPT SOME OF THE GUERRILLA SUPPLY LINES.

PERU: UPI REPORT FROM LIMA CARRIED FRONT PAGE ("8 NEWSMEN KILLED IN AMBUSH IN PERU: PEASANTS REPORTEDLY MISTOOK THE JOURNALISTS FOR REBELS"). STORY NOTES THAT 8 PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS WERE KILLED LAST WEEK IN THE VILLAGE OF UCHURACCAY, ABOUT 220 MILES SOUTHEAST OF LIMA -- THE JOURNALISTS HAD GONE TO THE REGION TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT PEASANTS HAD REBELLED AGAINST THE LEFTIST SHINING PATH GUERRILLAS WHO CONTROL MUCH OF THE AREA. PEASANT FARMERS IN THE REGION REPORTEDLY KILLED SEVEN GUERRILLAS LAST WEEK WITH CLUBS AND MACHETES WHEN THE REBELS TRIED TO RAID THEIR VILLAGE.

GUATEMALA/MEXICO: "AROUND THE WORLD" INCLUDES REUTERS REPORT FROM MEXICO ("MEXICO ACTS TO PROTECT GUATEMALAN REFUGEES" P. 5) THAT THE GOM HAS STEPPED UP SECURITY MEASURES ON ITS SOUTHERN BORDER TO PROTECT GUATEMALAN REFUGEES AFTER FOUR OF THEM WERE KILLED LAST WEEK BY A BAND OF 100 ARMED MEN, ACCORDING TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. "THE SQUAD OF GUNMEN, PRESUMED TO HAVE COME FROM GUATEMALA, KILLED THE FOUR MEN AND ABDUCTED ANOTHER REFUGEE IN RAIDS ON TWO REFUGEE CAMPS NEAR THE GUATEMALAN BORDER..." MEXICO'S FONMINISTRY HAS ASKED GUATEMALA TO CLARIFY THE INCIDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS OPENED A QUIRY INTO THE RAIDS.

-- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR --

EL SALVADOR: INSIDE "THE NEWS BRIEFLY" CARRIES SHORT NOTE THAT GOES TROOPS RECAPTURED THE STRATEGIC TOWN OF JOCOAITIQUE, OPENING THE WAY FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF AN ANTIGUERRILLA DRIVE IN EL SALVADOR'S NORTHEASTERN MORAZAN PROVINCE, DEFMIN GARCIA SAID. HE TOLD REUTERS THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS HIS TROOPS WOULD FLUSH OUT LEFT-WING GUERRILLAS FROM MORAZAN AND RESTORE PEACE TO THE PROVINCE.

-- WALL STREET JOURNAL --

CHILE: INTERNATIONAL SECTION INCLUDES REPORT FROM NEW YORK ("CHILE ASKS ITS COMMERCIAL BANK CREDITORS TO RESCHEDULE 1983 AND 1984 PAYMENTS" P. 32) THAT "BANKERS SAID THEY WEREN'T SURPRISED BY A CHILEAN PROPOSAL THAT ITS COMMERCIAL BANK CREDITORS AGREE TO STRETCHED-OUT PAYMENTS ON SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S DEBT." THE CHILEAN PLAN WAS OUTLINED FRIDAY IN NYC WHERE THE RESTRUCTURING PLAN COULD INVOLVE AS MUCH AS \$3.5 BILLION OWED TO COMMERCIAL BANKS THIS YEAR AND NEXT. CHILE'S FOREIGN DEBT CURRENTLY IS ABOUT \$17 BILLION, OF WHICH ABOUT \$14 BILLION IS OWED TO FOREIGN BANKS. SOME BANKERS SAID THE

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PROPOSED TERMS OF THE DEBT RESTRUCTURING ARE TOO FAVORABLE TOWARD CHILE AND PROBABLY WON'T BE ACCEPTABLE TO MANY CREDITOR BANKS. THE REQUEST FOLLOWS CHILE'S AGREEMENT EARLIER THISMONTH WITH THE IMF FOR A \$882 MILLION TWO-YEAR STANDBY CREDIT.

BRAZIL: SAME PAGE 32 S. KARENE WITCHER NYC ARTICLE ("CREDITORS BALKING AT PARTICIPATING IN BRAZIL AID PLAN: NEXT MONDAY SET AS DEADLINE; BANKERS SAY MORE LOANS WILL BE NEEDED THIS YEAR") NOTES THAT "BRAZIL IS HAVING TROUBLE WINNING BANK SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC RESCUE PLAN IT PRESENTED TO ITS CREDITORS LAST MONTH, BANKERS SAY." MOREOVER, THE BANKERS SAY THAT EVEN IF LENDERS SOON ASSEMBLY THE FOUR-PART PACKAGE, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE \$4.4 BILLION IN NEW 1983 LOANS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT BRAZIL STILL WOULD HAVE TO ASK BANKS FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS MORE IN NEW CREDITS FOR THIS YEAR. "IF THE CURRENT RESCUE PACKAGE DOESN'T COME TOGETHER, SOME BANKERS ARGUE, A SECOND ONE WILL BE HARDER TO ASSEMBLE. OTHER BANKERS MAINTAIN THAT FAILURE WOULD ERODE CONFIDENCE IN THE WAY COMMERCIAL BANKS AND THE IMF ARE FORMULATING RESCUE EFFORTS AND WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN SIMILAR AID."

-- SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES --

EL SALVADOR: RAYMOND BONNER REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON ON P. 10 ("NEW FIGHT DEVELOPING IN US ON SALVADOR AID") RS HAVE INSISTED THAT ONLY \$40 MILLION IN ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDS (ESF) WAS APPROPRIATED IN 1982 FOR EL SALVADOR; SENATE COUNTERPARTS WERE EQUALLY EMPHATIC THAT THE AMOUNT WAS \$95 MILLION. "ADDING TO THE CONFUSION," WRITES BONNER, "EL SALVADOR'S AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, ERNESTO RIVAS GALLONT, SAID FRIDAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ADVISED THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE FIGURE WAS \$105 MILLION." EDWIN F. POWERS, SENIOR STAFF MEMBER OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "IF THEY TRY TO GET MORE THAN \$40 MILLION, THERE WILL BE MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS." BONNER WRITES THAT "IF EL SALVADOR SUCCEEDS IN GETTING MORE, IT APPEARS THAT MUCH OF THE CREDIT WILL GO TO THE COUNTRY'S WASHINGTON LOBBYIST, DENIS M. NEILL, WHO OUTLINED HIS STRATEGY IN A MEMORANDUM TO AMBASSADOR GALLONT." NEILL HAS ARGUED THAT WHILE THE INITIAL HOUSE DRAFT OF THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE LIMITED ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDS FOR EL SALVADOR DURING 1983 TO \$40 MILLION, HIS MEMO STATES THAT "AN IMPORTANT PHRASE WAS DELETED" FROM THE INITIAL DRAFT, AND THE FINAL CONTINUING RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE PERMITTED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OF UP TO \$150 MILLION. POWERS SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH DELETION AND ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "TACIT ACCEPTANCE" OF THIS LEVEL (\$40 MILLION) BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. BONNERS WRITES THAT EFFORTS TO GET THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VERSION WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. AS FOR THE SENATE'S VERSION, THE STAFF MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WITH WHOM POWERS DEALT DISPUTED POWER'S ACCOUNT.

EL SALVADOR: LYDIA CHAVEZ, REPORTING FROM SAN SALVADOR

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("INFIGHTING SLOWS SALVADOR'S PLANS: RIGHTISTS' SETBACK AIDS VIEW THAT STRUGGLE OVER SOCIAL PROGRAMS IS NOT OVER" P. 11), REFERS TO THE RECENT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ACTION VIS-A-VIS ARENA AND WRITES THAT "THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL FACTIONS HAS PREVENTED EITHER THE FAR RIGHT OR THE CENTER FROM SEIZING CLEAR CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY. A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS, MANY OFFICIALS HERE SAY, IS THAT THE SQUABBLING HAS HINDERED PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR-OLD CIVIL WAR OR EVEN A CONSENSUS ON HOW THE WAR SHOULD BE FOUGHT. WHILE THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE HAS LED TO PERIODIC SETBACKS, A NASCENT, ALBEIT FRAGILE, DEMOCRACY HAS EVOLVED." SHE GOES ON TO WRITE THAT THERE REMAINS THE FEAR AMONG WESTERN AND SALVADORAN OFFICIALS THAT IF ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON "BECOMES TOO FRUSTRATED WITH THE ROLE HE PLAYS IN THE ASSEMBLY, HE WILL BEGIN TO ACT OUTSIDE OF THE SYSTEM TO DESTABILIZE THE GOVERNMENT." PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT ALVARO MAGANA SAID HE EXPECTED A RENEWED BATTLE OVER LAND REDISTRIBUTION WHEN THE ASSEMBLY HAS TO CONSIDER NEXT MONTH WHETHER TO EXTEND THE TIME LIMIT THAT PEASANTS HAVE TO APPLY FOR TITLE TO LAND THEY NOW RENT. HIS CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THE FAR RIGHT, CHAVEZ NOTES, "HAS MADE HIM LEERY OF NAMING A COMMISSION THAT WILL EXAMINE WAYS OF BRINGING THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION INTO THE POLITICAL PROCESS. SUCH A MOVE IS VIEWED BY MANY OFFICIALS HERE AS CRITICAL, SINCE THE MILITARY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DIMINISH THE STRENGTH OF THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH THE GUERRILLAS HAVE NOT MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL GAINS, THEY HAVE ;BEEN ABLE TO DEAL CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY BY A PERSISTENT CAMPAIGN OF DESTROYING CASH CROPS, BRIDGES, POWER LINES AND BUSES."

