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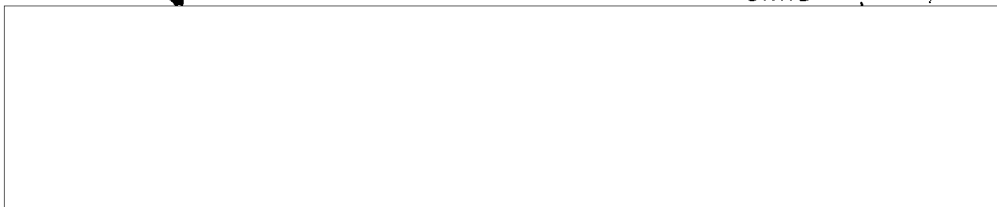
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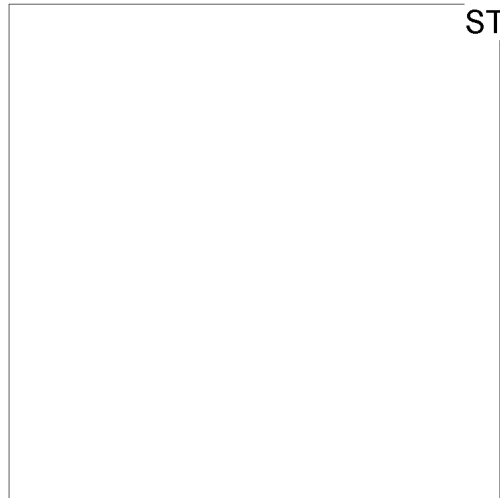
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 RUFHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE OOOO  
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCE/BRIEFING OF MARCH 15, 1984

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

-- QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 13, 1984: CHILE: RODOLFO SEGUEL --

Q: RODOLFO SEGUEL WAS FIRED, OR DISMISSED BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF THE COPPERWORKERS CONFEDERATION. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT RODOLFO SEGUEL WILL CONTINUE AS HEAD OF THE CHILEAN COPPERWORKERS CONFEDERATION UNTIL THE TWO LEGAL CASES IN WHICH HE IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED ARE SETTLED BY THE CHILEAN COURTS. THOSE CASES RELATE TO HIS DISMISSAL BY CODELCO AND HIS RE-ELECTION AS CTC HEAD.

AS THE DEPARTMENT INDICATED JUNE 16, 1983 WE CONTINUE TO

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FOLLOW CLOSELY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FREE TRADE UNION LEADERS AND HOPE AND EXPECT THAT MR. SEGUEL WILL ENJOY ALL THE RIGHTS OF DUE PROCESS TO WHICH HE IS ENTITLED BY LAW.

(FOR THE SPOKESMAN: BACKGROUND AS FOLLOWS)

SEGUEL WAS DISMISSED BY CODELCO, THE CHILEAN STATE COPPER CORPORATION, ON JULY 13, 1983 AFTER HE CLAIMED TO BE THE INTELLECTUAL LEADER OF AN ILLEGAL STRIKE WHICH OCCURRED JUNE 17, 1983. SEGUEL TOOK THE DISMISSAL TO THE CHILEAN COURTS. ON MARCH 12 A LOWER COURT UPHELD THE DISMISSAL. SEGUEL HAS INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO TAKE THE CASE TO THE COURT OF APPEALS, AND IF NECESSARY, TO THE CHILEAN SUPREME COURT.

DESPITE THE LOSS OF THE CASE IN THE LOWER COURT, SEGUEL CONTINUES AS HEAD OF THE CTC AS THE RESULT OF A SEPARATE COURT FINDING THAT SEGUEL WOULD CONTINUE IN HIS UNION POSITION UNTIL THE COURT CASE ON HIS DISMISSAL IS SETTLED.

