

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE

SUBJECT: Priest Killings, El Salvador 11/16/89

FILE: HQ 163-61055

SUMMARY OF RELEASE

REVIEWED:	<u>1589</u>
REFERRED:	<u>838</u>
WITHHELD:	<u>50</u>
RELEASED:	<u>701</u>

PART 1 OF 3

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

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- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

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(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

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(b)(4)

(b)(8)

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- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

 Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

5 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): duplicate of a document which is processed elsewhere - see 163-HQ-61055- 16X (document # 2)

- For your information: _____

- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 16 (document # 1)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 11/18/89

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055-16x (Document # 2)

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are in date order.

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11/21/89

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR/IMMEDIATE/

DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/

LEGAT MEXICO CITY/IMMEDIATE/

BT

San Salvador EL Salvador

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: //0028//

PASS: DEPT OF STATE FOR ARA/CEN; DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR ROBERT S. MUELLER AND ICITAP; LEGAT, MEXICO CITY FOR LEGAT, PANAMA CITY.

SUBJECT: ELLACURIA MURDER, ET AL., U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION - GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS.

~~THIS COMMUNICATION IS CLASSIFIED "CONFIDENTIAL" IN ITS ENTIRETY.~~

REFERENCE AMERICAN EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR CABLE DATED

MVH: [redacted] *b7c* 11/21/89 7443 5904

- 1 - MR. CLARKE
- 1 - MR. REVELL
- 2 - MR. BAKER
- 2 - MR. HICKS
- 1 - MR. HALP
- 1 - MR. [redacted]

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- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED BY *[signature]* 3/11/92

OLIA
{1 - I/FPCU}

{SEE NOTE PAGE 4}

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Document #3

DO NOT TYPE PAST THIS LINE

NOVEMBER 18, 1989, REQUESTING FBI ASSISTANCE.

FBIHQ IS PREPARED TO OFFER ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE BASED UPON AS FULL AN UNDERSTANDING AS POSSIBLE OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING THIS INCIDENT, INCLUDING SALVADORAN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED TO DATE AND THE SPECIFIC STATUS OF ANY AND ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND A REPORT ON THE CRIME SCENE.

IN ORDER TO BE OF IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE AND TO FURTHER EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND ANY OTHER POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, THE FBI IS DISPATCHING FBI ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE {ALAT} [REDACTED] WHO IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE MEXICO CITY, MEXICO LEGAT OFFICE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, WITH ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL OF NOVEMBER 21 OR 22, 1989.

ALAT [REDACTED] SHOULD ADVISE U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR AND FBIHQ OF TRAVEL ITINERARY. UPON ARRIVAL SAN SALVADOR, ALAT [REDACTED] WILL CONFER WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION, AND DETERMINE WHAT FORENSIC, POLYGRAPH, OR OTHER FBI ASSISTANCE IS APPROPRIATE. HE WILL FACILITATE TRANSMITTAL OF ANY EVIDENCE TO THE FBI LABORATORY, CONSISTENT WITH SALVADORAN LAW.

IN VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF ICITAP IN

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EL SALVADOR AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF ICITAP DIRECTOR DAVID KRISKOVICH, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR SHOULD CONSIDER CONTACTING DIRECTOR KRISKOVICH REGARDING ANY ASSISTANCE HIS OFFICE IS ABLE TO PROVIDE IN THIS MATTER.

THIS INFORMATION RELAYED TELEPHONICALLY TO AMBASSADOR WALKER ON NOVEMBER 20, 1989.

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NOTE: THIS TELETYPE RESPONSES TO REQUEST BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR FOR FBI ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX CATHODIC CLERGYMEN. ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR REQUESTED IMMEDIATE POLYGRAPH AND FORENSIC ASSISTANCE AT THIS POINT, IT IS PROPOSED TO SEND ALAT [REDACTED] OF THE MEXICO CITY OFFICE TO SAN SALVADOR. ALAT [REDACTED] A FORMER MIAMI DIVISION SUPERVISOR, WILL ENSURE FBI FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION RESPONSIBILITIES ARE MET IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH FBI POLICY AND IN AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

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THIS MATTER HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FLOYD I. CLARKE; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WILLIAM M. BAKER, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION; ROBERT MUELLER, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; AND KEVIN WHITAKER, DESK OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

APPROVED:	Adm. Servs _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Liaison _____
	Crim. Inv. _____	Rec. Mgnt _____	& Int. Affs. _____
Director _____	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs _____	Off. of _____
Dep. Dir _____	Inspection _____	Training _____	Public Affs. _____
ADD-Adm _____	Intell. _____	Cong. Affs. Off. _____	
ADD-Inv _____	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	

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SSP

November 24, 1989

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Director Sessions:

RE: ELLACURIA MURDER, ET AL.
U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE;
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION -
GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS

Reference Butel dated November 21, 1989, captioned as above.

By American Embassy, San Salvador, cable dated November 18, 1989, U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, requested FBI assistance in the investigation of the killing of six Catholic clergymen. Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [redacted] from the Mexico City Legal Attache Office was dispatched to San Salvador on November 22, 1989.

In consultation with U.S. Embassy, San Salvador personnel and Special Investigative Unit (SIU), San Salvador, El Salvador, ALAT [redacted] determined that the SIU did the best they could under the circumstances; however, the crime scene has been highly contaminated, evidence destroyed, and none of the evidence was processed for latent fingerprints. He ascertained that the clothing of the priests had been handled by SIU personnel; however, this evidence is also contaminated since it was not examined with protective clothing. He stated that 268-269 shell casings of .223 and 7.62 NATO and Soviet made rounds were recovered. The SIU attempted to process these for latents, however, the graphite powder would not adhere to produce latents. Subsequently, they taped each shell casing as evidence. In addition, the rooms where the priests resided had been trampled through by not only SIU personnel but also media representatives and other unknown individuals.

163-61055-70

Late on the afternoon of November 23, 1989, the Spanish Embassy personnel at El Salvador had been requested by the Jesuits in El Salvador to take into protective custody an alleged witness to the killings. The Spaniards, in turn requested assistance from the French Embassy, [redacted] and at the same time requested U.S. Ambassador William Walker to assist.

- 1 - Mr. Clarke
- 1 - Mr. Revell

- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - OLIA (I/FPCU)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/16/94 BY SP7/clc/ste/4-8-94
CA# 94-263

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Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Section it will be given with this [redacted] a new serial. 3/16/90

b7c
Last minute negotiations took place in the presence of ALAT [REDACTED] between Ambassador Walker with the Spanish and French representatives in which a decision was made to have ALAT [REDACTED] accompany the witness, Lucia Barrera-Cerna; her husband, Jorge Alberto Cerna-Ramirez; and their three-year old child, Ideña, to the United States.

b7c
The French provided a French military aircraft that had been in Belize to transport ALAT [REDACTED] the witness and her family, and U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, Legal Advisor Richard Chidester to Miami, arriving at 10 p.m., November 23, 1989. The witness and her family were turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for protective custody to be available to the FBI for interview and polygraph on November 24-25, 1989. Allegedly, the witness heard the shootings and observed four to six individuals wearing military-type fatigues exit the clergymen's compound.

b7c
U.S. Ambassador William Walker is being advised by Mr. Chidester of ALAT [REDACTED] observations and findings.

The U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, is attempting to arrange for the SIU director to travel to Miami to be present at the interview (and polygraph, if necessary) of the witness so that her testimony can be entered into a court of law in El Salvador. FBI Miami will conduct the initial interview of the witness on Friday, November 24, 1989.

As of 3 p.m., November 24, 1989, it is expected that a representative of the SIU will arrive at Miami on November 25, 1989, to assist in the interview of the witness.

You will be advised of any further developments.

W. M. Baker

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UNCLAS E F T O

SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS

CITE: //3460//

PASS: HQ FOR AD BAKER; CID; UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] FLU; OLIA.

h7c [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; ^①SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR; FPC-MURDER; OO: HQ.

RE TELCALLS BETWEEN ALAT [REDACTED] UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] INSPECTOR HALE, [REDACTED] FBI LABORATORY, AND LEGAT [REDACTED] ON 11/24/89.

163-61055-4

DEC 8 1989

ON 11/23/89 ALAT [REDACTED] ATTENDED A BRIEFING BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL RIVAS, COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU)

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Amclpte 4-8-94 CAA#94-263

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 3/14/90 BY SP4/ld/mj

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CC: [REDACTED]

SIX

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EL SALVADOR, GIVEN AT SIU HEADQUARTERS SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR. THIS BRIEFING CONCERNED ALL INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED TO DATE REGARDING CAPTIONED MATTER. FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF FACTS IN THIS CASE AS KNOWN TO SIU:

SOMETIME BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2:30-3:30 AM ON 11/16/89 (LOCAL EL SALVADOR TIME) AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AS YET UNIDENTIFIED MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE LIVING QUARTERS OF CAPTIONED VICTIMS, LOCATED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA) AND EXECUTED CAPTIONED VICTIMS, THEIR COOK AND HER DAUGHTER. SEVERAL HUNDRED ROUNDS OF 7.62MM NATO (.308), 7.62MM RUSSIAN AND 5.56MM AMMUNITION WERE FIRED DURING THE ASSAULT ON THE UCA AS WELL AS ONE M-72 LIGHT ANTITANK WEAPON (LAW) TWO 40MM GRENADES (FROM M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHER) AND ONE FRAGMENTATION HAND GRENADE. THE GUNFIRE AND EXPLOSION DID NOT ATTRACT ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM NEIGHBORS OR EVEN GUARDS IN THE AREA, AS GUNSHOTS AND EXPLOSIONS WERE COMMONPLACE AS A RESULT OF THE FMLN GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERWAY IN SAN SALVADOR FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ALTHOUGH THE CRIME WAS DISCOVERED SHORTLY AFTER 6 AM THAT DAY, THE SIU WAS NOT NOTIFIED UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER 8:30 AM. UPON ARRIVING AT THE SCENE, SIU INVESTIGATORS FOUND DOZENS IF NOT HUNDREDS OF ONLOOKERS AND NEWS

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MEDIA REPORTERS THROUGHOUT THE CRIME SCENE, THUS THEIR FIRST TASK WAS TO CLEAR THE AREA OF THESE PEOPLE. THEY THEN PROCEEDED WITH THE PROCESSING OF THE SCENE AND COLLECTION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. FROM THE SCENE, SIU RECOVERED IN EXCESS OF 200 SHELL CASINGS, DOZENS OF SPENT BULLETS WHICH WERE OBTAINED FROM THE BODIES, WALLS, ROOMS AND GROUND UNDER THE VICTIMS. A NUMBER OF THESE WERE RECOVERED BY DIGGING UNDER THE AREA WHERE THE VICTIMS LAY. SEVERAL LATEN PRINTS WERE LIFTED FROM THE ROOM. AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON THE VICTIMS, AND SUPERVISED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BY AN AMERICAN MEDICAL EXAMINER WHO WAS VISITING SAN SALVADOR. THE VICTIMS WERE BURIED ON SUNDAY, 11/19/89. SIU RETAINED THEIR CLOTHING AS EVIDENCE, AND SIU TECHNICIANS EXAMINED THEM FOR GUNPOWDER RESIDUE. EVIDENCE AT THE CRIME SCENE INDICATED THAT A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ARMED WITH HIGH POWERED RIFLES HAD FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE PRIESTS' LIVING QUARTERS SHOT ONE INSIDE THE BUILDING AND FORCED THE OTHERS OUT TO A GRASSY AREA, WHERE THE REST WERE EXECUTED. ONE OF THE BODIES WAS THEN DRAGGED BY HIS FEET BACK INTO THE BUILDING. THE COOK AND HER DAUGHTER WERE SHOT IN THEIR ROOM, BY THE KITCHEN, DOWN AN EXIT CORRIDOR FROM THE PRIESTS' AREA.

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SIU ATTEMPTED TO LIFT LATENT PRINTS FROM THE SHELL CASINGS USING GRAPHITE POWDER BUT, WERE UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY USING THAT TECHNIQUE. THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PERFORMING TOOL-MARK IDENTIFICATION OF THE CASINGS AND WERE ALMOST COMPLETED WITH THAT PROCEDURE. THE CLOTHING WAS BEING PROCESSED FOR GUNPOWDER RESIDUE THROUGH MICROSCOPIC ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, DURING A WALKTHROUGH OF THE "LAB" IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THE EXAMINATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED IN A ROOM NORMALLY USED FOR MEETINGS AND THE CLOTHING NOT IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINATION WAS STACKED IN PILES ON THE FLOOR IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM. THE TECHNICIANS WERE WERE ASKED IF THE CLOTHING HAD OR WOULD BE PROCESSED FOR FIBERS AND THEY RESPONDED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY OR TRAINING TO DO SUCH AN ANALYSIS. THIS WAS APPARENTLY THE SAME REASON WHY THE CRIME SCENE WAS NOT SWEEPED OR VACUUMED FOR THIS TYPE OF EVIDENCE ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF ONLOOKERS GOING IN AND OUT OF THE CRIME SCENE PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE SIU WOULD HAVE CONTAMINATED THE AREA ANYWAY, RENDERING SUCH AN EFFORT USELESS. A COMPLETE NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION OF ALL RESIDENCES ADJACENT TO THE UCA WAS CONDUCTED BY SIU WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. MOST OF THOSE INTERVIEWED HEARD THE SHOOTING, BUT DIDN'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT AS THERE HAD

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BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF SHOOTING EVERY NIGHT DURING THE PRECEEDINGS WEEK. THE SAME RESPONSE WAS OBTAINED FROM THE GUARDS ON DUTY AT THE UCA GATES, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE HUSBAND/FATHER OF THE COOK AND THEIR DAUGHTER. THE SIX GAURDS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PATROLLING THE INTERIOR OF THE UCA CAMPUS HAVE NOT BEEN LOCATED TO DATE. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THR BRIEFING, COMMANDER RIVAS STATED THAT DUE TO THE POLITICAL CLIMATE-ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP BET EEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE BEEN FACING A LOCK OF COOPERATION FROM THE CHURCH IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE INVESTIGATION, MAKING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT EVEN AS HE SPOKE, AN ALLEGED WITNESS TO THE INCIDENT, LUCIA BARRERA, WAS BEING TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY THE CHURCH AND THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT BARRERA HAD MADE A STATEMENT BEFORE A JUDGE IN SAN SALVADOR AS TO HAVING SEEN NUMBER OF MEN IN UNIFORM ENTER THE UCA COMPOUND, OVERHEARD THE VOICES OF THE PRIESTS AND HEARD THE SHOOTING BUT HIS INVESTIGATORS HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INTERVIEW OF THE WITNESS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BRIEFING AND WALKTHROUGH OF THE LABORATORY FACILITY, RICHARD CHIDISTER, LEGAL

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OFFICER, US EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, ADVISED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD JUST LEARNED THAT LUCIA BARRERA WAS GOING TO BE TAKEN TO MIAMI, FLORIDA ON A FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND AMBASSADOR WALKER HAD REQUESTED THAT HE AND ALAT [REDACTED] ACCOMPANY HER AS SHE WAS REPORTED TO BE THE ONLY EYEWITNESS TO THE KILLINGS WHO HAD COME FOWARD TO DATED. DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS DEPARTURE, ALAT [REDACTED] MET WITH AMBASSADOR WALKER BRIEFLY AT SAN SALVADOR AIRPORT BUT NOT BREIFING WAS PROVIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR AT THAT TIME. DURING THE FLIGHT, AND AFTER ARRIVAL IN MIAMI, CHIDISTER WAS FULLY BRIEFED ON THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS MADE BY ALAT [REDACTED]

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1. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT LATENT PRINTS COULD BE DEVELOPED FROM THE SHELL CASINGS BY THE FBI LABORATORY USING TECHNIQUES NOT KNOWN OF AVAILABLE AT THE SIU LABORATORY.

2. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT FIBER EVIDENCE MAY BE PRESENT IN THE VICTIMS' CLOTHING, AND AGAIN, THE FBI LABORATORY COULD POSSIBLY ASSIST IN THAT EXAMINATION.

3. THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY ALTHOUGH VERY REMOTE DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE CONTAMINATION OF THE CRIME SCENE, THAT FBI TECHNICIANS
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NCLAS E F T O

SECTION TWO OF TWO SECTIONS

ITE: //3460//

ASS: HQ FOR AD BAKER; CID; UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] FLU; OLIA. *h 7c*

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-MURDER; OO: HQ.

TEXT CONTINUES:

WOULD PROCESS THE PRIESTS' ROOMS FOR FIBER/HAIR EVIDENCE. THE
MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE FBI LABORATORY TO DETERMINE IF
SUCH PROCESSING WOULD BE OF ANY VALUE. AS WELL AS THE
POSSIBILITY OF PROCESSING FOR LATENT PRINTS THE ANKLES OF THE

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CADAVER, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAGGED BACK TO THE ROOM.

4. FBI WOULD ASSIST SIU IN THE INTERVIEW OF BARRERA, AND OFFER THE SERVICES OF AN FBI SPANISH SPEAKING POLYGRAPH EXAMINER IF THOUGHT NECESSARY BY SIU.

CHIDISTER RELAYED THESE FACTS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMAND POST IN WASHINGTON D.C., AS WELL AS US AMBASSADOR WALKER IN SAN SALVADOR. IN ADDITION, CHIDISTER WAS ADVISED THAT IT WAS ALAT [REDACTED] OPINION THAT SIU PERFORMED A VERY PROFESSIONAL AND AS THOROUGH AN INVESTIGATION TO DATE, AS WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND GIVEN THEIR LEVEL OF TRAINING, EXPERTISE AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE. b7c

ON 11/24/89 THE FACTS RELATING TO THE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION, AND PROCESSING OF EVIDENCE WERE DISCUSSED WITH [REDACTED] FBI LABORATORY. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE FBI LABORATORY COULD ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP PRINTS FROM THE CASINGS AS IT WAS STILL POSSIBLE TO DO SO, EVEN THOUGH THE POWDER HAD BEEN USED AND A SMALL PIECE OF TAPE HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO EACH ONE FOR IDENTIFICATION. HE SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION, IT WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE TO HAVE THE CRIME SCENE PROCESSED BY FBI TECHNICIANS DUE TO THE HIGH DEGREE OF CONTAMINATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT SCRAPINGS BE OBTAINED FROM THE VICTIMS CLOTHING AND MAINTAINED b7c

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FOR A POSSIBLE FUTURE COMPARRISON SHOULD SUSPECTS DEVELOP IN THE CASE. AFTER CHECKING WITH THE LATENT FINGERPRINTS SECTION, HE ADVISED THAT LATENT PRINTS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY LIFTED FROM CADAVERS AS LATE AS SIX DAYS AFTER THEY WERE MADE BUT IN THIS CASE, NINE DAYS HAD ALREADY PASSED THUS ELIMINATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCEEDING IN THAT EFFORT.

THE ABOVE WAS RELAYED TO CHIDISTER WHO ADVISED AMBASSADOR WALKER.

ON 11/24/89, LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, DPOB [REDACTED] [REDACTED] EL SALVADOR, WAS INTERVIEWED BY ALAT [REDACTED] AND SA [REDACTED] FROM THE MIAMI DIVISION. SHE ADVISED THAT SHE WAS SLEEPING WITH HER HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER IN A HOUSE BELONGING TO THE UCA PRIESTS, LOCATED DIRECTLY ACCROSS THE STREET FROM A GATE LEADING TO THE KITCHEN AREA. SHE WOKE UP DUE TO THE GUNFIRE. SHE PEEKED OUT THE WINDOW AND SAW FIVE INDIVIDUALS MAKING THEIR WAY INTO THE UCA GROUNDS THROUGH THAT GATE. SHE COULD ONLY SEE TWO OF THEM CLEARLY IN THE MOONLIGHT, AND COULD SEE THAT THEY WERE WEARING CAMOUFLAGE FATIGUES, CAPS AND WERE CARRYING RIFLES, WHICH THEY FIRED INTO THE AIR. SHE RECOGNIZED THEM TO BE SOLDIERS. SHE THEN HEARD

b7c

PAGE FOUR DE FBIMM 0007 UNCLAS E F T O

SHOUTING, HEARD ONE OF THE PRIESTS' VOICES AND MORE SHOOTING, AS WELL AS SEVERAL LOUD EXPLOSIONS. SHE WENT BACK TO HER BED AND HID UNTIL MORNING. AT SIX A.M., SHE GOT UP, DRESSED AND WENT INTO THE UCA COMPOUND USING THE SAME DOOR USED BY THE SOLDIERS. SHE SAW THE BODIES OF TWO WOMEN IN THE KITCHEN AREA, THEN MADE HER WAY THROUGH THE DINING ROOM TO A WINDOW, WHERE SHE SAW TWO OF THE PRIESTS DEAD ON THE GROUND. SHE LEFT, AND WENT TO NOTIFY THE OTHER UCA PRIESTS WHO WERE LIVING IN A HOUSE JUST OUTSIDE THE UCA COMPOUND. SHE TOLD THEM WHAT SHE HAD SEEN AND WAS INSTRUCTED BY THEM TO "KEEP QUIET". SHE DID NOT TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT THIS MATTER UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS LATER AT THE INSTRUCTION OF THE PRIESTS. SHE DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE INDIVIDUALS SHE SAW AS ANYTHING BUT SOLDIERS AND WAS NOT ABLE TO DISTINGUISH FACIAL CHARACTERISTICS.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW, CHIDISTER WAS ADVISED OF THE INFORMATION SHE HAD PROVIDED AND THAT SA [REDACTED] WAS OF THE OPINION THAT SHE MIGHT BE A CANDIDATE FOR HYPNOTIC INTERVIEW IN ORDER TO TRY TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE TWO INDIVIDUALS SHE SAW BY MOONLIGHT.

COMMANDER RIVAS, SIUU, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MIAMI IN THE AFTERNOON OF 11/25/89 AND A JOINT INTERVIEW OF BARRERA WILL

h7c

PAGE FIVE DE FBIMM 0007 UNCLAS E F T O

BE CONDUCTED ON 11/27/89 IN THE MIAMI OFFICE.

ADMINISTRATIVE: IT IS WRITERS OPINION THAT THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED TO DATE BY THE SIU WAS PROFESSIONAL AND AS THOROUGH AS CIRCUMSTANCES AND CAPABILITIES ALLOWED. ANY OMISSION OR OVERSIGHT WAS DUE TO A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND LIMITED FORENSIC CAPABILITY ON THEIR PART. MR. CHIDISTER HAS REQUESTED THAT CURRENT FBI FORENSIC SCIENCE HANDBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SIU, EL SALVADOR. IN ADDITION, HE HAS REQUESTED A BRIEFING ON FBI LABORATORY CAPABILITIES FOR THE HEAD OF SIU LABORATORY AS WELL AS SIU PROJECT ADVISOR TO ASSIST THEM IN MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING EVIDENCE IN ANY FUTURE INCIDENT OF THIS TYPE.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

BT

#0007

NNNN

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE
(RESTRICTED USE)

744/20/21

Date: 11/27/89 PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: American Embassy, SAN SALVADOR

552/30/030
255/30/031

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 3.5.92
1043 DMN/CSP

- White House/WH/
 - Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/
 - Central Intelligence Agency/CIA/
 - CIA DCD/DCD/
 - Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/
 - Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/
 - Dept. of Justice/DOJ/
 - Dept. of State/DOS/ ARA/CEN
 - Dept. of the Army/DA/
 - Dept. of Treasury/DOT/
 - Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/
- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**
- Director National Security Agency/NSA/
 - Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/
 - Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/
 - FAA Washington HQ/FAA/
 - HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/
 - INSCOM Ft. Meade/INSCOM/
 - Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/
 - U.S. Customs Service/UCS/
 - U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/
 - U.S. Secret Service/USSS/
 - Other: _____

4-8-94
CA# 94-263

BT

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ // 0028 //

Addressee Internal Distribution

For: DOJ for Mr. Mueller; DOJ for ICITAP;
Department of State for ARA/CEN

Subject: _____

See Attached

Approved By: <u>H/SP</u>	Originator: [Redacted]	Tele Ext: <u>4691</u>	Room/Div.: <u>7446 OLA</u>
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163-61055-3

Document #6
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
NOV 28 1989

1030 TB

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

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(b)(6)

(k)(7)

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

 Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

11 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): duplicate of a document which is processed elsewhere - see 163-HQ-61055- 4 (document # 5)

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 3, incl (document # 6, incl)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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11/28/89

Director Sessions:

IGNACIO

RE: ELLACURIA MURDER, ET AL.
U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR,
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE;
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION -
GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS

4/24/263
of Chapite 4/8/44
3.5.92 1048DKM/COE
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/14/90 BY SP4 [signature]

By Mr. Baker note dated 11/24/89, you were advised that based on the Government of El Salvador request for FBI assistance to the U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, El Salvador, Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [redacted] Legat, Mexico City Office was dispatched to San Salvador on 11/22/89.

By teletype dated 11/25/89, ALAT [redacted] provided the following information:

On 11/23/89, ALAT [redacted] was briefed by Lt. Colonel Rivas, Commander, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), El Salvador, who advised that between 2:30 - 3:30 a.m., 11/16/89, an undetermined number of unknown individuals entered the Jesuit compound located within the Catholic University grounds and executed six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter. Although the crime was discovered after 6:00 a.m., 11/16/89, the SIU was not alerted until after 8:30 a.m., that date. Upon arrival, the SIU discovered dozens, if not hundreds of onlookers and news media representatives throughout the crime scene and the SIU had to clear the area prior to conducting a crime scene examination. The SIU found several hundred rounds of 7.62 MM NATO (.308), 7.62 MM Russian and 5.56 MM shell casings fired during the assault as well as one M-72 light anti-tank weapon (LAW); two 40MM grenades (from an M-79 grenade launcher) and one fragmentation grenade. The gunfire and explosions did not attract any special attention to neighbors as these have been commonplace since the guerrilla offensive began.

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163-61055-18

- 1 - Legat, Panama City
- 1 - Legat, Mexico City
- 1 - Mr. Clarke
- 1 - Mr. Revell
- 1 - Mr. Baker

- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - OLIA (I/FPCU)

MAR 2 1990

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Section it will be filed either with this copy or a new series [redacted] 3/13/90

(16)
b7c Document #7
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The SIU recovered over 200 shell casings, dozens of spent bullets recovered from the bodies of the victims, from walls, rooms and the ground under the victims. The SIU attempted to lift latents from the shells using graphite powder, but were unable to develop any using this method. The victims' clothing was being processed for powder residue through microscopic analysis, however, during a walk-through of the SIU laboratory, ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the examination was being conducted in a meeting room, with unprocessed clothing heaped in a pile in a corner of the room. The technicians were asked if the clothing had or would be processed for fibers and hairs to which they responded that they did not have the capability or training to do so. SIU conducted a neighborhood investigation of the crime scene with negative results. The six guards responsible for guarding the compound have not been located to date.

