



SECRET
Department of State

S/S-O
INCOMING



SECRET
Department of State

S/S
INC
10
1
c.c.
a.

PAGE 02 OF 05 SAN SA 14970 00 OF 02 1922232 C12/25 003666 MODS83

PAGE 03 OF 05 SAN SA 14970 00 OF 02 1922232 C12/25 003666

ACTION MODS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 /000 W

0 1922032 NOV 89 ZFFA
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 3660

SECRET NOFORN SAN SALVADOR 14970

MODIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PCOV, PREL, ES
SUBJECT: ELLACURIA ASSASSINATION

REF: [REDACTED] cc a

1. SECRET/NOFORN - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE EVIDENCE THAT A MEETING OF THE EXTREME RIGHTWING OF ARENA MIGHT RPT MIGHT HAVE TRIGGERED EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE DEATHS OF FATHER ELLACURIA AND SEVEN OTHERS OF RETI...

IF THE INFORMATION PROVES ACCURATE I PROPOSE WE PRESENT A STARK CHOICE TO PRESIDENT CRISTIANI GO AFTER THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC WING OF YOUR PARTY WITH EVERYTHING IT TAKES WITH THE SUPPORT OF USC [SAF AND THE WORLD, OR WE PULL THE PLUG. IT'S A PASS-FAIL EXAM WHICH HE MUST TAKE DESPITE THE HIGH STAKES INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

3. INFORMATION THAT LEADS TO A DISTURBING CONCLUSION THE ASSASSINATIONS OF FATHER ELLACURIA AND HIS SEVEN COMPANIONS ARE VERY POSSIBLY TRACEABLE TO A

EXCISE

MODIS REVIEW

- Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to IMAC/FPC
- Cat. B - Transferred to IMAC/FPC with additional access controlled by [REDACTED]
- Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Sgt E. [REDACTED]
Date: 3/30/93

DISCUSSION EARLIER THAT EVENING (NOVEMBER 15) AMONG ROBERTO D'ABUJISSON AND HIS MOST FANATICAL FOLLOWERS WITHIN THE COENA, I.E., THE ARENA PARTY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. IF THE CONVERSATION OCCURRED AS REPORTED, WITHIN A GROUP OF A DOZEN PARTICIPANTS, AND ONE OR MORE OF THEM DECIDED TO CARRY OUT THE MAJOR'S IMPLIED ORDER TO CLEAN OUT THE UCA NEST OF "SUBVERSIVES," WE AND THE CRISTIANI REGIME HAVE EXTREMELY ROUGH TIMES AHEAD. DESPITE THE ENORMOUS THREAT ARENA LEADERS INVOLVEMENT PORTEND FOR USC AND GOES EFFORTS OF THE PAST NINE YEARS, I BELIEVE WE MUST FACE THE ISSUE HEAD ON, I.E., WE MUST INSURE THAT FREDY CRISTIANI FACES THE ISSUE HEAD ON. IF HANDLED RIGHT, AND IF CRISTIANI CAN PASS WHAT I ADMIT IS AN EXTREMELY SEVERE TEST OF HIS POLITICAL (AND PHYSICAL) COURAGE, HE AND WE MIGHT EMERGE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PROBLEM IN A RELATIVELY STRONGER POSITION VIS-A-VIS THIS PARTICULAR VARIETY OF EXTREMISTS.

4. IF ELEMENTS WITHIN HIS PARTY'S LEADERSHIP ARE CAPABLE OF SUCH A BARBAROUS AND INCREDIBLY STUPID ACTION, AND IF ITS GENESIS WAS DERIVATIVE FROM DISCUSSION AMONG SUCH A SIZEABLE GROUP OF CONSPIRATORS, I BELIEVE CRISTIANI MUST KNOW ALREADY OR WILL SOON DISCOVER THE HORRIBLE TRUTH. AS WE ALL KNOW AND AS EVERY DISCUSSION AND ENCOUNTER I HAVE HAD WITH HIM HAS CONFIRMED PRESIDENT CRISTIANI IS A DECENT HUMAN BEING. I CANNOT IMAGINE HIM REACTING WITH ANYTHING BUT REPUGNANCE WHEN HE LEARNED OF ELLACURIA'S DEATH. THAT REPUGNANCE AND LOATHING WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO EXPOSURE OF THE TRUTH HOWEVER, ABSENT CERTAIN ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT FROM THE TWO ALLIES THAT COULD BRING HIM THROUGH A

