

Final 4-5-82
DRAFT

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The allegations in the articles which you cite in your letter of 25 March contain numerous inaccuracies. To set the record straight, I offer the following comments:

Several charges concerning Ricardo Lau appear to be unfounded. First, neither the Agency nor the Honduran Government has any information which would substantiate the claim that Ricardo Lau committed human rights abuses in Honduras. He was accused of killing two Honduran leftists in June 1981, but when Honduran authorities investigated this matter, they found that Lau was not in Honduras at the time of the murders. Second, interviews with [REDACTED] assets reveal that Lau was neither connected with D'Aubuisson nor with Guatemalan/Salvadoran right-wing extremists. Moreover, we have no evidence to suggest that Lau played any role in the murder of Archbishop Romero. Third, [REDACTED] never mediated any dispute involving death threats against Lau, and we are not aware of any FDN plot to assassinate him. It is true that Lau formerly served as chief of FDN counterintelligence. Additionally, the Agency encouraged the FDN leadership to remove Lau in order to rid that organization of its Somoza taint and because of previous rumors of unacceptable conduct by Lau while serving the Somoza government.

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Finally, the Agency has no information to support the assertion that the decision to murder Archbishop Romero was made by a group of Miami-based Salvadorans. Although a variety of sources have accused Roberto D'Aubuisson of complicity in the murder, the Agency does not have any information which could be construed as hard proof.

Approved for Release
NOV 1993

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