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RELEASE

SAN SA 14855 162149Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-10	PA-01	CCO-00	DMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	/043 W

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O 162146Z NOV 89 ZFF4
 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3559
 INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
 AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
 AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 14855

ROME FOR THE VATICAN; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: 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 SOMETIME 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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UNIVERSITY IN SAN SALVADOR.

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

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

- AMADO LOPEZ, THEOLOGY PROFESSOR AT UCA AND FORMER

Department of State IS/FPG/CDR El Salvador SP Date 9/21/97
 Declassified under EO 12356 (X) in full; () in part;
 portions withheld: classified (); deliberative ();
 enforcement (); privacy (), statutory ();
 not relevant to El Salvador ().

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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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
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ASSISTANT 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 SYMPHATHIZED 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 PUBLICALLY DISAPPROVED OF FMLN POSITIONS AND EVEN GRUDGINGLY APPROVED OF SOME OF CRISTIANI'S POLICIES.

WALKER

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