

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ARA/NEA REARCS

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0851
INFO DIRFBI WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 11324

FOR ARA/CEN

FBI FOR MARTY HALE/OLIA

MEXICO PASS TO JOE GANNON, LEGATT

DOJ PASS TO DMAXWELL, ICITAP

File PHUM 5-1

E. O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PGOV, KJUS, PREL, CJAN, ES, US
SUBJECT: JESUIT CASE UPDATE - HIGH COMMAND VISITS
ZAMORA -

1. PRESIDENT CRISTIANI AND THE ENTIRE ESAF HIGH COMMAND PAID A VISIT ON JUDGE ZAMORA ON MONDAY AFTERNOON (AUG. 20) TO PLEDGE ITS COOPERATION IN THE JESUIT INVESTIGATION. COL'S. LARIOS, PONCE, ZEPEDA, RUBIO AND MONTANO MET AT THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING WITH JUDGE ZAMORA AND SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT MAURICIO GUTIERREZ CASTRO. THE COLONELS OFFERED THEIR UNQUALIFIED COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION BUT APPARENTLY OFFERED NO NEW INFORMATION. THEY ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL TELEPHONE IN THE JUDGE'S OFFICE--NOW INSTALLED--TO TIE THE JUDGE DIRECTLY TO THE ESTADO MAYOR. EMBOFFS WILL MEET ZAMORA THIS AFTERNOON (AUG. 22) TO GET HIS REACTION TO THE HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS.

2. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HIGH COMMAND PAID A VISIT TO THE JUDGE'S OFFICE IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT ONLY AS A CONSIDERABLE DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE IN THIS COUNTRY. IN A SENSE, IT IS MERELY A CONTINUATION OF GUTIERREZ'S TACTIC OF TRYING TO HANDLE THE CASE AS A MERE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM. THE HIGH COMMAND'S GESTURE TELLS US VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE MILITARY'S WILL TO PROVIDE ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE TO THE JUDGE. NEVERTHELESS, IT WILL NOW BE SOMEWHAT HARDER FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS TO REFUSE TO COOPERATE IF THE JUDGE ASKS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THE JUDGE FORMULATE HIS INQUIRIES AND PRESSURE THE MILITARY TOWARD FULL COOPERATION RATHER THAN MINIMAL COMPLIANCE. END COMMENT

WALKER

Dept. of State IS/FPC/CDF, El Salvador SF Date 9/21/13
Declassify under EO 12958 () in full; () in part;
portions which are classified (); deliberative ();
law enforcement (); statutory ();
not relevant to El Salvador ().