00731

1981/12/21
SECRET

PAGE 01  SAN SA 09718  2118532

ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00  ADS-00  IMR-10  SS-10  CIAE-00  DODE-00  MSC-05
NSAE-00  SY-05  PM-09  MCT-02  SYE-00  SP-02  7059 W

P 2118172  DEC 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7156

S E C R E T  S A N  S A L V A D O R  9718

E. O. 12065: GCS 12/18/87 OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO

REF: SAN SALVADOR 8084 (80)

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT.)


3. EMBASSY HAS NOW IDENTIFIED, THROUGH CROSSCHECK OF OTHER INFORMATION THE "WALTER" MENTIONED BY THE OFFICER AS WALTER ANTONIO ALVAREZ. ALVAREZ WORKED AT ALMACENES PACIFICO IN SAN SALVADOR, WHICH ARE EITHER WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY OWNED BY THE MUSA FAMILY. ALVAREZ DID USE "MUSA" AS AN ALIAS. ALVAREZ APPEARS TO HAVE LIVED IN THE LA HERMITA SECTION OF APOPA (SAN SALVADOR). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS SEVERAL GUNMEN TOOK ALVAREZ AWAY FROM A FOOTBALL GAME ON SEPTEMBER 27, SHOT HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND LEFT HIS BODY ON THE ROAD WHICH LEADS TO MARIONA PRISON. HE WAS 27 YEARS OLD AND

SECRET

PAGE 02  SAN SA 09718  2118532

THE ROAD WHICH LEADS TO MARIONA PRISON. HE WAS 27 YEARS OLD AND

SECRET
SECRET

LEFT HIS WIFE, DINORA, AND A SMALL SON.

4. POLOFF'S SECURITY FORCE CONTACT HAS PROVIDED VERY ACCURATE SENSITIVE INFORMATION IN THE PAST. WE BELIEVE IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THE ASSASSIN OF ROMERO IS NOW DEAD BY UNKNOWN HANDS.

HINTON

DECLASSIFIED