A 1121202 OCT 79
FM AMBASSADOR SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4939
INFO QUESOT/AMBASSADOR GUATEMALA 7009
AMBASSADOR MANAGUA
AMBASSADOR PANAMA
AMBASSADOR SAN JCEE
AMBASSADOR TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN
DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SAN SALVADOR 5825
E.O. 12065: GOS 10/10/79 (DEVLIN, FRANK J) OR-M
TAGS: PIN PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: (U) THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE MILITARY

REF SAN SALVADOR 5707

1. (U) IN CONVINCE OCT 7, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO ATTACKED AND
APPEALED TO SALVADORAN MILITARY RIDICULING OFFICIAL REPORTS
OF SEPT 29 INCIDENT AT CAVALRY REGIMENT WHEN FOUR
CAMPECINOS LEADERS WERE KILLED. CREFTEL. ARCHBISHOP DEPICTED WHAT HE
TERRED AS ATTEMPT TO DECAPITATE POPULAR ORGANIZATION, CON-
CLUDINS THAT FOR HIMSELF STILL GRAVER ASPECT WAS THAT THE
ARMY "IS MAKING ITSELF ACCOMPLICE IN THIS CRIME".

2. (U) ARCHBISHOP THEN QUOTED FROM RECENTLY RELEASED FOURTH
PASTORAL LETTER IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED DEVIATION OF ARMED
FORCE FROM ROLE AS SERVANT OF TRUE NATIONAL INTERESTS TO
"GUARDIAN OF THE INTERESTS OF THE OLIGARCHY THEREBY
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3. (U) HOWEVER, ARCHBISHOP CLOSED THIS PORTION OF HOMILY ON HOPEFUL NOTE, SAYING HE WOULDN'T WISH TO "HOW ALL OF THE ARMY WAS SO CORRUPT" BUT RATHER THERE WAS STILL HOPE. PERHAPS SACRIFICE OF FOUR CAMPESINO LEADERS WOULD BE INCITEMENT TO ARMED FORCES TO "VINDICATE THE 'HONOR' OF THE NOBLE MILITARY PROFESSION.""  

4. (C) COMMENT: SECURITY FORCES AND GOES IN GENERAL, FREQUENTLY DRAW ARCHBISHOP'S WRATH, BUT EMBASSY RECALLS NO SIMILAR REFERENCE BY ARCHBISHOP TO MILITARY. HOWEVER, AS EMBASSY POINTED OUT REFTEL, CASE AT HAND WAS PARTICULARLY EGREGIOUS. STILL, ARCHBISHOP LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY FOR MILITARY TO VINDICATE ITSELF AND RECEIVED CONGREGATION'S APPLAUSE IN DOING SO. DEVINE

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