

UNCLAS 6F

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WARNING: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

SERIAL: PA1711211489

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2 -- VILLALOBOS COMMENTS ON KILLING OF JESUITS

REF: PA1711172089 FYI -- FMLN'S VILLALOBOS INTERVIEW (1)

SOURCE: (CLANDESTINE) CADENA REVOLUCIONARIA NACIONAL IN SPANISH TO  
EL SALVADOR 1637 GNT 17 NOV 89

TEXT:

//((REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH JOAQUIN VILLALOBOS, MEMBER OF THE  
GENERAL COMMAND OF THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT  
(FMLN); DATE AND PLACE NOT GIVEN))

((TEXT)) ((REPORTER)) CONRADE VILLALOBOS REFERRED TO  
THE BOMBINGS AND THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS. THIS IS THE  
QUESTION HE WAS ASKED: IN THE PAST FEW HOURS, SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS  
AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PRESSURED THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP  
THE BOMBINGS AND THE BLOODSHED IN OUR HOMELAND. HOWEVER, DESPITE  
THIS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE, THE JESUIT PRIESTS WERE KILLED IN SAN  
SALVADOR. THEREFORE, WHAT IS THE INTENTION BEHIND THE BOMBINGS?  
WHAT INTENTION DID THE ARMED FORCES' GENERAL STAFF HAVE IN KILLING  
THE JESUITS? COMMANDER VILLALOBOS REPLIED:

((BEGIN VILLALOBOS RECORDING)) FIRST, IT MUST BE SAID THAT THE  
KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS BY THE CRISTIANI GOVERNMENT WAS A HARSH  
BLOW TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY.  
THE JESUIT PRIESTS ARE A SECTOR OF SALVADORAN SOCIETY THAT HAS MADE  
AND CONTINUES TO MAKE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PEOPLE'S EDUCATION.  
THEY TAUGHT US HOW TO DEBATE, THE NEED TO REASON THINGS OUT, AND THE  
NEED TO HAVE POLITICAL PLURALISM.

HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES, THE  
((WORD INDISTINCT)) SECTORS, AND MR. CRISTIANI CANNOT STAND  
INTELLIGENT PEOPLE, THE DEBATES, THE ANALYSES, AND THE PEOPLE'S  
REASONING. THIS IS WHY THEY COMMITTED THIS CRIME.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CRIME BECOMES EVIDENT, NOT ONLY BASED  
ON DIRECT CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THE FACT THAT IT WAS CARRIED OUT BY  
UNIFORMED MEN DURING THE CURFEW PERIOD AND THAT A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE  
CRIME A GROUP OF MILITARY MEN CHECKED OUT THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE  
GOING TO COMMIT THE CRIME -- CLEARLY INTENDING TO PREPARE A PLAN --  
BUT BECAUSE OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE JESUITS MADE OVER THE NATIONAL  
NETWORK. WE MUST ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS CRIME WAS A POLITICAL  
MISTAKE MADE BY THE DICTATORSHIP. IT WAS A MISCALCULATION ON THE  
PART OF THOSE WHO MADE THAT DECISION.

WE HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE  
TO STOP THE FMLN. THEY COULD NOT STOP THE FMLN PLAN. ONCE WE BEGAN  
TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN ((1-SECOND BREAK IN RECEPTION)) A VERY CRITICAL  
SITUATION.

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS CRITICAL SITUATION, THEY TOOK THE  
WRONG STEP. THE DAY BEFORE THE CRIME THE ARMED FORCES BEGAN A  
STRATEGY TO WEAR OUT THE FMLN, LOGISTICALLY. WE MUST NOT IGNORE THE  
FACT THAT THE ARMED FORCES' CALCULATIONS WERE BASED ON THE  
ASSUMPTION THAT THE FMLN FORCES WOULD BECOME EXHAUSTED. WE WOULD

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HAVE MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE IF WE HAD BEGUN THIS PLAN WITHOUT FORESEEING ALL THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, THE ARMED FORCES BASED THEIR CALCULATIONS ON OUR POSSIBLE EXHAUSTION.

CONSEQUENTLY, BASED ON THOSE CALCULATIONS, THEY FIGURED THAT THEY HAD 3 OR 4 DAYS TO LAUNCH A COUNTERATTACK. SO, THE DAY PRIOR TO THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS, THEY LAUNCHED SEVERAL OFFENSIVES -- I RATHER CALL THEM COUNTEROFFENSIVES -- TO TRY TO DISLODGE US FROM OUR POSITIONS. THEIR TACTIC WAS TO MAKE US WASTE AMMUNITION. THEY WERE NOT REALLY TRYING TO MAKE US ABANDON OUR POSITIONS YET.

HOWEVER, OUR FIGHTERS, IN ADDITION TO SAVING OUR AMMUNITION, HAVE THE MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES SO THEY INFLECTED MANY CASUALTIES ON THE ARMED FORCES AND WORE THEM OUT. BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE ARMED FORCES DID NOT REALIZE THAT AND FELT THAT THEY COULD LAUNCH A BIG COUNTERATTACK TO ANNIHILATE THE FMLN FORCES. BASED ON THAT, THEY CAME UP WITH A PLAN THAT WAS NOT ONLY MILITARY BUT POLITICAL.

((WORDS INDISTINCT)) THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, THE U.S. ADVISERS, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, AND WHO KNOWS WHO ELSE WERE INFORMED ABOUT THIS PLAN. THEY MADE THE WRONG INTERPRETATION OF THE CALLS MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS ON THE NEED TO HAVE A TRUCE TO EVACUATE CIVILIANS. THEY THOUGHT THAT WE MADE THESE CALLS AND BASED ON THAT, THEY FELT THAT THEY COULD PROCEED TO A COUNTEROFFENSIVE.

BASED ON THAT, LET US ANALYZE THE PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATED ON THE DAY PRIOR TO THE KILLING OF THE JESUITS. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR HIMSELF EXPLAINED A WAR REPORT AND GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION. THUS, THEY THOUGHT THAT THE FMLN WAS GOING TO SUFFER A GREAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEFEAT IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS. THEY HAD AN OVERALL PLAN.

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