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0 172115Z DEC 79
FM AMBASSADORS SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE SUBJ
INFO AMBASSADORS CARACAS
AMBASSADORS GUATEMALA
AMBASSADORS MANANA
AMBASSADORS SAN JOSE
AMBASSADORS PUNICIGALPA
AMBASSADORS ROME
USCINCOS QUARRY HTS PN
QIA WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED SAN SALVADOR 7231

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

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

REF SAN SALVADOR 7229 (OTAL)

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 SALVADOR 7231 172222Z

STATION OF ARCHDIOCESE.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A.O. 205

REVIEWED BY

R/CHA/205: EXT. DATE
WITH.

FILE

AMENDED:

MEASURABLE:

FILE:

REVIEWED:

DATE OF REV: 15 JUL 1979
2. ARCHBISHOP WARNED REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNING JUNTA (JAR) 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 JAR TO INITIATE AGRARIAN REFORM, BUT ITS "OBLIGATION." NOR, HE CONTINUED, WAS AGRARIAN REFORM "GIFT" FROM JAR, BUT HAD BEEN WON WITH BLOOD OF PEOPLE. HE POINTED OUT TO REPELICA 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 QUIT 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 CAMPESTES TO SUPPORT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

5. TURNING TO "MILITANT POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS."

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.

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

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TO FOLLOW.

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