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 RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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CONTROLS

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BODY

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
 SUBJ: RIVERA Y DAMAS URGES CRISTIANI TO INVESTIGATE KILLINGS

SOURCE: PANAMA CITY ACAN IN SPANISH 1742 GMT 19 NOV 89
 TEXT:

((TEXT)) SAN SALVADOR, 19 NOV (ACAN - EFE) -- SAN SALVADOR
 ARCHBISHOP ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS TODAY URGED PRESIDENT ALFREDO
 CRISTIANI AND THE ARMED FORCES TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF
 THE SIX JESUITS, "BECAUSE THERE IS A STRONG PRESUMPTION THAT THE
 ASSASSINS MAY BE ARMED FORCES MEMBERS OR PEOPLE CLOSELY LINKED WITH
 THE ARMY."

"PRESIDENT CRISTIANI AND THE ARMY'S HIGH COMMAND HAVE PROMISED TO
 CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE TAKEN THEIR WORD NOT JUST
 BECAUSE THERE SHOULD BE JUSTICE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THERE IS A STRONG
 PRESUMPTION THAT THE ASSASSINS MAY BE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OR PEOPLE
 VERY CLOSELY RELATED TO THE ARMED FORCES," RIVERA Y DAMAS SAID DURING
 THE SUNDAY HOMILY.

FOLLOWING THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, HELD AT THE "SACRED HEART"
 BASILICA, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF SOME 50 NEWSMEN, RIVERA SAID: "I
 STAND BY MY PREVIOUS STATEMENT. I HOPE THIS WILL MOTIVATE PRESIDENT
 CRISTIANI AND THE ARMED FORCES."

ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, A GROUP OF PEOPLE WEARING MILITARY
 UNIFORMS ASSASSINATED THE JESUITS ON 16 NOVEMBER -- FIVE SPANIARDS

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AND A SALVADORAN -- INCLUDING CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RECTOR IGNACIO ELLACURIA. THE ASSASSINS ALSO KILLED TWO DOMESTIC WORKERS. THE JESUITS WERE BURIED TODAY AT THE CHAPEL OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WHERE THEY HAD BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS.

SAN SALVADOR AUXILIARY BISHOP GREGORIO ROSA CHAVEZ, WHO CELEBRATED THE MASS -- ALONG WITH RIVERA Y DAMAS AND THE GERMAN BISHOP EMILLE STELLE -- SAID THAT THE CHURCH "IS CARRYING OUT INTENSE EFFORTS TO HALT THE COMBAT, CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE PROCESS, AND END THE WAR IN THE COUNTRY."

ACCORDING TO ROSA CHAVEZ, THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ((FMLM)) GUERRILLAS "AGREE THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES."

MOREOVER, ROSA CHAVES SAID, ON 18 NOVEMBER THAT THE BISHOPS MET FOR OVER 2 HOURS WITH CRISTIANI "TO SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT," AND TO END THE WAR THAT HAS BEEN WAGED FOR OVER A DECADE IN EL SALVADOR. HE ADDED THAT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL JOAO BAENA SOARES, JOINT EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE WAR.

RIVERA Y DAMAS STRESSED THAT THE CLASHES BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE GUERRILLAS DURING THE PAST WEEK HAVE RESULTED IN OVER 1,000 KILLED, AND AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF HOUSES DESTROYED.

"THE FMLN OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN USELESS AND UNJUSTIFIED, BUT THE ARMY'S RESPONSE WITH THE AIR FORCE AND THE ARTILLERY HAS BEEN EXCESSIVE," RIVERA Y DAMAS SAID. HE REQUESTED THAT THE "LESS AFFECTED" POPULATION "TO BE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MORE NEEDY."

ADMIN

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