At the conclusion of the briefing, Commander Rivas stated that due to the political climate and antagonistic relationship between the Catholic Church and the Salvadoran Government, the SIU has faced a lack of cooperation from the Church in all aspects of the investigation, making it extremely difficult to conduct a thorough investigation. He pointed out that even as he spoke, an alleged witness to the incident, Lucia Barrera, was being taken out of the country by the Church and the Spanish Ambassador and SIU had not been allowed to thoroughly interview her.

b7c
At the conclusion of the SIU laboratory walk-through, ALAT [REDACTED] was notified by Richard Chidester, Legal Advisor, U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, that the Embassy had just learned that the witness, Lucia Barrera, was going to be taken by French military aircraft to Miami, Florida and U.S. Ambassador William Walker had requested ALAT [REDACTED] and him (Chidester) to accompany her. During the flight and in Miami, ALAT [REDACTED] fully briefed Chidester on the following observations:

1. There was a possibility that latent prints could be developed from the shell casings.
2. There was a possibility that fiber evidence may be present in the victims' clothing despite the contamination of the crime scene.
3. There was a possibility (although very remote due to extensive contamination of the crime scene) that FBI technicians could process the priests' rooms for fiber/hair evidence.
4. The FBI would assist the SIU in the interview of Barrera and offer the services of an FBI Spanish speaking polygraph examiner, if necessary.

b7c
Mr. Chidester relayed these facts to the Department of State Command Post, Washington D.C., and Ambassador Walker. In addition, Chidester was advised that in the opinion of ALAT [REDACTED] the SIU performed a professional and as thorough investigation to date as was possible under the circumstances given their level of training, expertise and available equipment.

b7c
ALAT [REDACTED] relayed the facts surrounding the collection, preservation and processing of evidence by the SIU to Assistant Section Chief [REDACTED] on 11/24/89. Mr. [REDACTED] advised that the FBI could attempt to develop prints from the shell casings. Mr. [REDACTED] advised however, that in his opinion, it would not be worthwhile to have the crime scene processed by FBI technicians due to the high degree of contamination. He suggested that scrapings be obtained from the victims' clothing and maintained for future possible comparison. This information was passed to Mr. Chidester who relayed it to Ambassador Walker.

b7c
On 11/24/89, Lucia Barrera de Cerna was interviewed by ALAT [REDACTED] and Miami Supervisory Special Agent [REDACTED]. She advised that she was sleeping with her husband and daughter in a house belonging to the priests, located directly across the street from a gate leading to the kitchen area. She woke up due to the gunfire and peeked out a window and saw five individuals making their way into the compound through the gate. She could see two of them clearly in the moonlight and could see that they were wearing camouflaged fatigues, caps and were carrying rifles, which they fired into the air. She recognized them to be Salvadoran soldiers. She heard shooting, heard one of the priests's voices and more shooting and several loud explosions. She went back to her bed and hid until morning.

At 6:00 a.m., she arose, dressed and went into the compound using the same door used by the soldiers. She observed the bodies of two women in the kitchen area, then made her way through the dining room to a window, where she saw two of the priests dead on the ground. She left and went to a house located outside the compound where other priests lived and alerted them to what she had seen. She was instructed by them to "keep quiet". She did not talk to anyone about this matter until several days later at the instruction of the priests. She did not recognize the individuals she saw as anyone but soldiers and was not able to distinguish facial characteristics.

b7c
Commander Rivas arrived at Miami on 11/25/89, and participated in the interview of Barrera on 11/27/89, with ALAT [REDACTED]. The witness provided substantially the same information as before. Commander Rivas interviewed Barrera's husband on the

b7c
afternoon of 11/27/89, will review his notes and the tape recorded interviews and re-interview Barrera and her husband on 11/28/89. In addition, the SIU polygraph examiner, [REDACTED] National Academy graduate, will arrive at Miami at 1:00 p.m., 11/28/89, and will participate in the polygraph of the witness and her husband by an FBI Spanish language polygraph examiner. Commander Rivas is of the opinion that Barrera must be polygraphed so that in the future, no doubt can be cast upon her testimony by opponents.

We are discussing with the Departments of State and Justice the future protection of the witness and her family.

b7c
It is anticipated that ALAT [REDACTED] will return to San Salvador on 11/30/89, in order to brief Ambassador Walker and review all the evidence collected by the SIU. If necessary, ALAT [REDACTED] will take custody of the evidence and transport it to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

You will be kept advised of developments in this matter.

M. V. Hale

11/28/89

IGNACIO

Director Sessions:

RE: ELLACURIA MURDERS, ET AL.
U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR,
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE;
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION -
GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS

4-8-94 *CA# 94-263*
3.5.92 1048/OKM/CAK
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/14/90 BY *[signature]*

By my note of 11/28/89, you were advised that during the early morning hours of 11/16/89, an undetermined number of unidentified individuals entered a Jesuit compound and killed six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter. A witness, Lucia Barrera de Cerna, was made available by other Jesuit priests to the American Embassy and upon instructions of Ambassador William Walker, she, her husband and daughter were flown to Miami in the company of Assistant Legal Attache, [redacted] Mexico City Office. As you will recall, ALAT [redacted] had been dispatched to El Salvador to assess this matter for further FBI action.

Since the arrival of the witness and her family in the United States, the Miami Division has been maintaining them in a secure location, noting that an amateur photographer aboard the French military plane that had transported them from El Salvador to Miami, had video-taped Barrera boarding the flight, and sold the tape to the news media. On 11/27/89, the Department of State (DOS), El Salvador Desk Officer advised that on 11/24/89, Robin Ross, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ) had contacted DOS and informed Undersecretary Kimmitt that the DOJ would accept the witness and her family into the Witness Protection Program (WPP). On 11/28/89, DOS advised OLIA that as of this date, DOJ has not responded to the request. Contact with Gerald Shur, Director, WPP, DOJ, determined that he has not received any instructions concerning the protection of Barrera and her family.

At 5:10 p.m., 11/28/89, ALAT [redacted] advised that based on a number of discrepancies, the husband of the witness was re-interviewed this date and subsequently admitted that he had

- 1 - Legat, Panama City
 - 1 - Legat, Mexico City
 - 1 - Mr. Clarke
 - 1 - Mr. Revell
 - 1 - Mr. Baker
 - 1 - Mr. O'Hara
- (Attn: Mr. [redacted])

- 1 - Mr. Ahlerich
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - OLIA (I/FPCU)

163-61055-17

h7c
MAR 2 1990

Original cannot be located and is not original is [redacted] Section it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.

3/13/90

Document # 8
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not been truthful to the FBI. A follow-up interview of the witness, Lucia Barrera, took place at the Miami Office, whereupon she admitted that the details she had related were false. She stated that she had been coached and instructed by Maria Julia Hernandez, an Honduran attorney working for a Human Rights Organization in El Salvador, on the details she was to relate to authorities. Barrera is not aware if the Jesuits are cognizant of her collusion with Hernandez.

l-7c
ALAT [REDACTED] advised that Barrera and her husband will be polygraphed on the morning of 11/29/89, in order to establish which of their "stories" is correct. In addition, Ambassador Walker has been requested to approach President Cristiani to obtain his concurrence in having Barrera place a consensually monitored telephone call to Hernandez in an effort to elicit additional details regarding the alleged fabrication of details.

Mr. Mueller, DOJ, and the DOS Salvadoran Desk Officer have been advised of the above information.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

l-7c
On 11/28/89, OLIA learned from Legat, Panama City, that Ambassador Walker had requested from Drug Enforcement Administrator Jack Lawn, the "expertise" of Assistant Country Attache, Mr. [REDACTED] Mexico City, and Mr. Lawn had authorized same. Mr. [REDACTED] arrived in San Salvador on 11/28/89, to "assist" the Ambassador in his investigation of these murders. The DOS Desk Officer confirmed that Ambassador Walker had personally requested Mr. [REDACTED] presence in San Salvador. This has not been addressed with either DOJ or Ambassador Walker.

l-7D
In addition, on 11/28/89, Legat, London was advised by British counterparts that [REDACTED]

You will be kept advised of further developments in this matter.

M. V. Hale

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

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 TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/
 LEGAT MEXICO CITY/IMMEDIATE/
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 CITE: //3460//
 PASS: HQ ATTN FLU; GLIA.

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-MURDER; OO: HQ.

RE MIAMI TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR OF NOVEMBER 25, 1989, AND
 TELCALL BETWEEN ALAT [REDACTED] AND UC [REDACTED] ON NOVEMBER 29,
 1989.

163-61055-79
 15 MAR 2 1990

ON NOVEMBER 28, 1989, JORGE ALBERTO CERNA RAMIREZ AND HIS
 WIFE, LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, THE ALLEGED WITNESS TO THE
 EXECUTION OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS, WERE INTERVIEWED AT THE MIAMI

GLIA

Apr 14/94 4-8-94 94-263
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3/14/92 BY SP4 [signature]
 3.5.92 1048DM/ [signature]

Document #9

2 cc 12/11/89.ew

PAGE TWO DE FBIMM 0005 UNCLAS E F T O

OFFICE OF THE FBI BY LTC RIVAS, COMMANDER OF THE EL SALVADOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, AND AN FBI-MIAMI AGENT. BOTH INDIVIDUALS RECANTED THEIR STORY AND STATED THAT THEY HAD HEARD THE SHOOTING, BUT HAD NOT OBSERVED ANYTHING. THE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS THAT LUCIA BARRERA HAD LOOKED OUT A WINDOW AND OBSERVED FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN MILITARY UNIFORMS FIRE WEAPONS INTO THE AIR AND ENTER THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA) COMPOUND. LUCIA ADVISED THAT MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, A HONDURAN CITIZEN AND CHIEF OF THE "TUTELA LEGAL DEL ARSOBISPADO DE EL SALVADOR", A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP UNDER THE OFFICES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR, HAD INSTRUCTED HER TO SAY THAT AND COACHED HER ON WHAT TO SAY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AT LEAST THREE OF THE PRIESTS, [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED] MAY BE AWARE THAT LUCIA WAS FABRICATING HER ORIGINAL STORY. A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF BOTH JORGE CERNA AND LUCIA BARRERA BY AN FBI POLYGRAPH EXAMINER WAS REQUESTED BY COM. RIVAS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR. IN RETELCALL, UC

[REDACTED] ADVISED FBIHQ HAD APPROVED THE POLYGRAPH AND THESE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON INSTANT DATE.

b7c

FBIHQ SHOULD NOTE THAT ABOVE DETAILS RESULTS OF PERSONAL INTERVIEWS ON NOVEMBER 28, 1989, AND SUBSTANCE THEREOF MAY CHANGE

PAGE THREE DE FBIMM 0005 UNCLAS E F T O

AFTER POST-POLYGRAPH INTERVIEW. THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT
IMMEDIATELY ADVISED.

INVESTIGATION AT MIAMI CONTINUING.

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TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

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DATE: //5200:LON385.333 29 NOV 89//

PASS: HQ FOR SECTION CHIEF [REDACTED] ITU, CID.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-5-92 BY 10480 DM/CPK
SP7 [REDACTED] 4-8-94 CA# 94-263

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-GCM (MURDER); OO: FBIHQ.

[REDACTED] ADVISED
LEGAT ON 11/28/89 THAT [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

163-61055-1

97

Document #10

PAGE TWO DE LUN 0001 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

WAS INFORMED THAT THE FBI HAD DISPATCHED AN AGENT TO EL SALVADOR TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THEIR NEEDS. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A UNIT HAD BEEN TRAINED FOR THE SALVADORIANS TO INVESTIGATE SUCH MATTERS AND THAT BY INVOLVING THE U.S., THE U.K., AND SPAIN IN THE INVESTIGATION, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO COVER THEMSELVES SHOULD THE CASE REMAIN UNSOLVED.

[REDACTED]

HE SAID HE WOULD

KEEP US ADVISED.

BT

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
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Director's Sec'y	

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LEGAT MEXICO CITY/PRIORITY/
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

3-13-92 (2)

CLASSIFIED BY: 1018DKM/pck
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APN Clef/ptc 4-8-94
CA 94-263

CITE: //3920//

PASS: MEXICO CITY FOR PANAMA CITY; OLIA FOR FPC UNIT; UNIT CHIEF

[REDACTED] CTS/CID/GU.

Individual

SUBJECT: UNSUB(S); MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR,

EL SALVADOR, NOVEMBER 16, 1989; OO:FBIHQ.

163-61055-20

163-61706-3

[REDACTED]

1-cc Rm 7458
[initials]

[REDACTED] b7c
Document #11

PAGE TWO DE FBIWMFO 0026 UNCLAS

[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED AND RELATED THAT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND THAT HE
HAD SECURED IT IN HIS OFFICE SAFE.

AT THE REQUEST OF WMFO AGENTS, [REDACTED] TURNED OVER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] LETTER. (THIS LETTER IS
BEING TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH TO ENGLISH AT WMFO.)

LEAD:

WMFO AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

WILL FORWARD [REDACTED] TO THE FBI
LABORATORY [REDACTED] FOR ANALYSIS.

BT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dep. Dir. _____
ADD Adm. _____
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Asst. Dir. _____
Off. of Public Aff. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

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0-17 (136) NIM CONS/BAT 3/20/90
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TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/
LEGAT MEXICO CITY/IMMEDIATE/

BT
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CITE: //3460//
PASS: HQ ATTN FLU/OLIA.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-5-92 BY 1048DKM/cak
APR 4-8-94 OAH#91263

Individual

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-MURDER; OO: HQ.

RE TELCALL BETWEEN ALAT [REDACTED] AND UC [REDACTED] ON DECEMBER
1, 1989, AND MIAMI TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR OF NOVEMBER 29, 1989.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:
THE OLIA IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE MIAMI WITH THE FILE NUMBER
FOR CAPTIONED MATTER.

ON NOVEMBER 30, 1989, POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS WERE CONDUCTED

1-4 Rm H58

163-61055-21 b7c

~~163 6126-1~~

[REDACTED]
I'm doing note for Director re AC or di.

Document #12

PAGE TWO DE FBIMM 0005 UNCLAS E F T O

ON LUCIA BARRERA AND JORGE CERNA REGARDING THEIR STATEMENTS OF NOVEMBER 29, 1989. IN THESE STATEMENTS, BOTH MAINTAINED THAT NEITHER ONE HAD OBSERVED ANYTHING, THOUGH BOTH HAD HEARD THE SHOOTING. IN ADDITION, LUCIA STATED THAT SHE HAD BEEN CONVINCED BY MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ TO LIE REGARDING THE EVENTS. POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS FOUND BOTH INDIVIDUALS WERE BEING DECEPTIVE ON ALL RELEVANT ISSUES TESTED.

ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 1, 1989, JORGE CERNA ADVISED THAT THEY HAD BEEN LYING AND THAT THEY BOTH HAD, IN FACT, STOOD UP AND LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW DURING A LULL IN THE GUNFIRE. THEY HAD BOTH SEEN A NUMBER OF MEN WEARING FATIGUES AND CAPS, CARRYING WEAPONS AND RUNNING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE PRIESTS' QUARTERS TO THE WOODED AREA WEST OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA) GROUNDS. A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WAS CONDUCTED REGARDING THIS STATEMENT AND RESULTS WERE ALSO INDICATIVE OF DECEPTION. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE POLYGRAPH, CERNA ADVISED THAT HE IN FACT HAD FABRICATED THIS WHOLE STORY, AS HE HAD TOLD THE TRUTH ON NOVEMBER 29, 1989, "AND THE POLYGRAPH MACHINE DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM". HE SAID THAT IN FACT THOSE STATEMENTS HAD BEEN TRUE, THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANYTHING, AND MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ HAD CONVINCED HIS WIFE TO LIE. IN VIEW OF THIS NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS

PAGE THREE DE FBIMM 0005 UNCLAS E F T O

WERE MADE TO INTERVIEW EITHER LUCIA OR JORGE CERNA ANY FURTHER.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY STATE DEPARTMENT TO TURN OVER THE FAMILY TO THE JESUIT ORGANIZATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1989. ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE, DEBORAH MC CARTHY, FATHER TIPTON FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF JESUITS' UNIVERSITIES, WASHINGTON, D.C., WILL BE ARRIVING IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 2, 1989. FATHER TIPTON WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FATHER JOSEPH BEREDA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. ALSO ACCOMPANYING THE CLERGIES WILL BE TWO ATTORNEYS WHO WILL DEBRIEF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SALVADORIAN NATIONALS. MC CARTHY INDICATED THAT THE NATURE OF THIS DEBRIEFING IS TO RELIEVE THE JESUIT ORDER OF ANY LIABILITY IN THE EVENT THAT THE CERNAS ALLEGE HAVING BEEN CAPTIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, ON DECEMBER 1, 1989, THE MIAMI DIVISION, WITH THE CONSENT FROM JORGE CERNA AND LUCIA BARRERA, ASSISTED COLONEL RIVAS, S.I.U., EL SALVADOR, IN OBTAINING MAJOR CASE PRINTS. ADDITIONALLY, S.I.U. POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OBTAINED HAIR SAMPLES FROM BOTH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AFTER OBTAINING THEIR CONSENT. MIAMI IS HOLDING THE TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE 11/27-29/89

hrc

PAGE FOUR DE FBIMM 0005 UNCLAS E F T O

STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH LUCIA AND JORGE CERNA. IN ADDITION,
MIAMI DIVISION WILL PROVIDE 24-HOUR PROTECTION UNTIL
RESPONSIBILITY IS ASSUMED BY THE JESUITS.

AFTER A NUMBER OF LENGTHY INTERVIEWS AND POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATIONS, MIAMI IS OF THE OPINION THAT BOTH BARRERA AND CERNA
ARE UNRELIABLE WITNESSES AND DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ABLE/WILLING TO
SHED ANY LIGHT ON CAPTIONED HOMICIDES.

BT

#0005

NNNN

12/4/89

IGNACIO

Director Sessions:

RE: ELLACURIA MURDER, ET AL.
U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION -
GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS

By M. V. Hale note dated 11/28/89, you were advised that based on the Government of El Salvador request for FBI assistance to the U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, El Salvador, Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [redacted] Legat, Mexico City was dispatched to San Salvador on 11/22/89. On 11/23/89, ALAT [redacted] and U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, Legal Advisor Richard Chidester accompanied an alleged witness, her husband and child to the Miami Division for safekeeping and interviews at the request of U.S. Ambassador William Walker. The following provides the results of interviews:

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On 11/30/89, polygraph examinations were conducted on Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna regarding their statements of 11/29/89. In these statements, both maintained that neither one had observed anything, although both had heard the shooting. In addition, Lucia stated that she had been convinced by Maria Julia Hernandez, an attorney for the Human Rights group known as "Tutela Legal del Archobispo de El Salvador," to lie regarding the events. Polygraph examinations found both individuals were being deceptive on all relevant issues tested.

On the morning of 12/1/89, Jorge Cerna advised that he and his wife Lucia had been lying and both had, in fact, stood up and looked out the window during a lull in the gunfire. They had both seen a number of men wearing fatigues and caps, carrying weapons and running from the direction of the Priests' quarters to the wooded area west of the University of Central American (UCA) grounds. A polygraph examination was conducted regarding this statement and results were also indicative of deception. When confronted with the results of the polygraph, Cerna advised

- 1 - Legat, Panama City
- 1 - Legat, Mexico City
- 1 - Mr. Clarke
- 1 - Mr. Revell
- 1 - Mr. Baker

163-61055-22

- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - OLIA (I/FPCU)

b7c

Original cannot be located and is not on record. When original is received in Records Section it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new ser. (16)

3/13/90

Document #13

MAR 13 1990
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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/8/94 BY 94-263

that he in fact had fabricated this whole story, and had told the truth on 11/29/89, "and the polygraph machine didn't believe him." He said that in fact those statements had been true, they had not seen anything, and Maria Julia Hernandez had convinced his wife to lie. In view of these contradictions, no further attempts were made to interview either Lucia or Jorge Cerna.

Arrangements have been made by the State Department to turn over the family to the Jesuit Religious Order on Sunday, 12/3/89. According to the State Department representative, Deborah McCarthy, Father Tipton from the Association of Jesuits' Universities, Washington, D.C., would arrive in Miami, Florida, on the evening of 12/2/89. Father Tipton will be accompanied by Father Joseph Bereda of the University of Texas at Austin. Also accompanying the clergies will be two attorneys who will debrief the Cernas. McCarthy indicated that the nature of this debriefing is to relieve the Jesuit Order of any liability in the event that the Cernas allege having been captives of the U.S. Government.

On 12/1/89, the Miami Division, with the consent from Jorge Cerna and Lucia Barrera, assisted Colonel Rivas, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), El Salvador, in obtaining major case prints. Additionally, SIU polygraph technician [REDACTED] b7c obtained hair samples from both of these individuals after obtaining their consent. Miami is holding the tape recordings of the 11/27-29/89 statements made by both Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna.

After a number of lengthy interviews and polygraph examinations, Miami is of the opinion that both Barrera and Cerna are unreliable witnesses and do not appear to be able/willing to shed any light on captioned homicides.

For information, the Jesuits and the two attorneys wanted to interview the Cernas away from the Miami Agents prior to accepting them in order to ascertain if their civil rights had been violated while in the care of the Miami Division. The Miami Division would not accede and at approximately noon, 12/3/89, the Cernas were turned over to the Jesuits and transported to a location they did not wish to divulge to the Miami Division.

Results of the interviews and polygraphs have been made available to the Department of State and Ambassador Walker.

You will be kept advised of any additional developments in this matter.

M. V. Hale

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Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
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Tech. Serv.	
Training	
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TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

LEGAT MEXICO CITY/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: 11392011

PASS: MEXICO CITY FOR PANAMA CITY; OLIA FOR FPC UNIT; UNIT CHIEF

[REDACTED] CTS/CID/GU.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-5-92 BY b48DKM/CKK
SP7 Clp/ste 4-8-94 CA# 94-263

① Individual

SUBJECT: UNSUB(S); MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR, NOVEMBER 16, 1989; OO:FBIHQ.

REFERENCE WMFD TELETYPE TO FBIHQ, 12/1/89.

THE SPANISH LANGUAGE LETTER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HAS BEEN TRANSLATED AND READS AS

FOLLOWS:

"CONFIDENTIAL"

163-61055-23

163-61200-2

1-16 R-7458

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Document # 14

1-16 R-7458(OUT) JTC

[REDACTED]

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WMFO IS MAINTAINING THIS MATTER IN A PENDING STATUS.

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#0057

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Grig - OLIR, CID
cc - CID

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

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For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 12/8/89

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are in date order.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY LIAISON

Date: 12/11/89

To: Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Washington, D.C.

From: William M. Baker, Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division

Subject: MURDERS OF SIX JESUITS AT EL SALVADOR
11/16/89;
REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE.

This entire communication is unclassified except where noted.

The following is provided pursuant to your telephone call to me this morning concerning the FBI's participation in the investigation of the murders of the six Jesuits in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 11/16/89.

On 11/18/89, President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador made a formal request of U.S. Ambassador William G. Walker for FBI assistance in the investigation of the murders of the six Jesuits. On 11/22/89, an FBI Supervisory Special Agent assigned to our Mexico City Legal Attache Office was dispatched to El Salvador to serve in an

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MAR 13 1990

- ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
- 1 - Mr. Clarke
 - 1 - Mr. Revell
 - 1 - Mr. Baker
 - 1 - Mr. O'Hara
 - 1 - Mr. Hicks
 - 1 - Mr. [Redacted]
 - 1 - Mr. [Redacted]
 - 1 - Mr. [Redacted]
 - 1 - Press Office
 - 1 - OLIA (I/FPCU)

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original is received in Records Section it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.
[Redacted] 3/13/90

DECLASSIFIED BY *[Signature]*
4-8-94
CA# 94-263
Document #17

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

advisory capacity to U.S. Embassy personnel and to the El Salvadoran Special Investigation Unit (SIU). (Note: The SIU, which reports directly to the President and the Salvadoran Minister of Justice, has received extensive training by the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ). The FBI Supervisory Special Agent determined that the SIU did a credible job on the crime scene considering the crime scene had been contaminated by onlookers and numerous media representatives prior to the arrival of SIU personnel.

Late on the afternoon of 11/23/89, Spanish Embassy personnel at El Salvador approached Ambassador Walker to advise that the Jesuits in El Salvador had turned over to them, Lucia Barrera, an alleged witness to the killings, together with her husband, Jorge Cerna, and a small child. The Spanish were also seeking assistance from the French Embassy, El Salvador, in order to remove Barrera and her family from El Salvador for protective custody.

Following negotiations which took place between Ambassador Walker and Spanish and French representatives, a decision was made to have the FBI Supervisory Special Agent and a U.S. Embassy, San Salvador representative accompany the witness and her family to the United States aboard a French military aircraft. The witness and her family were lodged at a secure location at Miami, Florida, under 24-hour protection provided by the FBI.

On 11/24/89, Lucia Barrera was interviewed by FBI Special Agents and advised as follows:

On the night of 11/15-16/89, she was sleeping with her husband and daughter in a house belonging to the priests. She woke up sometime during the early morning hours to gunfire, peeked out a window and saw five individuals making their way into the compound. She could see two of them clearly in the moonlight and could see that they were

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Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

wearing camouflaged fatigues and caps and were carrying rifles which they fired into the air. She recognized them to be Salvadoran soldiers. She heard more shooting, heard one of the priest's voices; then more shooting and several loud explosions. She went back to bed and hid until morning. At 6:00 a.m., she rose, dressed and went into the compound using the same door utilized by the Salvadoran soldiers. She observed the bodies of two women in the kitchen area then made her way through the dining room to a window where she saw two of the priests dead on the ground. She left and went to the residence of other priests located outside the compound and alerted them to what she had seen. She was instructed by the priests to keep quiet and did not talk to anyone about this matter until several days later upon further instruction from the priests. She did not recognize any of the individuals she saw, and could describe them only as soldiers. She would not be able to identify specific individuals.

On 11/27/89, Barrera was again interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI and the Commanding Officer of the SIU who had traveled from El Salvador to Miami, Florida on 11/25/89. On this occasion, Barrera provided essentially the same information she had provided on 11/24/89. On the afternoon of 11/27/89, Jorge Cerna, the witness' husband, was interviewed by FBI Special Agents and the SIU Commander. During this interview, several discrepancies were noted, and it was agreed that the witness, Lucia Barrera, should be reinterviewed on 11/28/89.

On 11/28-29/89, Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna were confronted with the discrepancies. In separate interviews, they recanted the original statements and indicated that they had not observed anything, although both had heard the shooting. In addition, Barrera stated that she had been convinced by an individual working for the human rights group known as "Tutela Legal del Arzobispo de El Salvador," to lie regarding the events. This same individual was present when Lucia Barrera provided testimony to the investigating magistrate in El Salvador prior to her departure.

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Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

On 11/30/89, polygraph examinations were separately conducted on Barrera and Cerna regarding their statements of 11/29/89. The polygraph examinations found both individuals were being deceptive on all relevant issues, including their claims to have observed Salvadoran soldiers near the priests' residence.

Again, on the morning of 12/1/89, Cerna was reinterviewed and advised that he and his wife had been lying and claimed that both had in fact stood up and looked out the window during a lull in the gunfire. He claimed they had both seen a number of men wearing fatigues and caps, carrying weapons and coming from the direction of the priests' quarters to the wooded area west of the University of Central America (UCA) grounds. Cerna was again polygraphed regarding this statement and the results were also indicative of deception. When confronted with the results of this polygraph, Cerna advised that he in fact had fabricated this whole story and that he had actually told the truth on 11/29/89. He stated that in fact he had not seen anything and that the individual from the human rights group had convinced his wife to lie.

After a number of lengthy interviews and three polygraph examinations each of Cerna and Barrera, the FBI is of the opinion that both are unreliable witnesses and do not appear to be able or willing to shed any light on the killings of the Jesuits. From their arrival in the United States on 11/23/89 until they were turned over to the custody of the Jesuits at approximately 12:00 noon, 12/3/89, Barrera and her family were housed at a safe location with 24-hour protection by FBI personnel. The objective of the FBI was to assist the Government of El Salvador as a neutral professional investigative agency to determine the accuracy of the facts presented by Barrera and her husband regardless of any political interests. It is believed that they may have heard shots, but they did not observe any of the events that transpired on 11/16/89.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

During their entire period of cooperation with the FBI, Barrera and her family were provided food and lodging. The questions during interviews and the polygraph examinations were fully explained in detail to them. Their demeanor while in FBI protective custody was one of gratefulness, desiring to cooperate.

We have reviewed the statements made by Ambassador Walker to the press and fully agree with the statements.

The following information is ~~classified~~
~~"Confidential."~~

The interviews of Barrera and her husband, Cerna, were conducted by experienced FBI Special Agents and were recorded. The polygraph examinations have been reviewed by quality control experts at FBIHQ, and they are in agreement that Barrera and her husband were deceptive in their responses. *(Handwritten initials)*

The individual from the human rights group was identified by Barrera as Maria Julia Hernandez, an Honduran attorney, who is known to the U.S. Embassy, San Salvador. *(Handwritten initials)*

This information is being provided to you in a timely manner for your assistance. The FBI has not coordinated the above with Ambassador Walker or his staff and you may wish to do so.

Should you desire further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

1 - Mr. Robert M. Gates
Assistant to the President and
Deputy for National Security Affairs
First Floor, West Wing
White House

1 - Robin Ross
Executive Assistant to
the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
(Please send via secure fax to
Legat, London)

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Section 552a

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

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SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS

CITE: //5450//

PASS: HQ TO OLIA, FOREIGN LIAISON UNIT, UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] h7c

DECLASSIFIED BY spruce/bury 4/15/94
per state phone call to Cle on 4/15/94

163-61055-27

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION-MURDER; DG: FBIHQ.

RE LEGAT, MEXICO CITY TELEPHONE CALL TO OLIA, 12/12/89. FEB 15 1990

BY WAY OF FOLLOW UP TO REFERENCED TELEPHONE CALL, LEGAT

MEXICO CITY IS PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE

[12/8/89 CABLE FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR TO FBIHQ, WHICH

SET FORTH A REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BY

m7c
cc [REDACTED]
cc O'Hara
cc Hicks } 12/13/89

Classified by [initials]
Declassify on: OADR
3.5.92
1048 DM/CLL
SP7 Cle/Bury 4/14/94 # 4-263

[Handwritten initials/signature]

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Document # 19

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PAGE TWO DE MEX 0007 C O N F I ~~X~~ E N T I A L

THE FBI IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION. *Isaga*

AS FBIHQ IS AWARE, BY VIRTUE OF THE EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY AFFORDED TO THE CAPTIONED MATTER, THE KILLING OF THE SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR HAS BECOME A MATTER OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CRISTIANI GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR AND POLITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR. SPECIFICALLY THE HANDLING OF THIS MATTER IS VERLY LIKELY TO BE JUDGED IN THE ARENA OF THE FORTHCOMING U.S. CONGRESSSIONAL ACTION RELATIVE TO THE DECISIONS ON FUTURE FINANCIAL AID IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF THE CAPTIONED CRIME, THE PERCEPTION QUICKLY DEVELOPED THAT THE FBI WAS BEING CALLED UPON TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IN BRINGING THE INVESTIGATION TO SOME RESOLUTION. WHEREAS THE PERCEPTION OF FBI INVOLVEMENT WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, AS THE BUREAU IS WELL AWARE, THE INITIAL BUREAU RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC REQUEST MADE BY SALVADORAN PRESIDENT CRISTIANI THROUGH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR, WAS A MEASURED PRELIMINARY EFFORT TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IN INSURING THAT

CONFIDENTIAL ~~X~~

PAGE THREE DE MEX 0007 C O N F I D E N T I A L

APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO FORENSIC ISSUES DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME SCENE AND THE TREATMENT OF THE POTENTIAL ITEMS OF EVIDENCE LOCATED THEREIN.

THE PRELIMINARY FBI RESPONSE WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE MATTER HAD TWOFOLD RESULTS. THE FIRST RESULT BEING THE ABILITY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR (OFFICIALLY CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTIGATING THE CAPTIONED MATTER) HAD PROFESSIONALLY ADDRESSED THE CRIME SCENE IN A THOROUGH AND APPROPRIATE MANNER. ITEMS OF POTENTIAL EVIDENCE SUCH AS SHELL CASINGS WHICH WERE RECOVERED FROM THE CRIME SCENE WERE, IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE BUREAU'S ADVISOR, HANDLED WITHOUT ERRORS IN JUDGMENT, AND WITH PROFESSIONALITY, AND MET THE RESPONSIBILITIES PRESENTED BY THE CRIME SCENE. AS A FOOTNOTE TO THIS ANALYSIS HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE CRIME SCENE HAD BEEN VIOLATED BY THE FACT THAT THE JESUITS WHO CONTROLLED THE SPACE OF THE CRIME SCENE HAD PERMITTED ACCESS TO THE SPACE BY NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS, PRIOR TO ITS BEING SECURED BY SALVADORAN LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR OFFICIAL CRIME SCENE EXAMINATION PURPOSES.

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PAGE FOUR DE MEX 0007 C O N F I ~~X~~ D E N T I A L

THE SECOND RESULT OF THE BUREAU'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE WAS IN THAT THE ABOVE AGENT DESIGNATED TO ASSESS AND ADVISE THE SIU AS TO THE MATTERS RELATING TO THE CRIME SCENE SEARCH AND EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE, WAS SPECIFICALLY TASKED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR TO ACCOMPANY A PURPORTED EYE WITNESS TO THE SHOOTING TO MIAMI, FLORIDA FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION USED TO ASSESS THE CREDIBILITY OF THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY THIS PURPORTED EYE WITNESS TO THE JESUIT CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SIU.

WITHOUT REGARD TO THE RESULTS OF THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AND THE ULTIMATE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY THE PURPORTED EYE WITNESS, IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WIDELY REPORTED THE FACT THAT THIS WITNESS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM EL SALVADOR IN THE CUSTODY OF THE FBI AGAINST THE STRONGLY STATED INTERESTS OF THE JESUITS IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT IN ITS ENTIRETY, THIS ACTION FURTHER RAISED THE GENERAL PERCEPTION THAT THE FBI WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN MANAGING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CAPTIONED MATTER. THE DISPLEASURE OF THE JESUITS IS CLEARLY EVIDENCED IN THE FACT THAT ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1989, THE ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR PUBLICLY ALLEGED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD COERCED THE ABOVE PURPORTED

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PAGE FIVE DE MEX 0007 C O N F I ~~X~~ E N T I A L

WITNESS TO THE JESUIT KILLINGS TO CHANGE HER STORY. AS FBIHQ IS AWARE, THESE ALLEGATIONS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND AGAIN IDENTIFIED THE FBI AS A PARTY PARTICIPATORY TO THE HANDLING OF THE WITNESS AND DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FBI HAS BEEN WELL IDENTIFIED WITH THE HANDLING OF THE CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION. IT IS THEREFORE, THE OBSERVATION OF LEGAT, MEXICO CITY THAT ANY DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO FURTHER ACTION BY THE FBI IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION, BE MADE WITH REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE FBI IS BEING JUDGED AS KEY PLAYER IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ABOVE MATTER AND THAT ALL FBI ACTIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SECOND GUESSED FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE.

FROM INFORMATION WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IS FULLY COMMITTED TO USING THE FULL RESOURCES OF THEIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO HANDLE THE ABOVE MATTER IN THE CONTEXT OF A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. IT IS ALSO APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH THIS INCIDENT HAS RAISED, THE CASE HAS CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TO SEEK AND UTILIZE

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PAGE SIX DE MEX 0007 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

OR AUTHORIZE EXTRAORDINARY APPROACHES TO THE CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION WHICH MAY POTENTIALLY GENERATE INFORMATION OF RELEVANCE TO THE INVESTIGATION, SUCH AS IN THE HANDLING OF SOURCES IN A MANNER WHICH MAY NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH SALVADORAN LAW OF EVIDENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE, THEREBY PRECLUDING THE POTENTIAL FOR THE RESULTS OF SUCH ACTION BEING EVENTUALLY UTILIZED IN ANY PROSECUTIVE PROCEEDINGS.

WHEREAS THE ABOVE HAS BEEN OFFERED AS BRIEF BACKGROUND, THE ISSUE REMAINS AS TO WHAT NATURE THE CURRENT FBI RESPONSE SHOULD TAKE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE FBI ACTION IS APPROPRIATE TO THE NEEDS OF A HIGHLY COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MATTER OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND WHEREIN THE UNDERLYING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, MAY IN REALTY BE A SECONDARY CONCERN.

IN SPITE OF THE NATURE OF THE ISSUES, AS HAS BEEN OUTLINED ABOVE, THE BUREAU SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF IN A TRADITIONAL MANNER, AS A FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION EXERCISE IN SUPPORT OF THE SALVADORAN SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, AND THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE SALVADORAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, WHICH UNDER THE RULES OF SALVADORAN LAW CAN BEST ADDRESS NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE
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CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH
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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

SECTION TWO OF TWO SECTIONS

CITE: //5450//

PASS: HQ TO OLIA, FOREIGN LIAISON UNIT, UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] *hrc*

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION-MURDER; OO: FBIHQ.

TEXT CONTINUES:

OF THE CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION, BUT TO ALSO DISPLAY THE STRENGTH
AND CREDIBILITY OF THEIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WITH A
SUFFICIENT BONA FIDES TO PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TO
PRESENT AN IMAGE OF JUSTICE UNDER LAW RATHER THAN ACTION UNDER

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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PAGE TWO DE MEX 0009 C O N F I ~~X~~ E N T I A L

POLITICS. LEGAT WOULD OPINE THAT IF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESSEES CAN WORK TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING THE CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION TO ULTIMATE RESOLUTION, AS A BY PRODUCT, A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WILL COLLATERALLY SERVE TO MOVE TOWARDS A SECONDARY OBJECTIVE OF EXCULPATING BOTH SALVADORAN INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS (WHETHER GOVERNMENT OR OPOSITION) WHO IN THE ABSENCE OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION CANNOT BE OTHERWISE REMOVED FROM THE RUMOR MILL OF RESPONSIBILITY.

BY WAY OF SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR, LEGAT, MEXICO CITY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE REQUEST FOR TWO POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS, WITH MACHINES BE APPROVED FOR IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY TO SUPPORT THIS INVESTIGATION. LEGAT'S OPINION IS BASED UPON REPRESENTATIONS ~~WHICH~~ WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THERE DOES EXIST AN IDENTIFIABLE BODY OF INDIVIDUALS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SALVADORAN MILITARY, FOR WHOM POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. AT THIS STAGE OF THE INVESTIGATION, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIABLE AND THE POLYGRAPH EFFORT WITH REGARD TO THESE INDIVIDUALS IS NOT CHARACTERIZED AS A FISHING EXPEDITION. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ENTIRETY OF THIS MATTER, A POLYGRAPH EXAM, WHICH DOES NOT IMPLY THE COMPLICITY OF A MEMBER OF ANY SALVADORAN

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PAGE THREE DE MEX 0009 C O N F I D ~~X~~ N T I A L

INSTITUTION OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL IS IN ITSELF, A POSITIVE OBJECTIVE AND OF VALUE IN OVERCOMING THE CURRENT PERCEPTION OF INSTITUTIONAL OR ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLICITY IN THIS MATTER.

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY WOULD OPINE THAT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO [PROVIDE A BUREAU INCENDIARY EXPERT IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE SIU] AGAIN, WHEREAS THE LIKELIHOOD OF IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC ~~(S)~~~~(R)~~U SUBJECTS OR SUSPECTS THROUGH AN EXAMINATION OF THE INCENDIARY EFFECTS UPON THE CRIME SCENE MAY BE REMOTE, SUCH EXAMINATION DOES ASSIST IN BRINGING TO RESOLUTION THE CURRENT AND ONGOING ALLEGATIONS OF THE USE OF A MILITARY TYPE FLAME THROWER TO DESTROY THE CRIME SCENE AND BY ASSOCIATION IMPLICATE THE MILITARY OR ITS MEMBERS.

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY WOULD OPINE THAT IT IS NOT CRITICAL TO [SEND AN FBI BALLISTICS EXPERT TO EL SALVADOR TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE SIU IN THIS AREA] AT THIS JUNCTURE IT APPEARS THAT THE BALLISTICS QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED, CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH A CONSULTIVE PROCESS BETWEEN BUREAU AND SALVADORAN TECHNICIANS, AND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS MAY WELL SERVE TO BRING THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF THE BALLISTICS ASSISTANCE REQUEST INTO BETTER FOCUS. ~~(S)~~~~(R)~~U

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PAGE FOUR DE MEX 0009 C O N F I D E N T I A L

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY WILL DEFER TO THE JUDGMENT OF FBIHQ WITH REGARD TO THE NEED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR A SCALE MODEL AND GRAPHICS OF THE CRIME SCENE. IT IS LEGAT'S VIEW THAT THIS REQUEST IS AT BEST PREMATURE AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEEDS OF THIS INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER, AS THE EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED, SUCH A RESOURCE WOULD PERHAPS BE OF MOST VALUE TO THE POLITICAL NEEDS OF THIS MATTER, WHEREIN WELL PRESENTED BRIEFINGS MAY BECOME CRITICAL TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY HAS DISCUSSED THE ABOVE MATTER IN DEPTH WITH DEA, SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] WHO AS FBIHQ IS AWARE, AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR, BEEN PRESENT IN EL SALVADOR DURING THESE RECENT DAYS, TO ACT AS A SPECIAL ADVISOR CONCERNING THIS MATTER. THE POSITION TAKEN BY MR. [REDACTED] IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO BOTH THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER. IT IS MR. [REDACTED] FURTHER POSITION THAT WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR HAS BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT SOME EXTRAORDINARY APPROACHES TO THE INVESTIGATION, IT IS ALSO FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE TRADITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPROACH THROUGH THE SIU. LEGAT, MEXICO CITY BELIEVES THAT AS A TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICE

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PAGE FIVE DE MEX 0009 C O N F I D E N T I A L

COOPERATION MATTER, THE BUREAU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FULLY SUPPORT THE SIU IN ITS EFFORTS. IT IS LEGAT'S FURTHER POSITION THAT IF FBIHQ CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE TO SUPPORT THE SIU ON THE ISSUES RAISED THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY, THEN IT IS IMPORTANT TO INSURE THAT APPROPRIATE LEGAT PERSONNEL, FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT POLITICS OF EL SALVADOR AND THE KEY U.S. AND SALVADORAN OFFICIALS ACTIVE IN THIS MATTER, SHOULD BE PRESENT TO COORDINATE AND ASSIST IN ANY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY FBI TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

