



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 TCAE-00  
INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 AID-07 OC-06 CCO-00  
ANAE-00 /073 W

-----094618 2619392 /62

O H 261830Z MAR 80  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7715  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SAN COST  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HIS PM  
DIA WASHDC

GA [unclear]

7/26/81

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2198

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/26/86 (MILLSPAUGH, ROBERT) OR-P  
TAGS: ASEC PINS PINT ES  
SUBJ: (U) ARCHBISHOP'S ASSASSINATION: PEACEFUL PROCESSION

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 26 A PROCESSION OF ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE ACCOMPANIED THE ARCHBISHOP'S BODY ON A HALF DOZEN BLOCK JOURNEY THOROUGH DOWNTOWN SAN SALVADOR, FROM THE BASILICA TO THE CATHEDRAL. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE. SECURITY FORCES IN THE AREA OF THE BASILICA, WHO KEPT WELL AWAY FROM PROCESSION ITSELF, DISCOURAGED SOME PEOPLE FROM JOINING ON GROUNDS OF POSSIBLE DANGER, BUT THERE WERE NO SECURITY FORCES

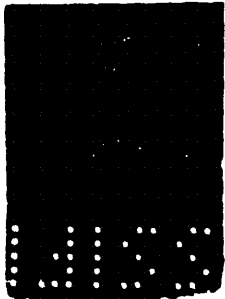
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IN SIGHT AT THE CATHEDRAL AND ACCESS TO LATTER AREA WAS

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NOT RESTRICTED.

3. PROCESSION INCLUDED MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND SOME BANNER CARRYING MEMBERS OF EXTREME LEFT GROUPS.

4. THE CATHEDRAL HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY BPR FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS. SHORTLY BEFORE THE PROCESSION'S ARRIVAL, THE CROWD OF A FEW HUNDRED IN FRONT OF IT WATCHED BPR FOLD UP AND PUT AWAY ITS BANNERS. LATER, AN LP-28 BANNER WAS HUNG BY THE FRONT ENTRANCE.

5. EMBOFF AT THE CATHEDRAL WITNESSED ONLY ONE SHOWING OF EMOTION BY THE CROWD, A BRIEF ROUND OF APPLAUSE AS THE COFFIN WAS CARRIED UP THE CATHEDRAL STEPS.

6. COMMENT. A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE CATHEDRAL, STORES WERE OPEN AND PEOPLE WERE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. SO FAR THE ARCHBISHOP'S DEATH HAS NOT BEEN TRANSLATED INTO A STRONG EMOTIONAL REACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OR IN FAVOR OF THE LEFT. THE REAL TEST, HOWEVER, WILL BE THE FUNERAL, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE SUNDAY.

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