

[REDACTED]

PAGE 0001
250309Z MAR 80

250300Z MAR 80
[REDACTED]

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS ON 24 MARCH 1980, SALVADOR'S ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO ROMEROGALDAMEZ WAS ASSASSINATED WHILE CELEBRATING MASS IN THE CHAPEL OF THE "DEVINE PROVIDENCE" HOSPITAL IN SAN SALVADOR. WHILE NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS ARE ALREADY CIRCULATING, MOST RELIABLE APPEARS TO BE THAT ROMERO WAS KILLED BY A SINGLE BULLET THRU THE HEART WHICH WAS FIRED FROM A GUN CONCEALED IN A CAMERA EQUIPPED WITH A FLASH ATTACHMENT. PRESUMABLE, ROMERO KILLED BY A RIGHTIST ASSASSINATION SQUAD.

2. [REDACTED] ALREADY ALERTED THE DEPARTMENT AND APPARENTLY, THE WHITE HOUSE TO ROMERO'S ASSASSINATION [REDACTED] IN SEVERAL PHONE CALLS TO UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE BOWDLER. PER AMBASSADOR, CRITIC REPORTING NOT BEING INITIATED.

3. [REDACTED], ASSASSINATION OF ROMERO WILL SURELY PROVOKE RESPONSE FROM SALVADORAN LEFT AND EVEN NOW, A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ARE CONGREGATING AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY APPROXIMATELY SIX BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. BELIEVE THAT THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY AND PROBABLY THE ONLY STEP WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE VIOLENCE WHICH IS SURE TO FOLLOW.

[REDACTED]