
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

100101Z SEP 85

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT DUARTE TO THE
MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO INVESTIGATE NEW INFORMATION
ABOUT THE MURDER OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO

DOI: LATE AUGUST 1985

** [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. IN LATE AUGUST 1985, PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) ORDERED THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE JULIO ALFREDO ((SAMAYOA)) TO LAUNCH AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF NEW INFORMATION OBTAINED BY DUARTE ABOUT THE MURDER OF ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR OSCAR ARNULFO ((ROMERO)). DUARTE INSTRUCTED SAMAYOA TO EMPLOY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) AND ITS OVERSIGHT COMMISSION TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION BY THE END OF OCTOBER 1985 AND TO ARREST ANY SUSPECTS IMPLICATED BY THE NEW EVIDENCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CONTENT OF THE [REDACTED] EVIDENCE. THE SIU WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE 19 JUNE ZONA ROSA MASSACRE BUT WAS EVENTUALLY TO ASSUME OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.)

2. BASED ON THE NEW INFORMATION OBTAINED BY DUARTE, SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL SALVADORAN CITIZENS ARE IMPLICATED IN THE ROMERO MURDER CASE. THE NEW EVIDENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO INCRIMINATE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) PRESIDENT ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)) ARRIETA, BUT SEVERAL OF HIS ASSOCIATES ARE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS. SAMAYOA, WHO HEADS THE SIU OVERSIGHT COMMISSION WHICH CONSISTS OF PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT ALVARO ERNESTO ((SALAZAR)) BRENES AND VICE-MINISTER OF INTERIOR CARMEN AMALIA BARAHONA PANTOJA DE ((MORALES)), EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND THAT OF THE OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS. SAMAYOA INDICATED THAT "POWERFUL PEOPLE" IN THE SALVADORAN SOCIETY WOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO THREATS AGAINST THE LIVES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.

3. DUARTE'S ENTHUSIASM FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE TERRORIST GROUP WHICH CONDUCTED THE ZONA ROSA MASSACRE LED TO HIS DECISION TO PROCEED WITH A SIMILAR INVESTIGATION OF ROMERO'S MURDER. DUARTE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE INFORMATION WHICH HE PROVIDED TO SAMAYOA WILL LEAD TO THE ARREST OF ONE OR MORE SUSPECTS IN THE ROMERO MURDER CASE. HIS GOAL IS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF PUBLIC SUPPORT GENERATED BY THE ZONA ROSA INVESTIGATION BY MAKING A SIMILAR PUBLIC DECLARATION OF THE SIU'S FINDINGS IN THE ROMERO CASE.

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