UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SS-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-10 PA-01 CCO-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-03 P-02 T-01

0 162149Z NOV 89 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHOC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3559
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USCINCISO QUARRY HTS PM

CONFIDENTIAL SAN SALVADOR 14855
ROME FOR THE VATICAN; USCINCISO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12366: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, PHUM, ES
SUBJECT: JESUIT RECTOR OF UCA SHOT DEAD;
SEVEN OTHERS KILLED

1. (U) IGNACIO ELLACURIA, JESUIT RECTOR OF THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA), THREE OTHER
UNIVERSITY JESUITS, TWO OTHER PRIESTS, AND TWO OTHERS
WERE SHOT TO DEATH AT THEIR UCA RESIDENCE AT
APPROXIMATELY 0230 LOCAL SOME TIME DURING THE EVENING
OR NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 16 BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN.

2. (U) THE VICTIMS ARE:
- IGNACIO ELLACURIA, RECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN
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CONFIDENTIAL

UNIVERSITY IN SAN SALVADOR.

- SEGUNDO MONTES, DIRECTOR OF UCA'S INSTITUTE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS.

- IGNACIO MARTIN-BARD, UCA'S VICE RECTOR AND DIRECTOR
OF UCA'S INSTITUTE OF INVESTIGATIONS.

- AMAO LOPEZ, THEOLOGY PROFESSOR AT UCA AND FORMER

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RECTOR OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN MANAGUA.

- JOAQUIN LOPEZ Y LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC'S "FE Y ALEGRIA" (FAITH AND HAPPINESS) CENTER.

- ANOTHER THEOLOGIAN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARCHBISHOPRIC IDENTIFIED SOLELY AS "MORENO."

- A FEMALE COOK AND HER DAUGHTER (UNIDENTIFIED) WERE ALSO KILLED.

3. (C) CONOFF AND POLITICAL ASSISTANT WENT TO UCA JESUIT RESIDENCE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 16. THEY SAW THE BODIES IDENTIFIED AS ELLACURIA, MONTES, MARTIN-BARO, AND LOPEZ, IN THE RESIDENCE GARDEN. ONE REPORTER AND ONE AMCIT JESUIT TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE TREASURY POLICE HAD BEEN SURROUNDING UCA SINCE NOVEMBER 11. THEY SAID THE TREASURY POLICE HAD SEARCHED THE JESUIT RESIDENCE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 14/15. AT APPROXIMATELY 0230-0300 LOCAL NOVEMBER 16, THEY ADDED, THIRTY UNIFORMED ARMED MEN USED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE TO BLOW OPEN AN ENTRANCE TO THE JESUIT RESIDENCE. ONE UCA PROFESSOR TOLD POL CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 03 SAN SA 14855 162149Z ASISTANT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SEVEN ARMED MEN HAD ENTERED THE RESIDENCE BETWEEN 0230 AND 0300. AMCIT JESUIT BROUGHT THE NEWS OF THE KILLINGS TO THE ARCHBISHOPRIC AFTER CURFEW WAS LIFTED (0600) LOCAL NOVEMBER 16.

4. (C) EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON EYEWITNESSES TO THE KILLINGS. IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT EXTREMISTS ON EITHER THE RIGHT OR LEFT MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS. ELLACURIA, A LEADING LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL WHO OFTEN SYMPATHIZED WITH FMLN POSITIONS (SEVERAL FMLN LEADERS HAD STUDIED UNDER ELLACURIA AT UCA), WOULD BE A TARGET FOR RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS. WE CANNOT DISCOUNT, HOWEVER, THAT FMLN EXTREMISTS MAY HAVE MURDERED ELLACURIA ET AL IN ORDER TO SALVAGE THEIR HOPED-FOR POPULAR UPRISING. ALSO, ELLACURIA HAD RECENTLY PUBLICLY DISAPPROVED OF FMLN POSITIONS AND EVEN GRUDGINGLY APPROVED OF SOME OF CRISTIANI'S POLICIES.

WALKER