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FM MEXICO CITY 050035Z MAR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 050900Z FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 144 OF 5 MARCH  
PRIORITY N INFO WASHINGTON, TEGUCIGALAPA, SAN JOSE, HAVANA

TEGUCIGALPA TELNO 59: EL SALVADOR: FDR/FMLN'S RESPONSE TO  
MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE

1. THE MEXICAN PRESS HAS REPORTED WIDELY THE FDR/FMLN'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S PROPOSALS FOR BRINGING PEACE TO CENTRAL AMERICA. THE TEXT OF THEIR STATEMENT IS IN MIFT.

2. THE FDR/FMLN HAVE MADE NO PUBLIC REFERENCE TO A REDUCTION IN THEIR ORIGINAL NEGOTIATING DEMAND THAT THE SALVADOREAN ARMED FORCES MUST BE DISMANTLED AS PART OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT. BUT AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN IN MY TELNO 134, FDR/FMLN REPRESENTATIVES RECENTLY TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT ALTHOUGH THEY BELIEVED IT NECESSARY TO RID THE ARMED FORCES OF CORRUPT ELEMENTS, THEY PROPOSED TO PRESERVE THE DEMOCRATIC CADRES. DR RODRIGUEZ RUIZ OF THE RESISTENCIA NACIONAL, HAS SINCE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT THIS IS ONE OF FIVE POINTS CONTAINED IN A NEW NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT WHICH THE FDR/FMLN HAVE PASSED TO THE VENEZUELAN, MEXICAN AND US GOVERNMENTS. DR RODRIGUEZ HAS UNDERTAKEN TO GIVE US A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SUMMARISES ITS CONTENTS AS FOLLOWS: THE FDR/FMLN

1) AGREES TO ALLOW THE SALVADOREAN ARMED FORCES TO REMAIN INTACT, PROVIDED THAT THEY PURGE THEMSELVES OF CORRUPT ELEMENTS:

2) PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUNTA IN WHICH ALL POLITICAL GROUPS WILL BE REPRESENTED:

3) PROPOSES THAT A PLEBISCITE SHOULD BE HELD SIX MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT TO SEEK POPULAR ENDORSEMENT OF THE JUNTA AND THAT LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD A DETERMINED PERIOD THEREAFTER:

4) ACCEPTS A MIXED ECONOMY AND THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMME:

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5) PROPOSES A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

3. DR RODRIGUEZ ADDED THAT IF THE SALVADOREAN REGIME WERE TO AGREE TO SUSPEND THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, THE FDR/FMLN WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON PARTICIPATING IN NEW ELECTIONS SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE SECURITY GUARANTEES.

4. HECTOR OQUELI OF THE FDR/FMLN EXTERNAL COMMITTEE TOLD MY FIRST SECRETARY RECENTLY THAT THE FDR HAD TALKS WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN DECEMBER, AND THAT FURTHER CONTACTS WERE SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. I THEREFORE SUSPECT THAT THE DOCUMENT CONCERNED IS NOT QUITE AS RECENT AS DR RODRIGUEZ WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE AND THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS THEN. MOREOVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE TERMS OF THE DOCUMENT QUITE MATCH UP TO DR RODRIGUEZ'S SUMMARY.

PLEASE SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

TICKELL

[REPETITION TO TEGUCIGALPA REFERRED FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION,  
REPEATED AS REQUESTED TO OTHER POSTS]

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EL SALVADOR STANDARD

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