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MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE
(RESTRICTED USE)

2276/346/198
2277/346/199

Date: 12/12/83 PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: Legal Mexico City
SAC, Miami

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 DWM/CPK
ON 3-11-97

- White House/WH/
- Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/
- Central Intelligence Agency/CIA/
- CIA DCD/DCD/
- Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/
- Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/
- Dept. of Justice/DOJ/
- Dept. of State/DOS/
- Dept. of the Army/DA/
- Dept. of Treasury/DOT/
- Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/
- Director National Security Agency/NSA/
- Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/
- Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/
- FAA Washington HQ/FAA/
- HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/
- INSCOM Ft. Meade/INSCOM/
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/
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CH 94-263

Classification: Secret CITE: ULES

Addressee Internal Distribution

163-61055-83

For: SAC, Miami: personal attention Mr. [redacted]

Legal, Mexico City for Legal [redacted] htc

Subject: Jesuit murders

1 PRI+STS

See Attached

Approved By: <u>H/S</u>	Originator: <u>htc</u>	Tele Ext. <u>4691</u>	Room/Div.: <u>7446</u>
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Document #20

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Section 552

Section 552a

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12/13/89

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR/IMMEDIATE/
FBI MIAMI/IMMEDIATE/
FBI SAN ANTONIO/IMMEDIATE/
LEGAT MEXICO CITY/IMMEDIATE/
LEGAT LONDON/IMMEDIATE/
LEGAT PARIS/IMMEDIATE/

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CITE: //0026//

94-263
DECLASSIFIED BY SP9cla/Bury
ON 4/15/94
Per call from State to FBI
on 4/15/94 to [REDACTED]

PASS: DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR ARA/CEN; AMEMBASSY, SAN
SALVADOR FOR AMBASSADOR WALKER; LEGAT MEXICO CITY PASS TO
LEGAT, PANAMA; DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PASS TO MR. BARR; NSC PASS
TO AMBASSADOR DAVID MILLER; LEGAT PARIS PASS TO AD WILLIAM

b7c 163-61055-26

- 1 - MR. CLARKE
- 1 - MR. REVELL
- 1 - MR. BAKER
- 1 - MR. GOW
- 1 - MR. HICKS
- 1 - MR. [REDACTED]

MVA [REDACTED] (10) 12/13/89 7443 5904
529075 3.5.92 10480dm/crk
94-263 Classified by SP4 [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR 3/14/90
SP9cla/Bury 4/15/94

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Section it will be filed either
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a new serial.
3/13/90

ROSS, DOJ

SEE NOTE, PAGE 5 9 MAR 13 1990

Document # 21

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BAKER.

SUBJECT: U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR.

[THIS WILL RESPOND TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, CABLE 15863, DATED DECEMBER 8, 1989, REQUESTING FBI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.] THIS RESPONSE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL. ALAT [REDACTED] LEGAT, MEXICO CITY OFFICE, WILL TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY TO SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, TO ASSIST THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND APPROPRIATE SALVADORAN OFFICIALS IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY. MR. [REDACTED] HAS PREVIOUSLY TRAVELED TO SAN SALVADOR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER, IS FAMILIAR WITH THE RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT, AND HAS ESTABLISHED AN EFFECTIVE RAPPORT WITH SIU OFFICIALS. IN COORDINATION WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, SIU, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DOJ, AND FBI HEADQUARTERS, MR. [REDACTED] WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES, INCLUDING FORENSIC EVALUATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS IN THIS MATTER IN LINE WITH SALVADORAN LAWS. MR. [REDACTED] HAS ALSO BEEN REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE

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U.S. AND EL SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES THE POSSIBLE COLLECTION OF SHELL CASINGS TO BE OBTAINED FROM ANY SUSPECT WEAPONS FOR COMPARISON WITH ANY SHELL CASINGS ALREADY COLLECTED AS EVIDENCE.

THE FBI WILL ALSO DETAIL SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION, TO SAN SALVADOR TO ADVISE AND PROVIDE QUALITY CONTROL OBSERVATIONS ON POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE SIU. MR. [REDACTED] ROLE WILL BE TO PROVIDE ~~ADVISE~~ AND REVIEW RESULTS OF SIU EXAMINATIONS, RATHER THAN CONDUCT POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS. SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] WILL BRING A POLYGRAPH MACHINE TO SAN SALVADOR TO BE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EXAMINATIONS.

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BOTH SPECIAL AGENTS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ARE SPANISH SPEAKERS.

IN REFERENCED SAN SALVADOR CABLE, PARAGRAPH 4, A REQUEST WAS MADE FOR INCENDIARY EXPERTISE. ALAT [REDACTED] WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST THE SIU IN THE COLLECTION OF DEBRIS/RESIDUE FROM THE AREA ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN "TORCHED" FOR SUBMISSION OF THAT EVIDENCE TO THE FBI LABORATORY. ~~(S) u~~

CONCERNING PARAGRAPH 5 IN REFERENCED CABLE, A REQUEST WAS

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MADE FOR A BALLISTICS EXPERT TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT AREAS OF THE CRIME SCENE. THE EXAMINATION OF IMPACT AREAS WILL NOT NECESSARILY IDENTIFY THE TYPES OF WEAPONS UTILIZED INASMUCH AS THE SAME WEAPONS CAN FIRE SEVERAL TYPES OF ROUNDS WHICH WILL CREATE IMPACT AREAS OF VARIOUS SIZES AND SHAPES. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THOSE AREAS SHOULD BE TAKEN AND SUBMITTED TO THE FBI LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ U

IN LINE WITH REFERENCED SAN SALVADOR CABLE REQUEST IN PARAGRAPH 6, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WITH APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FBI LABORATORY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODEL. MR. [REDACTED] WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REQUEST. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ U b7c

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NOTE: THIS MATTER HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH WILLIAM BARR,
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, DOJ;
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FLOYD I. CLARKE, AD WILLIAM M. BAKER, DAD
NICHOLAS V. O'HARA, AND LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] EL SALVADOR DESK OFFICER, KEVIN WHITAKER, DEPARTMENT OF
STATE, HAS ALSO BEEN ADVISED OF THE PROPOSED FBI RESPONSE.

hrc

APPROVED:	Adm. Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Liaison _____
Director _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____	& Int. Affs. _____
Dep. Dir. _____	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	Off. of _____
ADD-Adm. _____	Inspection _____	Training _____	Public Affs. _____
ADD-Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Cong. Affs. Off. _____	
	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	

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Memorandum



- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Insp. _____
- Intell. _____
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To : Mr. Clarke *12/15* Date 12/14/89

From : Congressional Affairs Office *JEC*

Subject : BRIEFING REQUEST OF CHAIRMAN EDWARDS
CONCERNING LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA

PURPOSE: To request approval to brief Chairman EDWARDS concerning LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA.

RECOMMENDATION: That a briefing as described below be provided to Chairman EDWARDS.

APPROVED: *JEC*

Director <i>JEC</i>	Adm. Servs. <i>o/hw</i>	Legal Coun. <i>o/hw</i>	Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. <i>JEC</i>
Dep. Dir. <i>JEC</i>	Crim. Inv. <i>o/hw</i>	Rec. Mgnt. _____	Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
ADD-Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	_____
ADD-Inv. _____	Inspection _____	Training _____	_____
	Intell. _____	Cong. Affs. Off. <i>JEC</i>	_____
	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	_____

DETAILS: Recent media accounts have detailed allegations of mishandling by the FBI of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, a Salvadoran citizen who allegedly witnessed the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador. She was brought to the United States for safety reasons and interviewed by FBI, Miami. Chairman EDWARDS, through his staff, requested a briefing concerning our handling and interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA in Miami.

Congressional Affairs has discussed the briefing with DOJ. Office of Legislative Affairs has coordinated the briefing with Office of Legal Counsel and approves of the briefing. Inspector HALE handled coordination with the Department of State. Accordingly, Congressional Affairs recommends that the briefing be given and that Inspector HALE, Deputy Assistant Director NICK O'HARA and Inspector JOHN COLLINGWOOD provide the briefing.

** The briefing will be limited to our handling of the witness in Miami.*

- 1 - Mr. Clarke
- 1 - Mr. Davis
- 1 - Mr. O'Hara
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood
- 3 - Mr. _____

JEC (9)

SSA JOHN H. COLLINGWOOD
ROOM 7240, TL-245

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Section 552a

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dated 12/14/89

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163-HQ-61055- 54 (Document # 23)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY

TO DIRECTOR FBI /IMMEDIATE/

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

PASS: OLIA, FOREIGN LIAISON UNIT.

CITE: //5450//

#94-263
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/8/94 BY SP/SL/BJP

3.5.92/1048DXM/CAF

[Redacted]

h7c

SUBJECT: U.S. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED DECEMBER 13, 1989.

IN RESPONSE TO REFERENCED COMMUNICATION, ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE [Redacted] OF MEXICO CITY HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY FOR TRAVEL TO SAN SALVADOR WHICH IS THE FIRST AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION TO ARRIVE IN SAN SALVADOR CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNMENT CURFEW AND EMBASSY SECURITY GUIDELINES.

163-61055-28

[Handwritten signature]

1cc [Redacted]
1cc [Redacted]
1cc O'Hara
h7c

Document # 24

PAGE TWO DE MEX 0001 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ALAT [REDACTED] IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART GUADALAJARA, MEXICO 3:15 P.M. VIA CONTINENTAL FLIGHT 115 TO ARRIVE HOUSTON, TEXAS 5:06 P.M. ALAT [REDACTED] WILL OVERNIGHT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HOUSTON FIELD OFFICE.

ALAT [REDACTED] IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART HOUSTON, TEXAS DECEMBER 16, 1989 10:30 A.M. VIA CONTINENTAL FLIGHT 915 SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT SAN SALVADOR 1:20 P.M.

COUNTRY CLEARANCE HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ALAT [REDACTED] WITH SECURE TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE EMBASSY AND HAS OBTAINED SECURE LODGING FOR ALAT [REDACTED] AT THE CAMINO REAL HOTEL SAN SALVADOR.

WHILE IN SAN SALVADOR, ALAT [REDACTED] WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH EMBASSY LEGAL OFFICER RICHARD CHIDESTER, TELEPHONE 503-26-71-00 OR THROUGH HOTEL CAMINO REAL 503-23-33-44.

TRAVEL AND COUNTRY CLEARANCE OF ALAT [REDACTED] TO EL SALVADOR IS BEING CONFIRMED BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION FROM LEGAT, MEXICO CITY TO U.S. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR.

BT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

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(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

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Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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dated 12/15/89

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055-30 (Document #25)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(k)(1)

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(b)(7)(E)

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For your information: this is a Department of Justice
communication dated 12/15/89.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 29 (Document # 26)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
163-HQ-61055- 10 (Document # 27)

Documents in this release
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Section 552

Section 552a

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(k)(1)

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(b)(7)(E)

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163-HQ-61055- 109 (Document #28)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

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dated 12/16/89

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163-HQ-61055- 15 (Document # 29)

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28 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

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For your information: this is a Department of State communication

dated 12/16/89

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 55 (Document # 30)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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San Salvador, December 16, 1989

INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL
ACTS COMMISSION

91221027 S PX

0463UE/989

Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation Laboratory
J. Edgar Hoover Building,
4th (sic) and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attn: Evidence Control Center

I am addressing you for the purpose of requesting your valuable cooperation in that the evidentiary material (burned) collected in the offices of the first floor of the Theology Faculty, the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (U.C.A.) be analyzed in the laboratories of the institution that you direct.

Description of the case:

The murder of 6 priests of the Society of Jesus and 2 female domestics, which occurred in the university residence of the Universidad Centroamericana JOSE SIMEON CANAS (U.C.A.), early on November 16th of this year.

Motive:

To determine through the residue sent what substance or chemical or physical agent was used to start the fire.

Display:

The material consists of:

First site (Reception Room)

- Q12 a) (Fragments of Coca Cola bottle glass)
- Q13 b) (Fragments of a plastic garbage can that contains tissue paper and other things.)
- Q14 c) (Burned metal box which contained completely burned paper money inside)
- Q15 d) (Fragments of a completely burned typewriter)
- Q16 e) (Smoke residue collected from two desks and a file cabinet.)
- Q17 f) (Scraping from the floor)
- Q18 g) (Samples of smoke collected from the southern and western walls.)
- Q19 h) (Particles from a socket)

163-61055-5

Second site (Library Computation Office)

- Q20 a) (Portion of burned cloth) (curtain)

JAN 12 1990

319

Translated by [redacted]

Document #31

[Handwritten signature]

- Q 21 b) Burned portion of cloth
Q 22 c) Burned fragments of cloth, ^{CURTAIN} curtain and a partially burned cord

Third site (Study Room)

- Q 23 a) Three semi-destroyed books and a piece of newspaper
Q 24 b) Residue from burned paper

Fourth site (Video Room 1)

- Q 25 a) A (partially burned Polaroid film box)
Q 26 b) Pieces of burned papers
Q 27 c) Smoke residue on paper filter
Q 28 d) Three spiral notebooks, black and white and color photographs

Fifth site (Video Room 2)

- Q 29 a) Samples from a piece of curtain fabric

AS Also included, a picture album from the site where the samples were collected.

I would like to inform you that what is requested is in response to the President of the Republic, ALFREDO CRISTIANI, designating the unit under my command to investigate the case of the murder of the Jesuit priests at the U.C.A.

Yours truly,

LT. CNL. CAB. DEM. MANUEL ANTONIO RIVAS MEJIA
CHIEF, EXECUTIVE UNIT

Q 30 - Residue from curtain
and paper

Q 31 - Portion of burned material

Q 32 Portion of residue

PETER A. DEFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1729 LONGWORTH HOUSE OF BLDG.

WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6416

DISTRICT OFFICES:
211 EAST 7TH AVENUE
EUGENE, OR 97401
(503) 687-6732

215 SOUTH 2D STREET
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(503) 269-2609

621 W. MADRONE, #406
POST OFFICE BOX 126
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(503) 440-3523

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
WATER AND POWER RESOURCES
MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
WATER RESOURCES

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 18, 1989

The Honorable William S. Sessions
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

It was recently reported that the FBI allowed a colonel in the Salvadoran Army to take part in an "intense interrogation" of Lucia Barrera de Cerna and her husband, eyewitnesses to the brutal murders of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador during last month's fighting. The report states that the investigators accused the couple of lying and threatened them with deportation.

It is almost certain that members of the Salvadoran armed forces committed the murders. Yet I've read no reports in the press about interrogations, intense or otherwise, of any Salvadoran military personnel. Instead, the FBI allowed a representative of the organization most likely responsible for the crimes to take part in a session whose goal seems to have been intimidation rather than investigation.

If the reports are true, the FBI has a great deal to account for. Threatening the only eyewitness to this crime with deportation, which under the circumstances would be a death sentence, is unconscionable. Doing so with a member of the Salvadoran military present, a man who could serve as her executioner should she return to El Salvador, is grotesque.

163-61055-110

It sounds as though the United States government is more interested in helping the Salvadoran military cover up their involvement in this hideous crime than in tracking down the killers. I sincerely hope it's not true, though I'd appreciate a detailed account of the interrogation and the FBI's investigation into the killings from your office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Defazio
PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress

SS
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R
C
FR

= B.T.

↑ INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

3.10.92
4/13/94
#94-263
1048DM/CAF
SP7dec/Bury

Document #32

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 1989

JOHN WEINFURTER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

221 CANNON BUILDING
(202) 225-8273
FAX: (202) 225-7804

ROGER KINEAVY
DISTRICT MANAGER

WORLD TRADE CENTER
SUITE 220
BOSTON, MA 02210
(617) 565-2920
FAX: (617) 439-5157

4 COURT STREET
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 824-6676

SSP

ASS

IC'D

LR

EC

JJM

F.B.I.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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3-10-92
4/13/94

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SP/CL/BRG 294-263

Mr. John Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Congressional Affairs Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Collingwood:

Thank you for arranging the briefing on Tuesday, December 19th for members of the Special Task Force on El Salvador. As you know, Speaker Foley appointed me as Chairman of this committee and has asked that I request all relevant information pertaining to the murders in El Salvador on November 16, 1989 of the six Jesuits, their cook, and her daughter.

For those members of the Task Force who were not able to be present on Tuesday and to ensure that a written record of FBI involvement in this case is available to the committee, I would like to request that the Bureau provide responses to the accompanying questions. I would appreciate receiving a reply to the questions by January 17, 1990. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 225-8273.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

163-61055-110X

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

DEC 18 1989

JAN 4 1990

Handwritten notes on left margin:
FBI reviewed committee (El Salvador)
conducted in place of
direct reports
Enclosure
I appreciate your help in this matter - I still think it is important for the task force to meet with the agents who interviewed the Cerma's...
if it's at all possible. Best wishes for the

Handwritten notes and signatures:
US 1/7/90
4/11/90
I appreciate your help in this matter - I still think it is important for the task force to meet with the agents who interviewed the Cerma's...
if it's at all possible. Best wishes for the

Task Force Questions for the F.B.I.

1) Exactly what is the FBI's role in the murder investigation of the six Jesuits, their cook and her daughter which took place in San Salvador on November 16, 1989?

- a) What type of assistance has the Bureau provided thus far?
- b) How did Lucia Barrera de Cerna first come to your attention?
- c) To whom has the FBI reported on this case?
- d) Is there any direct reporting to the Salvadoran Government?
- e) Has the FBI interviewed any Salvadoran military personnel on this case? If so, have any been given polygraph tests by the Bureau?

2) When Lucia Barrera de Cerna arrived in Miami on November 23, did anyone explain to her what the FBI's investigation would entail? Was she aware that she would undergo extensive questioning? Did she know in advance that she would be asked to take a polygraph? Did anyone explain to her what a polygraph was?

3) Why was she interrogated for four days and given six polygraph tests? Why was she polygraphed so extensively?

4) Why wasn't Lucia Barrera de Cerna offered the opportunity to consult with an attorney or, at the very least, to communicate with the Jesuits in the area who were willing to take responsibility for her?

5) How many polygraph exams were administered to Lucia Barrera de Cerna? How many were administered to her husband, Jorge Cerna?

6) Was Jorge Cerna asked whether he witnessed soldiers entering the premises of the university?

7) According to her testimony to the Lawyers Committee, Lucia Barrera de Cerna was asked by one of the investigators "tell us the name of the priest" who told you to make up this story (page 26 of Lawyers Committee for Human Rights Report). Is this true and, if so, were you provided any leads or information by other sources that the church might be involved some way in fabricating this story?

8) Does the FBI consider this witness to be "not credible"?

9) Was the witness, at any time, threatened -- by any person present or participating in the interrogation -- with deportation or extradition back to El Salvador? Was the possibility of deportation raised at all during the interrogation?

10) What efforts were undertaken by the Bureau to insure that the presence of a Salvadoran military officer -- Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia -- did not intimidate or threaten the witness?

11) Was information made available to the Bureau concerning Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia's background -- including information pertaining to any ties with the extreme right wing or human rights violations?

12) Has the FBI been directly involved with the Salvadoran Government in any previous cases similar to this one, in which it was requested to provide protection to a witness? Specifically, did the Bureau have a role in protecting the key witness in the case involving the murder of the 4 American marines in San Salvador?

a) Was that witness given polygraph tests?

b) Was that witness treated similarly to Lucia Barrera de Cerna in all other respects?

13) Was the entire interrogation/interview of Lucia Barrera de Cerna recorded? Were there any exchanges between Lucia Barrera de Cerna and those questioning her that were not recorded? Was the entire interrogation/questioning of Jorge Cerna recorded? Were there any exchanges between Jorge Cerna and those who questioned him that were not recorded?

14) Who decided to make the results of the Lucia Barrera de Cerna's polygraph public knowledge? Did the FBI have any knowledge that the results would be made public? Is it standard FBI policy to reveal the results of polygraph tests?

15) The Jesuits were informed by the State Department that the FBI needed to have Lucia Barrera de Cerna in custody for a period of time in order to perform a risk assessment so that the Jesuits would know how much protection the witness and her family needed. Why weren't the Jesuits subsequently made aware of the extensive nature of the Bureau's interrogation?

16) In general, how much time is needed to prepare a witness for a standard polygraph examination? How much time is necessary to administer the examination to insure maximum accuracy? (I am looking for an approximate time-length that it would take for an individual to go through the whole process).

- a) What type and length of training is necessary for an individual to administer such an examination? Is there a minimum requirement?
- b) Was the type of polygraph administered to the Cerna's a typical examination or did it fall within a different category? If it was somehow different, please explain why.

17) Has the FBI assisted in efforts to match fingerprints and ballistic evidence taken from the scene of the crime? If so, please describe the extent of the Bureau's involvement. Does the Bureau know who is currently in possession of the "shell casings"? If so, who?

- a) Does the Bureau know whether any Salvadoran military weapon has been tested ?

18) Please provide the Task Force or the appropriate Congressional oversight committee with the transcripts of the interviews with the Cerna's and their polygraph test results.

19) The Members of the task force would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the two FBI agents who questioned the Cerna family. We would ask that the Bureau arrange such a meeting.

TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

San Salvador, December 18, 1989

EL SALVADOR

91251027

INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL
ACTS COMMISSION

SSP

CLASS _____
SRC'D _____ 0464UE/989

SEE REC 56 Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation Laboratory
J. Edgar Hoover Building,
4th (sic) and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attn: Evidence Control Center

I am addressing you for the purpose of requesting your valuable cooperation in that the clothes the Jesuit priests wore on November 16th of this year be analyzed in the laboratories of the organization you direct. On that day they were killed together with two female domestics at the university residence of the Theology Faculty of the Universidad Centroamericana JOSE SIMEON CANAS (U.C.A.).

Description of the case:

The murder of 6 priests of the Society of Jesus and 2 female domestics, which occurred in the university residence of the Universidad Centroamericana JOSE SIMEON CANAS (U.C.A.), early on November 16th of this year.

Motive:

To determine through the analysis of the clothes if there is some chemical or physical element from the firearms present in the holes produced by the guns.

Display: The material consists of:

(FATHER IGNACIO ELLACURIA)

- Q1 - A pajama top, white with stripes, no brand name
- Q2 - A dark brown "Wilson Italiana" robe

(FATHER JOAQUIN LOPEZ Y LOPEZ)

- Q3 - Dark brown (pants)
- Q4 - A white (undershirt)

(FATHER AMANDO LOPEZ)

163-61055-6

JAN 18 1990

Translated by
[Redacted]

12/20/89 1-11

Document #34

SEVEN

- Q5 - A light green (towel poncho)
Q6 - A light green (pajama top)

(FATHER IGNACIO MARTIN BARO)

- Q7 - A blue sport (shirt)
- Gray (pants)

Q8 (FATHER SEGUNDO MONTES)

- Q9 - Light brown, short (pajama bottoms)

(FATHER RAMON MORENO)

- Q10 - Black (pants)
Q11 - A long-sleeved, sky blue (shirt)

I would like to inform you that what is requested is in response to the President of the Republic, ALFREDO CRISTIANI, designating the unit under my command to investigate the case of the murder of the Jesuit priests at the U.C.A.

Yours truly,

LT. CNL. CAB. DEM. MANUEL ANTONIO RIVAS MEJIA
CHIEF, EXECUTIVE UNIT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(B)

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(b)(7)(C)

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(b)(7)(E)

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(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

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(b)(5)

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For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 12/18/89

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
163-HQ-61055- 13 (Document # 35)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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December 19, 1989

4/13/94 Sp7clg/bury #94-263
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-10-92 BY 1048DKM/CPR

Honorable Peter DeFazio
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Please be advised that we have received your letter to Director Sessions dated December 18, 1989, requesting detailed information regarding the interrogation of Lucia Barrera de Cerna and her husband, eyewitnesses to the murders of ~~six~~ Jesuit priests in El Salvador during the last month's fighting.

A member of our Congressional Affairs Office will be in contact with your staff regarding this request.

Sincerely yours,

"S"

John E. Collingwood
Inspector-in-Charge
Congressional Affairs Office

MAILED 19
JUL 21 1989
FBI

- 1 - Mr. Collingwood
- 3 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

ROOM 7240, TL-245

163-61055-104

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- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
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- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
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- Lab. _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

APPROVED:

Director _____	Adm. Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Liaison _____
Dep. Dir. _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____	& Int. Affs. _____
ADD-Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	Off. of _____
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	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	

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Document #36

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Section 552

Section 552a

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 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): duplicate of a document which is processed elsewhere - see 163-HQ-61055-110 (document # 32)

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055-104 encl (document # 36 encl)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

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Legal Coun.	
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Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

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P 190957Z DEC 89
FM LEGAT LONDON (163-0-1063)
TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/
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LATE 3.9.92
BY 1045/...
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CITE: //5200:LON523.352 18 DEC 89//
PASS: HQ FOR SECTION CHIEF [REDACTED], ITU-CID.

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (MURDER); OO: FBIHQ.

RELONTEL, NOVEMBER 29, 1989.

REFERENCED COMMUNICATION FROM LONDON INFO MED FBIHQ THAT

[REDACTED]

163-61055-85

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Hole

Document #37

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19 Dec 89 8 37
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

DATE

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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY (163A-MX-11917)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

UNCLAS

CITE: //5450//

PASS: HQ TO ULIA, FOREIGN LIAISON UNIT, ATTN: UNIT CHIEF

*# 94-263 3-5-92 G-1 DKM/COK
4-8-94 SP/ole/awry*

[REDACTED] *b7c*

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPO-MURDER; UG: HQ.

RE MEXICO CITY TELCALL TO UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] 12/18/89.

163-61055-31

FOR THE INFORMATION OF FBIHQ AND IN FOLLOW UP TO REFERENCED
TELEPHONE CALL, ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE (ALAT), MEXICO CITY

[REDACTED] WILL BE DEPARTING SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR AT
9:00 AM, DECEMBER 19, 1989 VIA CONTINENTAL FLIGHTS 824 AND 738,
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT AT 5:25 PM SAME.

cc [REDACTED] b7c

Document #38

[REDACTED] *b7c*

DEC 21 1989

1-cc Rm 7458 (asw) TN

PAGE TWO DE MEX 0001 UNCLAS

DATE.

THE PURPOSE OF ALAT [REDACTED] TRAVEL IS TO HAND CARRY ITEMS OF EVIDENCE RELEVANT TO THE CAPTIONED MATTER TO THE FBI LABORATORY IN CONNECTION WITH THE BUREAU RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION. ALAT [REDACTED] WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DEBRIEFING OF OLIA OFFICIALS REL VANT TO DETAILS AND STATUS OF CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION DURING THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 20, 1989.

ALAT [REDACTED] IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART WASHINGTON, D.C. AT 1:59 PM FOR RETURN TO GUADALAJARA, MEXICO.

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY HAS SECURED LODGING FOR ALAT [REDACTED] THE NIGHT OF 12/19/89 AT THE NATIONAL AIRPORT HYATT REGENCY HOTEL.

IN VIEW OF THE TRAVEL ITINERARY OF ALAT [REDACTED] WHICH RETURNS HIM FROM WASHINGTON TO GUADALAJARA, IT IS REQUESTED THAT OLIA INSURE INTERESTED OFFICIALS ARE AVAILABLE DURING THE MORNING OF 12/20/89 FOR ANY DISCUSSION DESIRED WITH REGARD TO CAPTIONED MATTER.

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Section 552a

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For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 12/20/89

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 72 (Document #39)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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PAUL SIMON
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
BUDGET

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 1989

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. John Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Congressional Affairs Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20535

F.B.I.
↑

3-11-92
SP7 Clep/ste 4-8-94 CA# 94-263
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Dear Mr. Collingwood:

A number of my constituents have expressed their concern to me over press reports of alleged abuses by U.S. federal agents against the only known witness to the murders of the six Jesuit priests in El Salvador. Enclosed is a copy of one such report.

