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SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON ARCHBISHOP ROMERO'S ASSASSINATION

HE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON MARCH 25:

BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE TRAGIC ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR A. ROMERO OF SAN SALVADOR YESTERDAY. IT IS A SHOCKING AND UNCONSCIONABLE ACT.

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO SPOKE FOR THE POOR OF EL SALVADOR, WHERE THEIR VOICES HAD BEEN IGNORED FOR TOO LONG. HE SPOKE FOR CHANGE AND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WHICH HIS NATION SO DESPERATELY NEEDS. TERRORISM CANNOT SILENCE THE MESSAGE OF COMPASSION OF THE ARCHBISHOP. IT CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT INTIMIDATE THOSE WHO SEEK SOCIAL JUSTICE. UNCLASSIFIED

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AND DEMOCRACY.

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83 DOS 3494 RSA
The United States trusts that the government of El Salvador will move swiftly and effectively to bring the archbishop’s assassins to justice. END TEXT. VANCE