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ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
CIAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 SSO-00 HA-08 L-03 LAB-04 PM-10 PA-01
OMB-01 STR-14 SIL-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 SLPD-01 /082 W

O 191912Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0505
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA,
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

SECTION 01 OF 03 GUATEMALA 02718

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, GT, PINR, PINS
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION
- CONFEDERATION CUSG PROTESTS ABDUCTIONS
- OF TRADE-UNION LEADERS
- REF: A) GUATEMALA 2510, B) GUATEMALA 1872,
C) GUATEMALA 1791

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY. IN RECENT WEEKS THE CUSG

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(CONFEDERATION OF SYNDICALIST UNITY) LEADERSHIP

n/a

3. DISAPPEARANCES.

THE CUSG HAS MOST RECENTLY PROTESTED THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ABDUCTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING TRADE-UNION ACTIVISTS:

- EDGAR FERNANDO GARCIA: STICAVISA (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE CAVISA/WORKERS' UNION OF CAVISA); SEE REFTEL B;

- AMANCIO (SAMUEL) VILLATORO (VILLATORIO): EX-SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ADAMS CHICLET COMPANY
Case Number: 199502915

UNION AND CURRENT OFFICIAL OF THE CNT (CONFEDERACION NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES/NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS);

- ALFONSO ALVARADO: CNT OFFICIAL AND MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION;

- MARIO COLINDRES: UNION OFFICIAL FROM AMATITLAN.
  END NOTE.); AND

- THREE LEADERS OF THE UNION AT THE EMPRESA DE TEJIDOS UNIVERSALES.

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ANOTHER CNT ACTIVIST (ACCORDING TO HIS OWN CLAIM), ALVARO RENE SOSA RAMOS, FLED TO ASYLUM IN THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR’S RESIDENCE AFTER BEING SHOT IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE HIS CAPTORS. ONCE RECOVERED FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS, HE WILL BE GOING INTO EXILE.

IN ADDITION TO THESE UNION ACTIVISTS, SEVERAL LEGAL ADVISORS TO THE LEFTIST TRADE-UNION MOVEMENT HAVE DISAPPEARED:

- VICTOR HUGO QUINTANILLA (SEE REFTEL A); AND
- SERGIO MANFREDO BELTETON DE LEON (SEE REFTEL C); HIS ABDUCTORS RELEASED BELTETON ON FEBRUARY 17.

ALTHOUGH THE CNUS LEADERSHIP IS IN EXILE AND MOST OF ITS STATEMENTS ARE MADE FROM HAVANA, IT STILL RETAINS IMPORTANCE WITHIN GUATEMALA AS A GUATEMALAN MARXIST-LENINIST UMBRELLA TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATION. ITS EXILED LEADERSHIP IS OBVIOUSLY FED INFORMATION ABOUT TRADE-UNION MATTERS BY ADHERENTS WITHIN GUATEMALA. THE NAMES OF ITS PRINCIPAL CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS ARE:

- CUC (COMITE DE UNIDAD CAMPESINA/COMMITTEE OF CAMPESINO UNITY),
- PENOT (FEDERACION NACIONAL DE OBREROS DE TRANSPORTE/NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS),
- FNM (FRENTE NACIONAL MAGISTERIAL/NATIONAL TEACHERS' FRONT),
- SCTM (SINDICATO CENTRAL DE TRABAJADORES MUNICIPALES/MUNICIPAL WORKERS' CENTRAL TRADE UNION),
- SIMCOS (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE LOS MEDIOS DE COMUNICACION SOCIAL/COMMUNICATION WORKERS' UNION),
- CETE (CONSEJO DE ENTIDADES DE TRABAJADORES DEL ESTADO/STATE EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL),
- ASOCIACION DE PERIODISTAS DE GUATEMALA (GUATEMALAN JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION),
- AEU (ASOCIACION DE ESTUDIANTES UNIVERSITARIOS/ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS).

THE NAMES OF CURRENT CNT AND CNUS LEADERS WITHIN

n/a
GUATEMALA ARE UNKNOWN EXCEPT WHEN THEY ARE KIDNAPPED AND THE CNT PROTESTS THE ABDUCTIONS. THUS WE CAN ASSUME THAT SAMUEL VILLATORIO/VILLATORO AND ALFONSO ALVARADO WERE ACTING AS CNT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR DISAPPEARANCES.

4. COMMENT. BY PICKING UP LEFTIST TRADE-UNION LEADERS CONNECTED WITH THE CNT AND THE FASGUA, THE
THE UNDERLYING MOTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER. MORE LIKELY, THESE PEOPLE HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH URNG INSURGENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SECURITY FORCES ARE AFTER THEM FOR THAT REASON. A CUSG TRADE-UNION LEADER TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALL THE ABDUCTED TRADE-UNIONISTS ARE CONNECTED WITH URNG.

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THE EXTREME LEFT. HE ADMITTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TOUCHED ANY DEMOCRATIC TRADE-UNION LEADERS. NEVERTHELESS, HE EXPRESSED FEAR--WITH OR WITHOUT GROUNDS--THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GO AFTER DEMOCRATIC TRADE-UNION LEADERS ONCE IT HAD DECIMATED THE RANKS OF THE LEFTISTS. THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DENIES THAT IT HAS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ABDUCTIONS OF LEFTIST TRADE-UNION ACTIVISTS DOES NOT SEEM TO SOOTHE THE ANXIETIES OF LEADERS WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC WING OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. THE CUSG WILL CONTINUE TO PROTEST ABDUCTIONS OF TRADE-UNION ACTIVISTS OF THE EXTREME LEFT FOR TWO REASONS: (1) TO ENHANCE THEIR CREDIBILITY AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN GUATEMALA; AND (2) TO PROTECT THEIR OWN TRADE-UNION LEADERS FROM ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT ACTION, BY PLACING ALL SUCH ABDUCTIONS IN THE FIERCE LIGHT OF PUBLICITY. TAYLOR