



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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DRAFTED BY TEXT/OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETRY  
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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

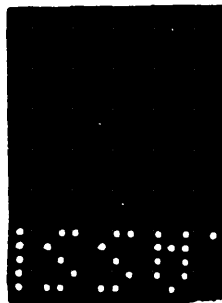
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AND DEMOCRACY.

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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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