

[REDACTED]

TOT: 201456Z NOV 89

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release
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[REDACTED]

DIST: 20 NOVEMBER 1989
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
SUBJ: TEMPORARY FMLN HALT TO OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTIVITY TO
ALLOW BAENA SOARES TO ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT CEASE-FIRE
NEGOTIATION
DOI: 19 NOVEMBER 1989

TEXT: 1. ON 19 NOVEMBER 1989 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THAT THE FERRERBUENDE MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) HAS ORDERED A STANDDOWN FROM MILITARY ACTIVITY TO GIVE MARIO ((BAENA)) SOARES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES (OAS), THE OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE AN END TO THE FIGHTING DURING HIS IMPENDING VISIT TO SAN SALVADOR.

2. [REDACTED] PCES GENERAL SECRETARY JORGE SHAFIK ((HANDAL)) TOLD HIM [REDACTED] THAT FMLN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SPOKEN WITH BAENA SOARES IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND PROMISED HIM THE FMLN TROOPS WILL NOT ENGAGE IN ANY OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTIVITY WHILE BAENA SOARES TRIES TO ARRANGE A CEASE-FIRE AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS ACCEPTABLE TO THE FMLN. HANDAL SAID THE FMLN WANTS BAENA SOARES TO TALK TO PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) AND THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR DURING HIS STAY IN SAN SALVADOR. (FIELD COMMENT: BAENA SOARES IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN SAN SALVADOR ON 20 NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTING.)

3. [REDACTED] THE FMLN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO HAVE ONE NON-NEGOTIABLE DEMAND: THE REMOVAL FROM THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES OF MEMBERS OF THE "TANDONA" WHO HOLD MOST SENIOR ESAF POSITIONS. THE FMLN BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY PERSON CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE FMLN IS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR. [REDACTED] TWO REASONS WHY SHAFIK HANDAL AND THE OTHER FMLN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. WILL FINALLY ACCEDE TO THE REMOVAL OF THE TANDONA:

A. THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS STEADFASTLY SUPPORTED SALVADORAN PRESIDENT ALFREDO CRISTIANI IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BUT HAS ABSTAINED FROM GIVING SIMILAR SUPPORT TO THE SALVADORAN MILITARY.

B. THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR, WHICH HAS BEEN A HELP TO THE FMLN AND WHICH THE FMLN WILL USE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS TO DENIGRATE THE TANDONA.

4. [REDACTED] THE FMLN HAS CHANGED ITS VIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE U.S. [REDACTED] THE FMLN HAD LOOKED UPON IGNACIO ((ELLACURIA)), THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA-JOSE SIMEON CANAS (UCA) WHO WAS ASSASSINATED ON 16 NOVEMBER, AS THE ONLY PERSON WORTHY OF THE FMLN'S TRUST WHO WAS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FMLN AND THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED] THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR WAS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING SUCH AN AGREEMENT, BUT THAT THE FMLN DID NOT CONSIDER HIM TRUSTWORTHY.)

5. SHAFIK HANDAL TOLD THE SENIOR PCES MEMBER THAT WHILE BAENA SOARES IS THE KEY IN ACHIEVING CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS, THE FMLN IS ALSO USING ITS POLITICAL ALLIES AND OTHERS TO TRY AND EFFECT A SETTLEMENT. GUILLERMO ((UNGO)), LEADER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MOVEMENT (MNR), AND HIS DEPUTY HECTOR ((OQUELI)) HAVE BEEN TOLD TO LOBBY WITH THEIR SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) CONTACTS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) TO CREATE MORE PRESSURE FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE TANDONA AS PART OF A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE FMLN AND THE GOVERNMENT.

6. FURTHER, THE FMLN IS SENDING MARIO ((LUNGO)), A PCES MEMBER, TO CARACAS TO IMPRESS UPON VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES ((PEREZ)) THE IMPORTANCE OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. (SOURCE COMMENT: LUNGO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO CARACAS BY RAFAEL ((MENJIVAR)), A POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL) MEMBER.)

7. THE SENIOR PCES MEMBER QUOTED SHAFIK HANDAL AS CONCLUDING THAT THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMBAT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS AN ACCEPTABLE CEASE-FIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE TANDONA APPEAR LIKELY IN "THE NEXT FEW DAYS" AFTER 19 NOVEMBER, THE FMLN WILL RESUME MILITARY ACTIVITY.

[REDACTED] SAID THAT THE FMLN LEADERSHIP BELIEVES THAT IF THE TANDONA STAYS IN POWER AFTER THE OFFENSIVE, THE LEGAL AND ILLEGAL LEFT--THE UNIONS, THE DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE, AND FMLN MEMBERS--WILL BE DEPRIVED OF FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES AND UNABLE TO FUNCTION.

8. [REDACTED] SAID THE FMLN HAS 1,000 FRESH TROOPS FROM THE POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL) IN THE VICINITY OF NORTHERN MEJICANOS, AND THAT FORWARD ELEMENTS OF THIS GROUP VENTURED AS FAR SOUTH AS THE NORTHERN LIMITS OF SAN SALVADOR DURING THE NIGHT OF 18 NOVEMBER, EXCHANGING FIRE WITH SALVADORAN SOLDIERS.

[REDACTED] THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO ACCEDE TO ANY DEMAND FOR THE DISMISSAL OF OFFICERS FROM THE "TANDONA," THE SALVADORAN MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 1966. THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON THE MAGNITUDE OF THOSE CITED BY THE PCES MEMBER.)

10. (AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I AM NOT TOTALLY SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE FMLN IS TRYING TO SAY ABOUT ME. I MIGHT FIND OUT IF BAENA SOARES FOLLOWS THROUGH ON THE FMLN'S SUGGESTION THAT HE SPEAK TO ME DURING HIS UPCOMING VISIT.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RRDD