SHOWDOWN WITH D'ABUJISSON AND HIS FOLLOWERS, THE USC AND THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES WITH UNCONDITIONAL

SECRET

Department of State IS/FPC/CDR El Salvador SP Date: 7/20/93 SECRET
Classified under EO 12386 () in full; () in part;
Information withheld: classified () ; deliberative () ;
statutory () ;
El Salvador () .

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET

Department of State

S/S-0
INCOMING



PAGE 04 OF 05 SAN SA 14970 00 OF 02 192223Z C12/25 003666 MODS83
SUPPORT FROM THOSE TWO ENTITIES, AND WHAT I BELIEVE
WOULD BE BACKING FROM THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES WHO WANT
THE SYSTEM TO WORK, CRISTIAMI MIGHT JUST RISK IT. I
WOULD PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

- A. I IMMEDIATELY SPEAK IN PRIVATE WITH THE
PRESIDENT. I INFORM HIM OF OUR CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE
ELLACURIA ASSASSINATION AND THAT, ABSENT FULL
EXPOSURE AND PROSECUTION OF ALL RESPONSIBLE, THE USC
WOULD BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
SUPPORT FOR HIS REGIME. THE TIME HAS COME WHEN HE
MUST CHOOSE, BETWEEN HIS POLITICAL ALLIES WHO ARE
ANTI-DEMOCRATS, AND THOSE WHO WANT TO BUILD A TRULY
DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AS HE AND WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID
WAS OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE. I WOULD OFFER THE
PRESIDENT THE OPTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WANTED
TO SOLICIT THE SUPPORT OF MOD LARIOS AND COLONEL
PONCE, OR PREFERRED THAT I OFFER THEM THE SAME STARK
CHOICE.

- B. I WOULD TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT WITH THE USC,
THE LEADERSHIP AND MAJORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES
OFFICER CORPS, AND THE DECENT FORCES OF SALVADORAN
SOCIETY ON HIS SIDE, HE CAN AND MUST ONCE AND FOR ALL
SEPARATE HIMSELF AND HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BARBARISM. THE GAMBLE WOULD BE
HIS TO TAKE THE STAKES ENORMOUS. BUT FOR HIM NOT TO
TAKE ON THOSE OF THE VIOLENT RIGHT WILL DOOM HIS

PRESIDENCY AND POSSIBLY SALVADORAN DEMOCRACY.

S. I WOULD INSURE THAT THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THAT
THE EXAM HE FACES IS A PASS-FAIL ONE. MY ONLY
HESITATION IN RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE ACTION IS THE

LACK OF MORE CONCRETE INFORMATION AS TO WHO WAS AT
THE MEETING WHO MIGHT HAVE ACTED ON THE

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET

Department of State

S/S-
INCI



PAGE 05 OF 05 SAN SA 14970 00 OF 02 192223Z C12/25 003666
"INSTRUCTIONS," WHAT MECHANISM WAS EMPLOYED, ETC.
THERE IS CORROBORATIVE CIRCUMSTANCIAL EVIDENCE OF
RIGHTWING COMPLICITY, I.E., CLAIMS OF TREASURY POLICE
INVOLVEMENT, SECURITY FORCES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN
THE HOURS LONG ASSASSINATION OPERATION WAS CARRIED
OUT, BUT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CLEARLY CONNECTS
D'AUBUISSON OR ANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS TO THE ACTUAL
CRIME. I CAN'T ASK CRISTIAMI TO DECLARE ALL-OUT WAR
ON D'AUBUISSON IF THE MAJOR'S WORDS WERE LESS
MENACING THAN REPORTED, OR IF ONLY ONE LISTENER WAS
INSANE ENOUGH TO ACT ON WHAT HE THOUGHT HE HEARD

THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO MOVE OUT
NOT FULLY PREPARED. AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS.

WALKER

cc
25

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET