

## Department of State

# TELEGRAM

#### UNCLASSIFIED

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AN: 0790581-0406

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 PH-05 H-08 INR-10 L-03 MEAE-00 PA-08 SP-08 SS-15 MSCE-00 SS0-00 ICAE-00 IMRE-00 AID-05 /085 W

O 1721152 DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALYADOR
TO SECSTATE MASHDO IMPEDIATE SOOJ
IMPO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TOUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY ROME
UECINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHOO

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 7231

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.Q. 12065: NA TABS: EABR, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP STRONGLY URGES AGRARIAN REFORM

REF SAN SALYADOR 7229 (NOTAL)

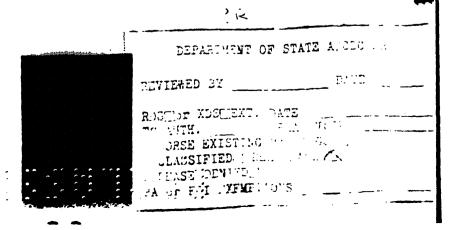
1. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO DEVOTED APPROXIMATELY MALF HOUR OF DEC 16 HOMILY TO STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF AGRARIAN REPORM, STATING HE WAS SPEAKING NOT AS TECHNICIAN, BUT AS PASTOR TO HIS FLOCK, HE QUOTED SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL AT LENGTH IN SUPPORT OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND OUGTED POPE JOHN PAUL II TO EFFECT THAT OVER ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY LIES A SOCIAL MORTGAGE. (NOTE: LATTER QUOTATION IS GIVEN PREQUENTLY AS SPOT AMMOUNCEMENT BY RADIO UNCLASSIFIED

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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 INTINIDATED, BOUGHT OFF, OR DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES, BUT TO DEPEND 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 REPLEYIN POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS THA. CHURCH HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE FOR 20 CENTURIES.
- 3. ARCHOISMOP CALLED UPON "POWERPUL RICH" TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIER 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 OUTLI FOR REVOLUTION THAT WOULD DEST BY 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 CAMPESINGS TO SUPPORT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.
- S. TURNING TO "MILITANT POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS", UNCLASSIPIED UNCLASSIPIED

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ARCHBISHOP NOTED IT APPEARED "POPULAR ARMY" IS BEING FORMED. HE STATED MHELLIN HAD RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF OPPRESSED TO EXERT PRESSURE, BUT NOT THROUGH ARMED VIOLENCE. HE CONDENNED 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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