HOWEVER, ALSO ON MARCH 12, THE CHILEAN LABOR MINISTRY, AS A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, FOUND THAT SEGUEL'S RE-ELECTION (BY UNION MEMBERS FOLLOWING EXPIRATION OF HIS PREVIOUS ELECTED TERM) ON JANUARY 9, 1984 AS HEAD OF THE COPPERWORKERS CONFEDERATION WAS ILLEGAL BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN FIRED BY CODELCO AND WAS NOT AN EMPLOYEE, AND BECAUSE HE HAD FAILED TO PAY UNION DUES AND WAS, THEREFORE, NOT A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE BASE UNION. SEGUEL HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING TO THE CHILEAN COURTS. THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF OVERRIDING THE COURT'S FINDING THAT SEGUEL COULD CONTINUE AS CTC HEAD. HOWEVER, SEGUEL WILL CONTINUE AS HEAD UNTIL THIS AND THE FIRST CASE ARE FULLY ADJUDICATED IN THE CHILEAN COURTS.

-- EL SALVADOR: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLYMAN ASSASSINATED - THIRD THIS YEAR --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION OR COMMENT ON THE REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF A MEMBER OF EL SALVADOR'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY? HECTOR T. FLORES LARIN, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY, WAS SHOT IN EL SALVADOR YESTERDAY. HE IS THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLYMAN TO BE ASSASSINATED THIS YEAR.

A: OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT HECTOR FLORES LARIN, A MEMBER OF THE SALVADORAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY, WAS ASSASSINATED BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN IN SAN SALVADOR YESTERDAY. NO GROUP HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS COWARDLY ACT.

MR. FLORES LARIN IS THE THIRD SALVADORAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLYMAN TO BE ASSASSINATED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR. IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE EARLIER CASES, (RICARDO ARNOLDO POHL OF THE ARENA PARTY) A GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEPLORED POLITICAL VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. IN THESE SPECIFIC CASES, THE ATTACKS ARE NOT ONLY AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, BUT AGAINST ONE OF THE BASIC ORGANS THROUGH WHICH SALVADORAN CITIZENS ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND AN END TO VIOLENCE THROUGH DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW. WE CONDEMN SUCH ACTS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS.

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THE GUERRILLAS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ASSASSINATION?

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A: AS I SAID, NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. OUR EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE CASES CLOSELY.

-- EL SALVADOR: CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON AID REQUEST --

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL YESTERDAY OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR \$93 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR? (NYTIMES/WASHPOST/BALT.SUN)

A: AS THE WHITE HOUSE INDICATED YESTERDAY, "WE'RE PLEASED" BY THE SENATE'S ACTION AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO "THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM FOR DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA".

Q: DO YOU HAVE A REACTION TO THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACTION YESTERDAY WHICH "PUT ASIDE THE ISSUE OF AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA WHILE APPROVING A FOREIGN AID PACKAGE THAT INCLUDED ... APPROVAL CAME ON A VOICE VOTE AFTER THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CONSIDER THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PART SEPARATELY." (DAYRES/NYTIMES)

A: WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE HOUSE ACTION OTHER THAN TO OBSERVE THAT THE ACTION PRESERVES EVERYONE'S FLEXIBILITY IN APPROACHING THE ISSUES.

IF ASKED:

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT SEE THIS ACTION AS A VICTORY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY IN EL SALVADOR?

A: WE DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT.

Q: WOULD YOU CARE TO FORECAST WHAT THE FUTURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR MIGHT HOLD?

A: WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO FORECAST, BUT WE DO LOOK FORWARD TO TIMELY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE REQUEST FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ACTION.

-- NICARAGUA: ESTIMATED ANTI-SANDINISTA FORCES --

Q: CBS NEWS HAS STATED THAT THE NUMBER OF ANTI-SANDINISTA INSURGENTS IN NICARAGUA HAS INCREASED TO 18,000. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

A: WHILE I CANNOT PROVIDE YOU WITH AN EXACT FIGURE, WE HAVE RECENTLY NOTED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OVER OUR PAST ESTIMATES OF 8,000 TO 10,000.

2. SUMMARY OF NOON PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 15, 1984 (HUGHES)

SPOKESMAN OPENED BRIEFING WITH A STATEMENT OF US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENTS MADE BY KING HUSSEIN IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE NEW YORK TIMES. ALL QUESTIONS WERE ON THIS SUBJECT. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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