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF T.V. NEWSCASTS FOR JANUARY 28 - JANUARY 30, 1983:

NO ARA TOPICS DISCUSSED.

3. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES FOR NOON BRIEFING OF JANUARY 31, 1983:

-- GUATEMALA: RAIDS INTO MEXICO --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS THIS MORNING INDICATING THAT GUATEMALAN TROOPS ON TWO OCCASIONS LAST WEEK ENTERED INTO REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEXICO, KILLING FOUR PERSONS?

A: WE'VE SEEN REPORTS INDICATING THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE SITUATION, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO OFFER YOU.

-- QUESTION TAKEN AT PRESS BRIEFING 1/28/83: BELIZE --

Q: THE UK-GUATEMALAN TALKS OVER BELIZE HAVE BROKEN DOWN AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN ASKED TO TAKE A STRONGER ROLE IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS: DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT?

A: WE UNDERSTAND THE UK/GUATEMALA/BELIZE TALKS ARE SUSPENDED PRESENTLY. THE U.S. CONSIDERS THIS AN ISSUE REQUIRING SOLUTION BY THE THREE POWERS INVOLVED. AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE WHEN REQUESTED.

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-- EL SALVADOR: UPDATE ON MILITARY SITUATION --

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR? OVER THE WEEKEND THE GUERRILLAS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN ALL THREE DEPARTMENTS OF TRADITIONAL STRENGTH (MORAZAN, CHALATENANGO, USULATAN).

A: I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY UPDATE ON THE MILITARY SITUATION. AS WE NOTED FRIDAY, GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO THESE AREAS, BUT THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS AND THE SALVADORAN ARMY. AS HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF GUERRILLA STRATEGY FOR SOME TIME, THEY CONTINUE TO DEAL SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY THROUGH DESTRUCTION OF CASH CROPS, BRIDGES, POWER LINES AND TRANSPORTATION, PARTICULARLY BUSES.

-- TAKEN QUESTION: 1/28/83: EL SALVADOR --

Q: "WHY ARE THE GOVERNMENT BATTALIONS ENGAGED IN THESE AREAS WHICH YOU DESCRIBED ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO AS INCONSEQUENTIAL, UNDER-POPULATED, AND OF NO ECONOMIC OR STRATEGIC VALUE?"

A: THE CHARACTERIZATION IS INACCURATE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AT THE DECEMBER 28 BRIEFING AS TO REPORTED GUERRILLA GAINS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT, THE BRIEFER RESPONDED: "WE DON'T AGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT. THE OVERALL STRENGTH OF THE GUERRILLA FORCES IN EL SALVADOR HAS NOT INCREASED OVER THE PAST YEAR AS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RESULTS OF THE MARCH 1982 ELECTION. THE GUERRILLAS CLEARLY DO NOT ENJOY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR. AND THE AREAS WHICH THE GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD BY FORCE ARE ISOLATED RURAL AREAS WHICH THESE (SIC) USE AS RETREATS AFTER THEIR EFFORTS TO SABOTAGE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE."

-- ARRESTS IN SURINAME --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT REPORTS OF NEW ARRESTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME?

A: THE ONLY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME IS BASED ON A NEWS REPORT CARRIED THIS MORNING ON THE SURINAMESE RADIO. ACCORDING TO THAT SOURCE, THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME HAS ARRESTED 15 PEOPLE, ALLEGEDLY FOR PLOTTING AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. ONLY THREE OF THE 15 PEOPLE ARRESTED WERE IDENTIFIED. THESE WERE MAJOR ROY HORB, UNTIL RECENTLY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY CENTER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE JAN SARIMAN AND MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PEOPLES MOBILIZATION AND INFORMATION, LT. J. HARDJOPRAJITNO. SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT SOME ARMS WERE FOUND DURING THE ARRESTS.

