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 OTTUZYUW RUEKJCS8478 3210034-UUUU--RUEALGX.
 ZNR UUUUU
 HEADER
 O 170034Z NOV 89
 FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 INFO RUEALGX/SAFE.
 O 170028Z NOV 89
 FM FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PM
 TO AIG 4677
 RHEPAAB/TAC IDHS FACILITY LANGLEY AFB//IDHS//
 RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//PIO//
 RUEGKW/FBIS KEY WEST FL
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CEN/ES//
 RUEHSE/US SECRET SERVICE WASHINGTON DC//ID-FIB//
 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 RUEOGSA/CDR 3/7 SFCA FT WILLIAM D DAVIS//S-2//
 ZEN/USARSO COROZAL PM
 ACCT FBPA-EWDK
 BT
 CONTROLS
 UNCLAS 6F

WARNING: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

SERIAL: PA1711002889

BODY

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: CRISTIANI CONDEMNS KILLING OF JESUITS, ORDERS INVESTIGATION

SOURCE: PANAMA CITY ACAN IN SPANISH 2346 GMT 16 NOV 89

TEXT:

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR, 16 NOV (ACAN-EFE) -- WHEN ANSWERING A QUESTION ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SIX JESUITS AND TWO OTHER PERSONS COULD HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY THE MILITARY, SALVADORAN PRESIDENT ALFREDO CRISTIANI SAID TODAY THAT "IF THE ARMED FORCES PEOPLE DID IT, THE WEIGHT OF THE LAW WILL FALL ALSO ON THEM."

CRISTIANI "STRONGLY CONDEMNED" THE MULTIPLE MURDER THAT TOOK PLACE EARLY THIS MORNING AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO "GROUPS OR MINDS THAT WANT TO HINDER THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRACY AND PEACE THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN EL SALVADOR."

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS DETERMINED "TO INVESTIGATE THIS TO THE VERY END, REGARDLESS OF WHO DID IT."

HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY "TO GIVE ANY OPINION" ON WHO COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE MURDERS, POINTING OUT THAT THE FACT THE MEN WHO DID IT WERE WEARING UNIFORMS AND WERE MOVING AT NIGHT DURING THE STRICT CURFEW IN THE CITY "IS NOT CONCLUSIVE."

CRISTIANI SAID THAT "THE ARMED FORCES AS WELL AS THE GUERRILLA

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GROUPS MOVE DURING THE CURFEW HOURS."

HE STATED THAT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, WITH WHOM HE MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, HE HAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION.

THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT DISCLOSED THE EXISTENCE OF "A POSSIBLE WITNESS THAT HAS NOT BEEN INTERROGATED BY THOSE WHO ARE CARRYING OUT THE INVESTIGATION" AND WHO HAVE FINGERPRINTS AND EMPTY CARTRIDGES OF BULLETS FOR AK-47S AND M-16S.

CRISTIANI DISAVOWED VERSIONS REPORTED DURING THE DAY BY THE GOVERNMENT RADIO NETWORK THAT CLAIM THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) GUERRILLAS COMMITTED THE MURDER.

IN ANOTHER PART OF HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, THE SALVADORAN PRESIDENT ADMITTED THAT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES "THERE MIGHT GROUPS OF PERSONS WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT," BUT HE ADDED THAT "AS AN INSTITUTION, THEY ARE WITH THE GOVERNMENT."

ADMIN

(ENDALL) 162346 LO [REDACTED] EB WPES1611.19E 17/0030Z NOV

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