

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

DIST: 12 JULY 1991

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERN OVER THE JESUIT CASE;
FOREIGN MINISTER'S BELIEF THAT A GUILTY VERDICT IS
IMPERATIVE

[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AS OF EARLY JULY 1991 OVERALL SALVADORAN FOREIGN RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED SLIGHTLY; HOWEVER, THE JESUIT MURDER CASE REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS SALVADORAN FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS. THE LACK OF A RESOLUTION TO THE JESUIT CASE IS HINDERING FOREIGN MINISTRY (MFA) EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE DECISIVE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

2. DURING AN EARLY JULY MEETING WITH HIGH-LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADORS RECALLED FROM EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA, AND CENTRAL AMERICA, [REDACTED] EMPHASIZED THAT SALVADORAN AMBASSADORS MUST CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO INCREASE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE RESOLUTION OF THE JESUIT CASE. THE AMBASSADORS MUST STRESS THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT DESIRES JUSTICE IN THE CASE AND WILL PROSECUTE THOSE IMPLICATED IN THE CASE REGARDLESS OF THEIR RANK.

3. [REDACTED] CONCERN THAT IF A GUILTY VERDICT IS NOT REACHED, EVERYTHING FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE ENDANGERED AND COME TO NOTHING. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD ISOLATE EL SALVADOR THROUGH BOYCOTTS OF

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PORTS AND CEASE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN VARIOUS AREAS. THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SUFFER A LOSS OF CREDIBILITY IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORA AND THE ADVANCES THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACHIEVED IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE PUT INTO A DELICATE STATE, IF NOT DAMAGED OUTRIGHT. [REDACTED] FEARED THE FMLN WOULD ENJOY GREATER INTERNATIONAL RESPECT THAN THE GOVERNMENT.

4. [REDACTED] IT WAS "VITAL" THAT THE PEACE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT ALFREDO ((CRISTIANI)) BE REWARDED AND SUPPORTED WHOLEHEARTEDLY BY THE SALVADORAN FOREIGN SERVICE ABROAD. [REDACTED] IT IS A "NATIONAL PRIORITY" THAT A GUILTY VERDICT BE REACHED IN THE JESUIT CASE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE