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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 EUR-12 HA-05 SR-04 SY-05 MCT-02  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-15 /104 W  
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R 201820Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4563  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

**RELEASED IN FULL**

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 5414

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV SHUM SOCI ES

SUBJ: THE BATTLE OF THE HOMILIES: ASSASSINATION OF PRIESTS AND  
POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 5272

1. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO IN HOMILY SEPTEMBER 16 REPLIED STRONGLY TO BISHOP APARICIO'S CHARGE OF PREVIOUS WEEK THAT SOME OF PRIESTS HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED BY LEFT RATHER THAN RIGHT (REFTEL). ARCHBISHOP SAID FATHERS RUTILIO GRANDE, ALFONSO NAVARRO, RAFAEL PALACIOS AND ALIRIO NAPOLEON MACIAS WERE ASSASSINATED BY WHITE WARRIORS UNION (UGB) OR AUTHORITIES DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, WHILE FATHERS NETO BARRERA AND OCTAVIO ORTIZ DIED IN CUSTODY OF SECURITY FORCES.

2. ARCHBISHOP SAID IT SUFFICED TO CITE GOES REPLY  
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TO OEA INQUIRY IN DEATH OF NAVARRO WHICH STATED ASSASSINATION WAS "ATTRIBUTED" TO UGB "AS BECAME KNOWN THROUGH NOTICES SURREPTITIOUSLY DELIVERED TO THE NEWSPAPERS". ARCHBISHOP CONCLUDED THAT ANY OTHER VERSION OF DEATHS OF PRIESTS WAS "FALSE, UNFOUNDED, COVERING-UP, AND ACCOMPLICE OF THE ASSASSINS". HIS STATEMENTS RECEIVED PROLONGED APPLAUSE.

3. ELSEWHERE IN HOMILY, ARCHBISHOP IN REFERENCE TO EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 14 ATTACKED REPRESSION OF "REPLEVIN

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior Reviewer**

ORGANIZATIONS" (I.E. POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS), SAYING THAT TO ORGANIZE WAS NOT ONLY A RIGHT, BUT DUTY ESPECIALLY AT PRESENT TIME.

4. MEANWHILE IN SAN VICENTE, BISHOP APARICIO EXCOMMUNICATED THOSE PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN OCCUPATION OF CHURCH AT ZACATECOLUCA. IN DECREE OF EXCOMMUNICATION READ SEPTEMBER 16, BISHOP STATED THAT DURING FIRST OCCUPATION OF CATHEDRAL IN SAN SALVADOR BY "PRIESTS, NUNS, AND LAYMEN" DIVISION HAD ARISEN BETWEEN THOSE SUPPORTING MOSCOW-ORIENTED FAPU (UNITED POPULAR ACTION FRONT) AND THOSE OPTING FOR PEKING ORIENTATION. RESULT OF SPLIT WAS FORMATION OF BPR (POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC), "ONE OF WHOSE DIRECTORS AND INSPIRATORS IS A PRIEST OF OUR DIOCESES".

5. IN HOMILY SEPTEMBER 16, BISHOP APARICIO TOLD CAMPESINOS THAT BPR ELEMENT FECCAS-UTC (CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF SALVADORAN CAMPESINOS AND UNION OF CAMPESINO WORKERS) IS PART OF "COMMUNIST MOVEMENT" AND WARNED THEY SHOULD LEAVE FECCAS-UTC BEFORE THEY FOUND THEMSELVES OUTSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH. HE CONTINUED THAT IT WAS NOT GOVERNMENT THAT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSECUTING CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR, BUT WAS ONLY "REBEL GROUPS SUCH AS UTC AND FECCAS" THAT WERE PROHIBITING EXERCISE OF RELIGION COMMANDED BY LAW OF GOD. BISHOP FURTHER CHARGED THAT OCCUPIERS OF CHURCHES IN SAN SALVADOR WERE RECEIVING 25 COLONES PER DAY AND OCCUPIERS OF CHURCHES IN SAN VICENTE DIOCESES WERE RECEIVING 15 COLONES PER DAY, MONEY COMING FROM RANSOMS PAID IN KIDNAP CASES.

6. REFERRING TO GOES, BISHOP SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CORRECT ERRORS OF HALF CENTURY IN SINGLE YEAR. JUST TO CORRECT FAULTS IN SECURITY FORCES WOULD COST GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT. HE CONDEMNED CORRUPTION AND CITED OWN WILLINGNESS AND EFFORTS TO OBTAIN JUSTICE. DEVINE

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