

UNCLAS 6F

*** BEGIN MESSAGE 27 ***
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EL SALVADOR: FOREIGN MINISTER ACCUSES FMLN OF KILLING PRIESTS
PA1611230889 MADRID EFE IN SPANISH 2106 GMT 16 NOV 89
TEXT WASHINGTON, 16 NOV (EFE) -- SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER
JOSE MANUEL PACAS CASTRO TODAY CONDEMNED THE ASSASSINATION OF SIX
JESUITS AND TWO WOMEN IN HIS COUNTRY, AND HE BLAMED THE ULTRALEFTIST
GROUPS FOR IT, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE HAD NO PROOF.

"IT IS A REPUGNANT CRIME," SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS
ATTENDING THE 19TH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND HE DESCRIBED THE
ASSASSINATIONS AS A "DESPERATE ACTION TAKEN BY THE LEFT."
JOAO BAENA SOARES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, WAS ASKED TODAY
TO REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY ON THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR IN
COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION ON THAT COUNTRY THAT WAS APPROVED ON
TUESDAY.

A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED TODAY BY A FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT FMLN SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON BLAMED THE
SALVADORAN ARMY FOR THE CRIME, AND ADDED THAT "ALL OF THE BODIES HAD
BULLET WOUNDS IN THE HEAD, INDICATING THAT THEY WERE EXECUTED."

PACAS CASTRO SAID TODAY THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, HEADED BY
ALFREDO CRISTIANI, WILL MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO A DIALOGUE TO
DISCUSS THE SUSPENSION OF THE HOSTILITIES AND TO IMPLEMENT AN
INTERNAL PEACE PROCESS.

MOREOVER, HE ANNOUNCED THAT AN OFFICIAL MISSION, CAPABLE OF
MAKING DECISIONS AND COMMITMENTS, WILL TRAVEL TO CARACAS IN THE HOPE
OF MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FMLN GUERRILLAS.

THE SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY
IS UNDER CONTROL AND THAT ARMY TROOPS ARE SLOWLY MOVING INTO THE
DENSELY POPULATED AREAS TO AVOID BLOODSHED AMONG THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION.

AS FOR A REQUEST BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO CALL FOR A
CEASE-FIRE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS TO TREAT THE WOUNDED AND
CIVILIAN VICTIMS, PACAS CASTRO SAID THAT THE FIRST-AID BRIGADES
CONTINUE TO DO THEIR WORK IN EL SALVADOR.

AS FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE SIX JESUITS AND THE TWO WOMEN, HE
SAID "HE CONDEMNED THIS TYPE OF VIOLENCE" BECAUSE IGNACIO ELLACURIA,
ONE OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS WHO WAS KILLED, "WAS MY TEACHER," AND HE
DESCRIBED THE PRIEST AS A VERY VALUABLE MAN WHO WORKED FOR PEACE AND
FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION.

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGO MADRIGAL NIETO, IN
STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, REGRETTED THE DEATH OF THE CLERGYMEN.
"WORKING FOR PEACE IS VERY DIFFICULT," HE SAID.

MADRIGAL NIETO SAID TODAY HE HOPED THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE GUERRILLAS WOULD CONTINUE DESPITE THE WAR.

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARIEL RIVERA IRIAS SUPPORTED THE
STATEMENTS OF HIS COSTA RICAN COLLEAGUE, AND HE CONDEMNED THE USE OF
VIOLENCE AS A POLITICAL TOOL.

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*** BEGIN MESSAGE 29 ***

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EL SALVADOR: CRISTIANI ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF PRIEST KILLINGS
PA1711002889 PANAMA CITY ACAN IN SPANISH 2346 GMT 16 NOV 89

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
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."

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