

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

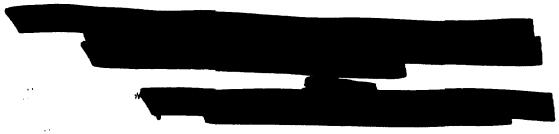
SUBJ:

ALLEGATION BY CHIEF OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT A NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER ASSASSINATED ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO

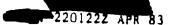
ROMERO IN 1980.

DOI:

MID-APRIL 1983



Approved for Release NUV 1993



TEXT: 1. IN MID-APRIL 1983, DOCTOR HECTOR ((REGALADO)), CHIEF OF THE NATIONALIST REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE (ARENA) PARAMILITARY UNIT, CONFIDED TO MEMBERS OF THE PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT A SALVADORAN NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER, CAPTAIN (FNU) ((VEGA)) VALENCIA, HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 24 MARCH 1980 ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO ((ROMERO)). ACCORDING TO REGALADO, VEGA IS A RIGHTIST AND AN EXPERT MARKSMAN WHO KILLED ROMERO WITH ONE EXPLOSIVE BULLET FROM A SMALL CALIBER WEAPON.

2. REGALADO FURTHER SAID THAT VEGA WAS ASSIGNED TO MEXICO CITY AS MILITARY ATTACHE FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION. HE STATED THAT SINCE THEN VEGA HAS REMAINED OUTSIDE EL SALVADOR, EITHER IN MEXICO OR OTHER COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH HE STILL IS AN OFFICER IN THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. REGALADO DESCRIBED VEGA AS A FORMER NATIONAL GUARD INTELLIGENCE SECTION COLLEAGUE AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND PRESIDENT OF ARENA. REGALADO ADDED THAT D'AUBUISSON HAD BEEN KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE PLAN TO ASSASSINATE ROMERO AND APPROVED THE PLAN AS A MEANS OF LIMITING LEFTIST INFLUENCE WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CLERGY. COMMENT: SOME PARAMILITARY MEMBERS SUSPECT THAT DOCTOR REGALADO WAS AN ACTIVE CONSPIRATOR IN THE ASSASSINATION AND BELIEVE THAT HE MAY HAVE MANUFACTURED THE EXPLOSIVE BULLET USED TO KILL ROMERO. THEIR BELIEVE IS BASED

ON THE FACT THAT REGALADO HAS USED HIS DENTIST'S TOOLS TO FABRICATE SPECIAL BULLETS FOR OTHER ASSASSINATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE ARENA PARAMILITARY UNIT.)

