

Release in Part, 25X1  
Declass 12/31/2029  
By Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
11/19/2024

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**MRN:** [79 SAN SALVADOR 3391](#)  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 20, 1979 / 200000Z Jun 79  
**From:** AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE; GUATEMALA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** Unknown  
**TAGS:** ASEC, ELAB, PGOV, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES  
**Reference:** 79 SAN SALVADOR 3232  
**Subject:** (U) KILLINGS OF TEACHERS AND OTHERS CONTINUE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03391 01 OF 02 220956Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-14 AID-05 HA-05 MCT-02 /095 W  
-----036291 221130Z /12

R 202020Z JUN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3093  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 3391

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/20/85 (DEVINE, FRANK J.) OR-M  
TAGS: ASEC, ELAB, PGOV, PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: (U) KILLINGS OF TEACHERS AND OTHERS CONTINUE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3232

1. (S) SUMMARY. BPR TEACHERS' ORGANIZATION ANDES 21 DE JUNIO HAS CONTINUED TO PROTEST KILLINGS OF TEACHERS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT NOT ALL THESE KILLINGS MAY BE DUE TO RIGHTIST GROUPS. MNR MEMBER AND A POET ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED UGB THREATS. CORPSES OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE CONTINUED TO TURN UP AROUND EL SALVADOR. ENMMARY.

2. (U) ON JUNE 13, MEMBERS OF TEACHERS' ORGANIZATION "ANDES 21 DE JUNIO" MET WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION MARIA ANGELICA DIAZ AND PRESENTED HER WITH LIST OF NINETEEN TEACHERS

ASSASSINATED OVER LAST TWO MONTHS AND ONE (JUAN JOSE HERRERA) WHO HAD "DISAPPEARED" SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE. ANDES MEMBERS ALSO PRESENTED LIST OF TWELVE TEACHERS WHO HAD RECEIVED THREATS. DIAZ REPORTEDLY GAVE HER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02      SAN SA 03391 01 OF 02 220956Z

CONDOLENCES FOR DEATH OF TEACHERS, ADDING THAT VIOLENCE HAD AFFECTED NUMEROUS SALVADORAN FAMILIES, INCLUDING THAT OF CARLOS HERRERA REBOLLO, HER PREDECESSOR AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WHO WAS ASSASSINATED LASTMAY 23 BY FPL.

3. (LOU) JUNE 16 EDITION OF OPPOSITION NESPAPER "LA CRONICA DEL PUEBLE" HAD FULL-PAGE ANDES AD REPRINTING LETTER FROM MEXICAN TEACHERS' ORGANIZATION NATIONAL UNION OF EDUCATION WORKERS TO PRESIDENT ROMERO, CALLING ON HIM TO CEASE "REPRESSION AGAINST THE TEACHERS AND PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR." ON JUNE 15, ANDES PLACED AD IN "LA CRONICA" CLAIMING THAT ROBERTO ROMERO, ANDES SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF CHALETENANGO, HAD BEEN ARRESTED JUNE 13 ALONG WITH OTHER TEACHERS. AD CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ROMERO, STATING THAT TEACHERS IN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHALATENANGO HAD GONE ON STRIKE UNTIL HE WAS RELEASED. ANDES ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 18 THAT MEMBERS WOULD GO ON STRIKE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY ON JUNE 21-22 SINCE "REPRESSION" AGAINST ANDES WAS CONTINUING DESPITE REPRESENTATIONS MADE JUNE 13 TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION. (JUNE 21 IN ANY CASE IS ANNIVERSARY OF ANDES AND JUNE 22 IS DAY FOR TRADITIONAL EXCURSION OR SOCIAL GATHERING FOR ASSOCIATION. BOTH DAYS COULD CONCEIVABLY BECOME OCCASIONS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GOES.)

4. (G) DESPITE ANDES PR QUESTS OF "REPRESSION" AGAINST TEACHERS, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT MAY INDICATE THAT TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST TEACHERS ARE NOT ONLY BEING CONDUCTED BY ALLEGED RIGHTIST GROUPS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03      SAN SA 03391 01 OF 02 220956Z

A FORMER ANDES MEMBER -- AND CURRENT MEMBEGWOF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) -- CAME TO EMBASSY WEEK OF JUNE 10 TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF BEING ABLE TO GO TO U.S. FOR SIX MONTHS. HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN MEMBBA OF ANDES NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD DURING EARLY 1970'S BUT HAD THEN QUIT BECAUSE OF INCREASING LEFTIST TILT OF ANDES LEADERSPEP AND ATTEMPTS TO

CONVERT WHAT HAD HITHERTO BEEN TEACHERS' UNION INTO POLITICAL INSTRUMENT. DESPITE FACT THAT HE HAD QUITE ANDES SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE, HE SAID HE HAD AWAKEN THAT MORNING TO SEE WHITE HAND STENCILLED ON FRONT DOOR OF HIS RESIDENCE WITH FOLLOWING WORDS WRITTEN UNDERNEATH: "ESTE ES UN SUBVERSIVO" ("THIS PERSON IS A SUBVERSIVE"). PDC MEMBER SAID HE TOOK THIS AS BEING A DEATH THREAT.

5. (G) HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HEDID NOT THINK HIS CASE WAS ATYPICAL AND CLAIMED THAT OF TWENTY TEACHERS ASSASSINATED THUS FAR EIGHT HAD REPUTATION OF BEING ANTI-BPR. HE COMMENUEED THAT FOR HIM IT WAS STRANGE THAT SOME OF MORE SPECTACULAR INCIDENTS AGAINST TEACHERS HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN DEPARTMENTS OF SANTA ANA AND SONSONATE, WHERE ANTI-BPR MEMBERS HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF BOTH DEPARTMENTAL-WIDE ANDES ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING POSSIBILITY THAT RIGHTIST GROUPS THAT MIGHT BE CONDUCTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST TEACHERS WERE NOT DISCRIMINATING PROPERLY BETWEEN PRO-BPR AND ANTI-BPR ANDES MEMBERS, PDC MEMBER STILL REITERATED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT EIGHT OF TWENTY TEACHERS KILLED THUS FAR WERE ANTI-BPR AND IMPLIED THAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF LEFTIST TERRORIST GROUPS SEEKING TO ELINIATE ANTI-BPR ELEMENTS AMONG ANDES MEMBERS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03391 02 OF 02 221047Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-14 AID-05 HA-05 MCT-02 /095 W  
-----036585 221130Z /10

R 202020Z JUN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3094  
RDNFO RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 6629  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGULUGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN SALVADOR 3391

6. (U) THREATS AGAINST OTHER INDIVIDUALS HAVE CONTINUED TO ORJR. JUNE 14 "LA CRONICA" ALLEGED THAT EXTREME

RIGHTIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHITE WARRIORS' UNION (UGB) HAD THREATENED (BY LETTER AND TELEPHONE) POET RAFAEL GOCHEZ SOSA, WHO HAD APPARENTLY WRITTEN POEM IN MEMORY OF HIS DAUGHTER DELSY GOCHEZ FERNANDEZ, ONE OF FOURTEEN PERSONS KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES LAST MAY 22 IN FRONT OF VENEZUELAN EMBASSY. ALSO, ACCORDING TO "LA CRONICA", ON JUNE 14 SLOGANS STATING "HERE WORK SOME SUBVERSIVES -- BE CAREFUL, UGB" APPEARED ON WALLS OF SCHOOL IN SANTA TECLA OWNED BY GOCHEZ SOSA.

7. (U) BOTH "LA PRENSA GRAFICA" AND "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT DR. LUIS ALONSO POSADO, MEMBER OF POLITICAL COMMISSION OF NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR), HAD DISCOVERED ON JUNE 14 A SLOGAN STATING "HERE LIVES A SUBVERSIVE" PAINTED ON HIS HOUSE IN SANTA TECLA. IN LETTERS TO EDITORS OF "LA CRONICA" AND "LA PRENSA", POSADO STATED THAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02      SAN SA 03391 02 OF 02 221047Z

GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT ROMERO SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.

8. (U) CORPSES CONTINUE TO BE DISCOVERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF EL SALVADOR. JUNE 15 "LA CRONICA" REPORTED THAT NUDE AND MUTILATED BODIES OF THREE WOMEN HAD APPEARED NEAR TIERRA BLANCA (DEPARTMENT OF LA LIBERTAD) WITH SIGN NEARBY SAYING "TRAITORS TO THE COUNTRY."

9. (LOU) ONE RECENT CASE INDICATES AT LEAST THE POSSIBILITY THAT CURRENT WAVE OF TERRORIST ACTIONS MAY BE BEING USED BY SOME AS COVER FOR PERSONAL VENDETTAS. DEATH OF JOSE ERNESTO FERREAS MAJIA, WHOSE BODY WAS DISCOVERED NEAR "EL PLAYON" JUNE 8 WITH FPL FLAG NEARBY (REFTEL), WAS APPARENTLY ARRANGED BY HIS ESTRANGED WIFE AND HER BOYFRIEND, EX-LICE INSPECTOR JUAN JOSE MORALES MENDEZ. THE TWO ALLEGEDLY HIRED TWO EX-MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES TO KILL FERREAS MAJIA AND HIS GIRLFRIEND MARIA GRACIELA HERNANDEZ. DESPITE A REPORTED EIGHT BULLET WOUNDS, HERNANDEZ SURVIVED ATTEMPT ON HER LIFE. CONTINUED DETENTION OF THESE FOUR PERSONS ACCUSED OF DEATH OF FERREAS MAJIA WAS DECREED JUNE 16 BY COURT IN SAN JUAN OPICO.

10. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: CONTINUED ASSASSINATIONS OF TEACHERS, PLUS THREATS AGAINST MNR OFFICIAL AND PEOT. ARE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF REVIVAL OF UGB ACTIVITIES. IN JUNE 14 MEETING ARRANGED BY PRESIDENT ROMERO WITH FOUR MILITARY ATTACHES (INCLUDING DATT), COL. ROBERTO ELLALIO SANTIBANEZ, HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION ANSESAL, CLAIMED THAT UGB OPERATIONS ARE OUTSIDE THE LAW AND THAT UGB ITSELF IS MADE UP OF COMMON CRIMINALS.

SANTIBANEZ DENIED ANY GOES CONNECTION WITH UGB

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03391 02 OF 02 221047Z

ACTIVITIES 3.3 (b) (1) IN VIEW OF  
REPORTED ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN GOES AND UGB IN THE  
PAST, THIS STATEMENT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT AT FACE  
VALUE. HOWEVER, INFORMATION THAT EMBASSY RECEIVED  
THAT EIGHT OF TWENTY TEACHERS ASSASSINATED THUS FAR  
HAD REPUTATION OF BEING ANTI-PBR, MAY INDICATE THAT  
UGB MAY NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASSASSINATION OF  
TEACHERS CARRIED OUT UP TO NOW. SERPAS MEJIA CASE IS  
AT LEAST ONE INDICATION OF POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF

KILLINGS OF TEACHERS AND OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN PRIVATE  
VENDETTAS WHOSE RESULTS HAVE THEN BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO  
TERRORIST GROUPS.  
DEVINE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNN

---

---

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~