

GR 162  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM WASHINGTON 010315Z APR 82  
TO PRIORITY F C O  
TELEGRAM NO 1056 OF 31 MARCH  
INFO MEXICO CITY, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE : EL SALVADOR

AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 31 MARCH, PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS ASKED WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AN EL SALVADOR GOVERNMENT WHICH ABANDONED SOCIAL REFORMS OR WHICH WAS HEADED BY AUBUISSON.

2. REAGAN SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION WERE WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY. THEY WOULD FACE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TURNED AWAY FROM REFORMS. BUT BEFORE ANYONE WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE THEY SHOULD CONSIDER INSTEAD THE INSPIRING EXAMPLE SET BY THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR AND BY THE COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD SHOWN A REAL DESIRE FOR DEMOCRACY. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC AND WOULD SHELTER BEHIND HIS OPTIMISM TO AVOID A SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

HENDERSON

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

EL SALVADOR STANDARD

MCAD  
NAD  
S AM D  
WIAD  
KESD  
UND  
SECURITY D  
ECD(E)

COPIES TO:  
ASSESSMENT STAFF,  
CABINET OFFICE