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DESKBY 062359Z

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TO IMMEDIATE KUALA LUMPUR (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

TELEGRAM NO. 70 OF 6 FEBRUARY '82

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

EL SALVADOR: MESSAGE FROM MR HAIG

1. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAVE DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR HAIG TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

BEGINS 'DEAR FOREIGN SECRETARY:

AS YOU KNOW, THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONVOKED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS FOR MARCH 28 AND HAS INVITED FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO SEND OBSERVERS TO WITNESS THE ELECTION PROCESS. EIGHT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION PROCESS AND A BROAD RANGE OF INDEPENDENT GROUPS INCLUDING THE SALVADORAN BISHOPS COUNCIL, THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE LABOR-CAMPESINO ORGANISATION, THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION, HAVE ALL SUPPORTED THE ELECTION PROCESS AND URGED SALVADORAN CITIZENS TO VOTE.

ELECTIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION IN EL SALVADOR, AND TOWARD ENDING THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES LAST MONTH ENDORSED THE SALVADORAN ELECTION PROCESS BY AN OVERWHELMING 22-3 VOTE AND URGED MEMBER STATES TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVERS. ON JANUARY 27, AT THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF HONDURAN PRESIDENT SUAZO IN TEGUCIGALPA, THE UNITED STATES, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA JOINED THE THREE NATIONS OF THE NEWLY FORMED CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY IN A NEW DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR EL SALVADOR'S ELECTORAL PROCESS.

THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO THE SALVADORAN REQUEST BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ARE IMPORTANT GUARANTEES AGAINST THOSE EXTREME ELEMENTS WHICH WISH TO CORRUPT THE PROCESS THROUGH INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE.

I HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES IN ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN EL SALVADOR BY SENDING ELECTION OBSERVERS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO A PEACEFUL AND MODERATE DEMOCRATIC OUTCOME IN EL SALVADOR HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POSSIBILITIES OF PROMOTING NON-EXTREMIST SOLUTIONS IN ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOU SOON IN MADRID.
SINCERELY, ALEXANDER M HAIG, JR.' ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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