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT VIEW THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH CONCERN?

A: OUR CONCERN HAS CONTINUED SINCE THE BRUTAL KILLINGS OF SURINAMESE CITIZENS WHICH OCCURRED IN DECEMBER. WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION THERE CLOSELY, INCLUDING WHETHER THE GOS ACCORDS FULL DUE PROCESS TO THE

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SURINAMESE CITIZENS CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST.

IF ASKED ONLY:

Q: IS OUR AMBASSADOR TO PARAMARIBO IN WASHINGTON?

A: YES. PRIOR TO THIS WEEKEND'S EVENTS, AMBASSADOR DUEMLING ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON (FRIDAY P.M.) FOR PERSONAL REASONS. BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU ON HIS SCHEDULE.

4. SUMMARY OF NOON BRIEFING JANUARY 31 (ROMBERG):
IN A RELATIVELY SHORT BRIEFING, THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT SALVADORAN TROOPS WERE INCURRING LOSSES. THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE GENERAL SUBJECT WAS ADDRESSED LAST FRIDAY, THEN USED THE GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR TODAY. COULD THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THE GOES MILITARY SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING? NO, NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT. ANYTHING ON REPORTS ON GUATEMALAN INCURSIONS INTO MEXICO? THE SPOKESMAN USED THE GUIDANCE. DID THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON **KLAUS BARBIE'S** POSSIBLE EXTRADITION FROM BOLIVIA TO GERMANY? NO. THE US POSITION ON DEALING WITH NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IS CLEAR AND ON-THE-RECORD, AND HE DIDN'T PLAN TO COMMENT ON SPECIFIC CASES.

5. ADDITIONAL PRESS ITEM, FROM JAN. 31 WASHINGTON POST:
SURINAME/CUBA: FOURTH OF FOUR EDITS NOTES PROBLEMS IN SURINAME SMALL PLACE, BIG TROUBLE . EDIT RECAPS HISTORY OF BOUTERSE GOVERNMENT, AND VIOLENT EVENTS OF DECEMBER IN WHICH 15 PROMINENT CITIZENS DIED. EDIT SAYS CUBA HAS JUST PROVIDED SURINAME "FRESH EVIDENCE OF ITS BANEFUL INFLUENCEON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS." NOBODY SAYS THE CUBANS GUIDED THIS MURDERER'S BOUTERSE'S, HAND, SAYS EDIT. "BUT NO ONE CAN IGNORE THE CLOSE CONTACTS HE HAS HAD WITH CUBAN AND SOVIET OFFICIALS BEFORE AND AFTER SURINAME'S NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES. THE CUBANS HAVE EMBRACED HIM, AND HE, EAGER FOR INTERNATIONAL REASSURANCE, GIVES INCREASING SIGNS OF EMBRACING THEM. FOR HAVANA, SURINAME MEANS SUCCESS: ONE MORE FRIENDLY REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN THE CUBAN ORBIT AND PERHAPS ITS FIRST PRESENCE ON THE SOUTH AMERICAN MAINLAND. FOR SURINAME, HAVANA MEANS DISASTER: IT IS AT LEAST DOUBTFUL WHETHER COL. BOUTERSE WOULD HAVE CONTEMPLATED A BLOOD BATH OR BEEN ABLE TO MOVE THE COUNTRY TOWARD POLICE-STATE STATUS WITHOUT WHATEVER AID HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FROM CUBA." EDIT NOTES THAT THE DUTCH HAVE HALTED PAYMENTS ON THE IMMENSE \$1.5 BILLION IN AID THEY PROMISED SURINAME AT INDEPENDENCE IN 1975, AND THE US HAS HALTED ITS TOKEN AID TOO. "SURINAME, HOWEVER, HAS A CUSHION FROM ITS BAUXITE. IT WOULD BE GOOD TO THINK THAT SURINAME HAS ENOUGH PATRIOTS AVAILABLE TO RESTORE THE COUNTRY'S FREEDOM BEFORE LT. COL. BOUTERSE OR A SUCCESSOR TIGHTENS HIS HOLD -- EVEN HIS OWN OFFICERS ARE DESERTING HIM, SO THE CUBANS MAY BE EYEING A REPLACEMENT. MEANWHILE, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES EVERYWHERE SHOULD FREEZE HIM OUT." DAM

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