

00375

1980/03/25

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

19

339

MAR 28 1978 27361

VZCZCMLT760
MULT
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(16)
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)

ES
 103220
 203310
 209400
 209435
 303210

TRANSIT/0851655/0851754/000:59TOR0851752
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

PAGE 1

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

00101111

071

UNCLASSIFIED

15/10
 ASH-11
 CH-5
 2

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 2

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

27361

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 CMTS: 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

BT

#2164

ANNOTES

CEV 117

PAGE 2

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

00101111

NNNN
51754Z

UNCLASSIFIED