



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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S.O. 12065
TAGS: SPOM

**SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON ARCHBISHOP ROMERO'S
ASSASSINATION**

THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON
MARCH 25:

BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE TRAGIC
ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR A. ROMERO OF SAN
SALVADOR YESTERDAY. IT IS A SHOCKING AND UNCONSCION-
ABLE ACT.

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO SPOKE FOR THE POOR OF EL SALVADOR,
WHERE THEIR VOICES HAD BEEN IGNORED FOR TOO LONG. HE
SPOKE FOR CHANGE AND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WHICH HIS NATION
SO DESPERATELY NEEDS. TERRORISM CANNOT SILENCE THE
MESSAGE OF COMPASSION OF THE ARCHBISHOP. IT CANNOT AND
SHOULD NOT INTIMIDATE THOSE WHO SEEK SOCIAL JUSTICE

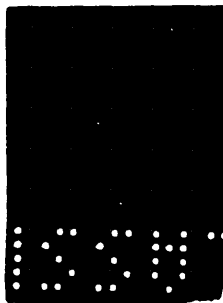
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AND DEMOCRACY.

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THE UNITED STATES TRUSTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL
SALVADOR WILL MOVE SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO BRING THE
ARCHBISHOP'S ASSASSINS TO JUSTICE. END TEXT. VANCE

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