

Release in Full
Raymond G. McGrath, Senior Reviewer
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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"UNCLASSIFIED"

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MRN: [81 SAN SALVADOR 2566](#)
Date/DTG: Apr 04, 1981 / 040000Z Apr 81
From: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*; ICA *ROUTINE*
E.O.: Unknown
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SOPN, ES
Reference: 81 STATE 2512
Subject: (U) MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 PL-02 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 HA-06
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 DCT-02 INRE-00 ICAE-00 SYE-00
SP-02 SPRS-02 /079 W
-----067642 041751Z /43

O P 041652Z APR 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3179
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAN SALVADOR 2566

USICA WASHDC FOR AR/DACHI

E. O. 12065: GDS 4/5/17 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJ: (U) MORE PROBLEMS FOR THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

REF: STATE 2512

1. ~~(G)~~ WE DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT WE ARE LIVING IN AIR
POISONED BY SECURITY FORCES' DISTRUST OF THE FOREIGN PRESS,
BUT TWO INCIDENTS YESTERDAY (4/3/81) DEEPENED THE GLOOM AND
FEAR OF THE CAMINO REAL-BASED PRESS CORPS:

2. ~~(LOU)~~ A CBS CREW SHOOTING DURING THE MORNING IN A NEIGHBORHOOD ALONG THE MAIN ARTERY "BOULEVARD DEL EJERCITO" WERE STOPPED BY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN ARMED WITH G-3S WHO ALSO THREATENED TO BREAK THE CAMERAS. THEY SAID TO THE SALVADORAN

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ASSISTANT: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHOWING PEOPLE THINGS LIKE THIS? YOUR'RE A SALVADORAN. WE CAN MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR." (THE STORY BEING COVERED WAS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR AND THE NEED OF THIS AID, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THE GUARDSMEN KNEW THIS.)

3. ~~(LOU)~~ AT 9:45 IN THE EVENING A PICKUP TRUCK WITHOUT LICENSE PLATES ARRIVED AT THE CAMINO REAL WITH TEN ARMED MEN ABOARD WHO WENT TO THE RECEPTION DESK AND ASKED TO SEE A LIST OF RECENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTEL. SEVERAL JOURNALISTS TRIED A FRIENDLY APPROACH AND MADE POLITE CONVERSATION. THE GUARDSMEN SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT, BUT NEWSMEN WERE UNCERTAIN WHETHER THEY HAD WITH THEM THE LIST THEY SOUGHT. (THE INCIDENT CAME ONE EVENING AFTER PRESIDENT DUARTE SHOWED UP UNEXPECTEDLY AT THE BAR OF THE HOTEL AND CHATTED WITH NEWSMEN FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.)

4. ~~(G)~~ NEWSMEN ARE LINKING THESE INCIDENTS WITH THE COPREFA (THE ARMED FORCES PRESS AGENCY) COMMUNIQUE THREATENING "DRASTIC MEASURES" IF NEWSMEN "CONTINUE TO DISTRO THE IMAGE OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT." WE SEE THE WHOLE THING IN TERMS OF GROWING SIEGE MENTALITY AND A PAROXYSM OF NATIONALISM FESTERING HERE AS THE MILITARY, THE ENTREPRENEURIAL CLASSES AND MANY MIDDLE CLASS AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS SALVADORANS SEE THEMSELVES UP AGAINST AN ENTIRE WORLD OF ADVERSE PUBLIC OPINION. CHAPIN

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NVVZCZ

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