



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: 0790581-0406

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 07231 172233Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AGRE-00 EB-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00  
PH-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /085 W  
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O 172115Z DEC 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE SBB:  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PH  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 7231

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: NA  
TAGS: EAGR, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES  
SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP STRONGLY URGES AGRARIAN REFORM

REF SAN SALVADOR 7229 (NOTAL)

1. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO DEVOTED APPROXIMATELY HALF HOUR  
OF DEC 16 HOMILY TO STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF AGRARIAN  
REFORM, STATING HE WAS SPEAKING NOT AS TECHNICIAN,  
BUT AS PASTOR TO HIS FLOCK. HE QUOTED SECOND VATICAN  
COUNCIL AT LENGTH IN SUPPORT OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND  
QUOTED POPE JOHN PAUL II TO EFFECT THAT OVER ALL PRIVATE  
PROPERTY LIES A SOCIAL MORTGAGE. (NOTE: LATTER QUOTATION  
IS GIVEN FREQUENTLY AS SPOT ANNOUNCEMENT BY RADIO  
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 07231 172233Z

STATION OF ARCHDIOCESE.)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEWED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT KOSCIUSKO, DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TO WITH \_\_\_\_\_

ORSE EXISTING \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE DENY \_\_\_\_\_

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2. ARCHBISHOP WARNED REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNING JUNTA (JRG) NOT TO AWAKEN FALSE HOPES BUT TO CARRY OUT GENUINE REFORM AS PROMISED. HE EXHORTED JUNTA NOT TO BE INTIMIDATED, BOUGHT OFF, OR DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES, BUT TO DEFEND INTERESTS OF PEOPLE. IT WAS NOT, HE SAID, A QUESTION OF "RIGHT" OF JRG TO INITIATE AGRARIAN REFORM, BUT ITS "OBLIGATION". NOR, HE CONTINUED, WAS AGRARIAN REFORM "GIFT" FROM JRG, BUT HAD BEEN WON WITH BLOOD OF PEOPLE. HE POINTED OUT TO REPLEVIN POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS THAT CHURCH HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE FOR 20 CENTURIES.

3. ARCHBISHOP CALLED UPON "POWERFUL RICH" TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO COOPERATE IN OVERCOMING CURRENT CRISIS WITHOUT VIOLENCE. PROVIDING MONEY FOR WEAPONS AND MERCENARIES WAS NOT SOLUTION, HE WARNED. SEEKING TO PRESERVE OLD SYSTEM WOULD LEAD TO QUILT FOR REVOLUTION THAT WOULD DESTROY EVERYTHING. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD PREFER TO DESTROY ECONOMY RATHER THAN SEE CHANGE, BUT HE CALLED ON THEM TO SEE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS AND ACT AS TRUE CHRISTIANS INSTEAD. (\*)

4. CITING MEDELLIN COUNCIL TO EFFECT THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT ACT FOR JUSTICE SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUED INJUSTICE, ARCHBISHOP SAID REFORM WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT POPULAR ACTION AND PRESSURE. HE CALLED UPON CAMPESINOS TO SUPPORT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

5. TURNING TO "MILITANT POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS",  
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PAGE 03            SAN SA 07231 172232

ARCHBISHOP NOTED IT APPEARED "POPULAR ARMY" IS BEING FORMED. HE STATED MEDELLIN HAD RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF OPPRESSED TO EXERT PRESSURE, BUT NOT THROUGH ARMED VIOLENCE. HE CONDEMNED ASSASSINATIONS AND CALLED SEIZURE OF NEJAPA (SAN SALVADOR 7204). REPUGNANT.  
DEVINE

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA. 3., LINE 6 AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION

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TO FOLLOW.

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