

**00375**

1980/03/25

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

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379

MAR 28 1978  
27361

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MJLT  
ACTION

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ZYUW

DIA:  
DISTR

IADB(01) J5(02) J3:NMCC NIDS SECDEF(07) SECDEF: USDP(15)  
ATSD:AE(01) ASD:PA&E(01) :DIA(20) NMIC

- CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
- CSAF WASHINGTON DC
- CNO WASHINGTON DC
- CSA WASHINGTON DC
- CIA WASHINGTON DC
- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
- NSA WASH DC

FILE

(047)

TRANSIT/0851655/0851754/000159TOR0851752  
DE RUESALA #2164 0851655  
ZNY CCCCC

O 251645Z MAR 80

FM USDAO SAN SALVADOR ES

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//JSI-4B//DC-1/CCF//DB-3E//

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN//SCJ2//

RUESGT/USDAO GUATEMALA CITY GT

RUESTE/USDAO TEGUCIGALPA HO

RUEHME/USDAO MEXICO CITY MX

RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NU

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

SUBJ: IR 6 829 0075 80 (U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTRY EL SALVADOR (ES)
2. (U) TITLE: ARCHBISHOP ROMERO ASSASSINATED
3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 800324
4. (U) ORIG: USDAO SAN SALVADOR ES

5. [REDACTED]
6. (U) SOURCE: A. LOCAL MEDIA RADIO STATION YSU  
B. EMBASSY OFFICIAL

7. (U) SUMMARY: AT 1825L, 24MAR80 THE ARCHBISHOP OF EL SALVADOR ARTURO ARNULFO ROMERO WAS ASSASSINATED AS HE WAS ABOUT TO DEPART THE CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL IN NORTHERN SAN SALVADOR COLONIA OF MIRAMONTE. ROMERO HAD JUST FINISHED SAYING A REQUIEM MASS IN HONOR OF THE DECEASED MOTHER OF JORGE PINTO

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IMMEDIATE

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UNCLASSIFIED

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ASL-1  
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2

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PUBLISHER OF LEFT WING NEWSPAPER "EL INDEPENDIENTE". APPARENTLY  
OPERATING UNDER GUISE OF PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER THE GUNMAN MANAGED TO  
GET WITHIN POINT BLANK RANGE OF THE ARCHBISHOP. WHETHER FATAL  
ROUND WAS TRIGGERED BY CAMERA FLASH OR SIMPLY A WELL-COORDINATED  
2-MAN EFFORT IS NOT KNOWN. ACCORDING TO SOURCE B FLASH AND  
GUNSHOT RETORT WERE SIMULTANEOUS. A SINGLE .22 CAL ROUND STRUCK THE  
ARCHBISHOP IN THE CHEST KILLING HIM INSTANTLY.

8A. (U) DETAILS: NONE

8B. (C) ORIG CHTS: RETALIATION HAS BEEN QUICK. 12 BOMBS EXPLODED  
SHORTLY AFTER 5 A.M. 25MAR 80. AT LEAST 1 OF THE 12 WAS EXPLODED  
IN UPPER CLASS RESIDENTIAL AREA OF COLONIA ESCALON AT OFFICE  
OF ITT. ALL REMAINING OFFICIAL AMERICAN DEPENDENTS (21 IN TOTAL)  
WERE EVACUATED VIA COMMERCIAL AIR TO GUATEMALA A.M. 25MAR80.  
PHASE I OF E&E PLAN INITIATED. OBSERVATIONS THIS AM ARE THAT CITY  
IS TENSE, DOWNTOWN AREA DESERTED DURING NORMAL MORNING RUSH HOUR.  
ALL SALVADORAN MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON  
FULL ALERT IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER REPERCUSSIONS TO ARCHBISHOP'S  
ASSASSINATION. SOURCE AT AFGS REPORTS NO INFO RECEIVED AS OF YET  
ON POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES IN COUNTRYSIDE. IMPOSSIBLE TO PLACE  
BLAME FOR THIS ATTACK AS BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT COULD OBTAIN GOALS  
BY CARRYING IT OUT. EL SALVADOR NOW HAS IT'S CHAMORRO.

13. (U) APP BY G S WALKER, LTC, GS, DATT

14. (U) REQ EVAL: NO

15. (U) NA

16. (U) DIST BY ORIGINAL

REVW24MAR86

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ANNOTES

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