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SUBJ

TAKE 1 OF 2 -- EL SALVADOR: DUARTE NEWS CONFERENCE

PA250200

SAN SALVADOR RADIO CADENA YSU IN SPANISH 0045 GHT 25 OCT 85

((TEXT)) THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE KIDNAPPING OF MY DAUGHTER WAS TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT, PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE SAID THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE HELD AN IMPROMPTU NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY TO LAY THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSES FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AT KM 20 AND 1/2 ON THE HIGHWAY TO SANTA ANA.

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TALKS TO ARRIVE AT AN EXCHANGE WITH THE FMLN, PRESIDENT DUARTE SAID:

((BEGIN RECORDING)) ((DUARTE)) WE MADE ALL KINDS OF OVERTURES. PERHAPS THE LAST ONE WAS THE ONE WE MADE IN PANAMA WHERE, OVER A PERIOD OF 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, WE WERE INVOLVED IN A CONSTANT SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION, THAT WE FINALLY REACHED. OF COURSE, IT WAS NOT EASY, PRIMARILY THE FIRST PART, WHEN WE DID NOT KNOW WHO WAS HOLDING HER, WHEN NEWSMEN WERE ACTUALLY TRYING TO CONFUSE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, SOON AFTERWARD, THE NEWSMEN THEMSELVES DISCOVERED THE FACTS AND IT WAS THE WORLD'S NEWSMEN WHO ANNOUNCED THAT THIS KIDNAPPING HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE FMLN.

THUS, THE SECOND PART -- ONCE WE KNEW, ONCE THE ENTIRE WORLD KNEW, THE PRESIDENTS OF ALMOST THE ENTIRE WESTERN WORLD -- THERE WAS AN AVALANCHE OF SOLIDARITY AND THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ADMIT THAT THEY WERE HOLDING HER, AND THIS MADE IT EASIER TO PROCEED, BECAUSE WE THEN KNEW WHO WE HAD TO DEAL WITH TO SEEK A SOLUTION. THE INITIAL PROBLEM HAD BEEN THAT WE DID NOT KNOW WITH WHOM OR UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS WE HAD TO ACT. I THINK THAT THIS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.

((INDISTINCT QUESTION))

((DUARTE)) I DO NOT HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA. I BELIEVE THAT THE TREATMENT BEGAN FROM THE MOMENT IN WHICH THEY DEPRIVED HER OF FREEDOM, WHEN THEY TOOK HER FROM THE TOWN, WHEN THEY PLACED A GUN TO HER HEAD AND TOLD HER THAT IF SHE DID NOT COOPERATE, SHE WOULD BE KILLED. THEY KIDNAPPED HER AND MADE HER WALK FOR HOURS UNTIL SHE WAS EXHAUSTED. AS TO THE TIME SPENT IN CAPTIVITY, I BELIEVE AND I HOPE THAT I WILL GRADUALLY LEARN ABOUT HOW SHE WAS TREATED. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT IT MEANS TO A PERSON, A WOMAN, A MOTHER, TO FEEL THAT SHE IS ABOUT TO DIE -- BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT THEY ARE ON THE VERGE OF DEATH -- OR TO FEEL THAT SHE WILL BE SEPARATED FROM HER CHILDREN, FROM HER FAMILY, FOR A LONG TIME. IT IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON, MORE THAN A PHYSICAL ONE. I THINK THAT WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND THIS, AND THAT IS WHY THERE MUST BE A PROCESS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DECOMPRESSION SO THAT SHE CAN RETURN TO NORMAL.

THUS, THIS IS WHAT I MUST ACCOMPLISH, SO I THINK THAT YOU

WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I AM NOT GOING TO EXPOSE HER TO QUESTIONS OR INTERVIEWS, BECAUSE IT IS PART OF THE PROCESS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DECOMPRESSION FROM WHAT SHE HAS ENDURED FOR 40 DAYS. THAT IS ALL THAT I CAN SAY. ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

((INDISTINCT QUESTION))

((DUARTE)) I BELIEVE THAT ALL THESE THINGS HAVE ADVANTGES AND DISADVANTAGES, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FACTORS. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING THT THE ENTIRE WORLD CANNOT IGNORE AND THAT IS THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN HUMANE. WE HAVE NEGOTIATED, NOT ONLY FOR THE LIFE OF MY DAUGHTER, BUT ALSO FOR THE MAYORS, WITHOUT HAGGLING ABOUT HUMANITARIAN FACTORS. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THIS VERY MOHENT, 100 DISABLED PERSONS WHO WERE IN THE MOUNTAINS ARE BEING GATHERED TOGETHER AND WILL NOW BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

IT WAS A HUMANITARIAN CONCEPT, AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE PROCESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CARRIED OUT.

WELL THEN, THE MATTER OF POLITICAL COST HAS BEEN MENTIONED. ACTUALLY, THERE ARE ALWAYS NEGATIVE FACTORS. I THINK THAT YOU SAW TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN EL DIARIO DE HOY. I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SEEN THE PROPAGANDA THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT. YOU HAVE SEEN THE THREATS MADE BY ARENA (NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE). THERE ARE (MEMBERS) OF ARENA WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH THY CONCEPT. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BASED ITS ACTIONS ON HUMANISM, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER HUMANISM TO BE BASIC.

((MORE)) 250045 [REDACTED] 25/0227Z OCT

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Approved for Release
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