I share their concern. I would appreciate your looking into this matter and getting back to me with further information.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Cordially,

Paul Simon
Paul Simon
United States Senator

PS/vas

163-61055-75

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Document #40

230 S. DEARBORN
KLUCZYNSKI BLDG., 38TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604
312/353-4952

3 WEST OLD CAPITOL PLAZA
SUITE 1
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
217/492-4960

8787 STATE ST.
SUITE 212
EAST ST. LOUIS, IL 62203
618/289-7707

250 WEST CHERRY
ROOM 115-B
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
618/457-2552

World

IRAN PROTESTS U.S. BATTLESHIP: The United States has replaced its aircraft carrier force in the Persian Gulf with a battleship group, and Iran on Sunday called the deployment a provocation. The change signals a policy shift, leaving the region without a carrier and its air-strike capability for the first time since 1986. But deployment of the battleship New Jersey was the first visit by a major U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf.

CHARGE OF BRAINWASHING: The archbishop of San Salvador on Sunday accused U.S. federal agents of brainwashing and blackmailing the only known witness in the case involving the killing of six Jesuit priests. Monsignor Arturo Rivera Y Damas, the highest Roman Catholic authority in El Salvador, said the FBI subjected Lucia Barrera de Cerna to "aggressive and violent" interrogation. U.S. Ambassador William Walker denied the charge.

ARAFAT INSISTS ON PLO ROLE: Saying he was "going to make peace with my enemies," Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat insisted Sunday that only his group could represent the Palestinian people in negotiations toward a Middle East peace process. On NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Arafat rejected U.S. and Israeli opposition to PLO involvement in the negotiations to prepare for elections in the occupied territories.



Yasser Arafat

LOCKERBIE SUSPECT SOUGHT: Scottish police have flown to Yugoslavia to trace a Palestinian they suspect of supplying explosives and detonators to the bombers of a Pan Am airliner, a London newspaper said Sunday. The Sunday Times said Mobdi Goben, 46, is suspected in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie last December, in which 270 people were killed. Goben is said to be in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which has denied any link to the bombing.

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FM LEGAT LONDON (163-0-1063)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

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DATE 3-3-92 BY 1048 DKM/CPE
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Off. of Public Affs.	
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Director's Sec'y	

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CITE: //5200:LON528.352 18 DEC 89//

PASS: HQ FOR SECTION CHIEF [REDACTED] ITU-CID.

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-GENERAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (MURDER); OO: FBIHQ.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

ON DECEMBER 19, 1989, LEGAT [REDACTED] WAS CONTACTED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO ADVISED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

163-61055-14

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PAGE TWO DE LON 0004 UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED]

WITH THE SHORT DEADLINE AND THE NEED FOR [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TO MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, LEGAT LONDON
REQUESTS FBIHQ TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

RELONTEL, NOVEMBER 29, 1989.

REFERENCED COMMUNICATION FROM LONDON INFORMED FBIHQ THAT

[REDACTED]

ON DECEMBER 18, 1989, [REDACTED] ADVISED LEGAT THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACCORDING TO

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OF INVESTIGATION

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Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
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Director's Sec'y	

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P 212033Z DEC 89

FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY (163A-MX-11928) (GRD) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

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CITE: //5450//

PASS: FLU, OLIA.

35-92

CLASSIFIED BY 104SDM/pak

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

4-8-94 Sprule/Burg #94-263

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: UNSUB(S); SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN

SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR; FPC - MURDER; OO: FBIHQ. 94-263

DECLASSIFIED BY Sprule/Burg
ON 4/15/94
for phone call from state

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEXICO CITY OF

h7c ON DECEMBER 17, 1989 ALAT [REDACTED] WAS BRIEFED BY RICHARD [REDACTED]

CHIDESTER, LEGAL OFFICER, U.S. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AS TO THE

EXACT NATURE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED IN U.S. EMBASSY, SAN

SALVADOR CABLE OF DECEMBER 8, 1989. THESE REQUIREMENTS WERE: (S)u

- 1) TWO PORTABLE POLYGRAPH MACHINES AND OPERATORS
- 2) AN INCENDIARY EXPERT

163-61055-132

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PAGE TWO DE MEX 0006 UNCLAS

3) A BALLISTIC EXPERT ON IMPACT MARKINGS

4) A SCALE MODEL OF OTHER GRAPHICS OF THE CRIME SCENE AND IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD.

[CHIDESTER EXPLAINED THAT ██████████ DE A HAD SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR AN "INCENDIARY EXPERT" AND "BALLISTICS EXPERT ON IMPACT MARKINGS". THESE REQUESTS WERE BASED ON TWO UNUSUALLY LARGE HOLES IN AN INSIDE HALLWAY WALL OF THE OFFICE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PRIESTS' SLEEPING QUARTERS, AND UNUSUAL BURN PATTERS ON A TYPEWRITER AND TABLE TOP OBSERVED BY SA ██████████ DURING AN EXAMINATION OF THE CRIME SCENE. IN ADDITION, MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, OF THE "TUTELA LEGAL" CONTINUED TO MAKE THE ACCUSATION THAT THE FIRE HAD BEEN CAUSED BY A MILITARY FLAME THROWER. THE NEED FOR A SCALE MODEL OF THE CRIME SCENE WAS EXPLAINED IN REQUESTING CABLE (X)

ON DECEMBER 18, 1989, AN EXAMINATION OF THE CRIME SCENE WAS CONDUCTED BY ALAT ██████████ IN THE COMPANY OF A TECHNICIAN FROM THE EL SALVADOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) AND THE PERMISSION OF FATHER ESTRADA, THE CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA).

THE TWO HOLES IN QUESTION, WHICH WERE LOCATED IN THE NORTH WALL OF THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR OF THE THEOLOGY FACULTY BUILDING

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE DE MEX 0006 UNCLAS

WERE OBVIOUS EXIT HOLES APPARENTLY MADE BY 7.62 MM (M-60 MACHINE GUN) ROUNDS STRIKING THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL, WHICH FACES THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, AND WAS SPRAYED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE.

THE SIU TECHNICIAN CONCURRED WITH THIS OPINION ADDING THAT THEY HAD COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION DURING THEIR INITIAL EXAMINATION.

A NUMBER OF OFFICES IN THIS SAME BUILDING SHOWED EVIDENCE OF BURN, SOME OF THESE SHOWING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO CONTENTS, OTHERS MINIMAL DAMAGE. THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM VIEWING THE DEBRIS THAT A FLAME THROWER, NAPALM, THERMITE, WHITE PHOSPHOROUS OR ANY OTHER MILITARY INCENDIARY DEVICE WAS USED IN ANY OF THESE ROOMS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL OF THESE OFFICES WERE VERY SMALL, APPROXIMATELY 10' BY 10' OR LESS. A FLAME THROWER DISCHARGED IN SUCH A CONFINED SPACE WOULD HAVE VERY LIKELY NOT ONLY INCINERATED EVERYTHING IN THE ROOMS, BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE CAUSED SEVERE BURNS ON THE PERSON EMPLOYING IT.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ALAT [REDACTED] MET WITH CHIDESTER AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL RIVAS, COMMANDER OF THE SIU TO DISCUSS THESE FINDINGS AND THE OTHER REQUESTS. LTC RIVAS WAS NOT AWARE OF THE REQUEST FOR A SCALE MODEL AND AFTER CONFERRING WITH HIS TECHNICIANS, A DECISION WAS REACHED TO TRY TO OBTAIN OR PRODUCE BY A MILITARY ENGINEERING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

X

PAGE FOUR OF WFX 0006 UNCLAS

UNIT. SHOULD THESE EFFORTS FAIL, SIU TECHNICIANS WERE INSTRUCTED
THE MEASUREMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED FOR THE FBI
LABORATORY TO REPRODUCE THE MODEL. THE MATTER OF THE POLYGRAPH WAS
DISCUSSED AND AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT THE POLYGRAPH WOULD
BE UTILIZED SELECTIVELY, RATHER THAN FOR SCREENING, AS THE
REQUESTING CABLE IMPLIED. LTC RIVAS REQUESTED FBI LABORATORY
SUPPORT IN EXAMINING VICTIM'S CLOTHING FOR GUN POWDER RESIDUE,
AND DEBRIS FROM THE SCENE OF THE ARSON FOR THE PRESENCE OF ANY
ACCELERANT. HE ADDED THAT HIS TECHNICIANS HAD ALREADY DETERMINED
THAT THE FIRE HAD PROBABLY BEEN CAUSED BY MATCHES OR A CIGARETTE
LIGHTER, BUT THAT DUE TO THE ACCUSATIONS BY MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ
OF THE USE OF A FLAME THROWER, AND HIS UNIT'S LACK OF CREDIBILITY
DUE TO MILITARY TIES, CONFIRMATION OF THEIR FINDINGS BY THE FBI
LABORATORY WOULD PUT THE FLAME THROWER ISSUED TO REST. TWO BOXES
CONTAINING ARSON DEBRIS, AND SIX BAGS CONTAINING VICTIMS'
CLOTHING WERE RECEIVED FROM LTC RIVAS THAT EVENING AND DELIVERED
TO THE FBI LABORATORY ON DECEMBER 20, 1989.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE REGARDING THE
INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER.

1. THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS

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PAGE FIVE DE MEX 0006 UNCLAS

ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS OF WITNESSES OF POTENTIAL WITNESSES INDEPENDENT OF SIU, IN ADDITION TO THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY THE TUTELA LEGAL OF MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ.

2. DUE TO LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SIU AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THERE IS AN INABILITY ON THE PART OF SIU TO EVEN INTERVIEW RELUCTANT WITNESSES, AS SIU HAS NO SUBPOENA POWERS.

3. DUE TO THE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF SIU, LTC RIVAS, WHO IS DIRECTING THIS INVESTIGATION, SPENDS CONSIDERABLE PART OF HIS TIME ATTENDING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES AND VARIOUS OTHER NON-INVESTIGATIVE MATTERS.

BT

#0006

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MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE
(RESTRICTED USE)

Date: 12/2/89 PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: SAC, Miami

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 DUM/CFM
ON 3-11-92

- White House/WH/
- Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/
- Central Intelligence Agency/CIA/
- CIA DCD/DCD/
- Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/
- Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/
- Dept. of Justice/DOJ/
- Dept. of State/DOS/
- Dept. of the Army/DA/
- Dept. of Treasury/DOT/
- Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/
- Director National Security Agency/NSA/
- Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/
- Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/
- FAA Washington HQ/FAA/
- HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/
- INSCOM Ft. Meade/INSCOM/
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/
- U.S. Customs Service/UCS/
- U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/
- U.S. Secret Service/USSS/
- Other: _____

BT

Classification: Confidential CITE: 0028

Addressee Internal Distribution

For: Liaison Officer

3-11-92
1048
4-11-94
CA#94-263

Subject: JOAN SALVADOR K. SALVADOR

163-61055-95

See Attached

Approved By: <u>H/SI</u>	Originator: <u>[Redacted]</u>	Tele Ext. <u>4671</u>	Room/Div.: <u>7446 CIA</u>
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
DEC 23 1989

Document # 43
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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055- 95 incl (document # 43 incl)

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12/21

Please Furnish Complete Information

Agency submitting evidence <i>Legat, Mexico City Mexico</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Local or State	Date <i>12/21/84</i> 91221027
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Delivered by <i>[Redacted]</i>	Accepted by <i>[Redacted]</i>	QUR NO # <i>163A</i>
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Suspect(s) <i>UNSUB(S)</i>	Victim(s) <i>Killing of Six Jesuit Priests - FPC - Murder San Salvador, El Salvador</i>
-------------------------------	--

Offense <i>Murder - FPC - v. 03</i>	Place and date of offense
Agency case #	

Date of hearing, grand jury, trial, or reason why expeditious handling is necessary

Prev. exams this case <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Evid. located Room # _____	Report to be directed to
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Copies to	Evidence to be returned to <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Back <input type="checkbox"/> Picked Up by Contributor
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Brief Facts covering case

Description of evidence Exams requested

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DATE 3.5.92 BY 10488pm/csk**
AP 7 Cle/pte 4-8-94
CA # 94-263

163-61055-7

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23 DEC 89

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Director's Sec'y	

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TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/
FBI SAN ANTONIO/PRIORITY/
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SAN ANTONIO
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DEC 23 1989

DATE 3.6.92 BY 1048DKM/CPK
4/13/94 Special Agent
#94-263

PASS: HC TO OLIA, FOREIGN LIAISON UNIT.

h7c

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] SAN ANTONIO
DIVISION, TO SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, REGARDING REQUEST FOR FBI
ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT
PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION; GENERAL
CRIMINAL; OO: FBIHQ.

RE SAN ANTONIO TELEPHONE CALL TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY,
DECEMBER 22, 1989.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SETS FORTH THE TRAVEL ITINERARY

163-61055-57

Document #45

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[REDACTED]

PAGE TWO DE MEX 0001 UNCLAS

FOR SAN ANTONIO SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] IN CONNECTION WITH BUREAU RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR. SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] WHO HAS A CURRENT MULTIPLE ENTRY VISA FOR EL SALVADOR, WILL BE DEPARTING HOUSTON, TEXAS DECEMBER 26, 1989 VIA TACA FLIGHT 411, SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR AT 4:40 PM SAME DATE.

LEGAT, MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR LEGAL OFFICER RICHARD CHIDESTER THAT APPROPRIATE AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT LODGING HAS BEEN SECURED AT THE EL CAMINO REAL HOTEL, SAN SALVADOR, BEGINNING THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 26, 1989.

WHILE IN SAN SALVADOR, SA [REDACTED] WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH U.S. EMBASSY, TELEPHONE NO. 503-26-71-00 (LEGAL OFFICER RICHARD CHIDESTER OR POLITICAL OFFICER JANICE ELMORE), AND AFTER HOURS AT THE CAMINO REAL HOTEL, TELEPHONE NO. 503-23-33-44. COUNTRY CLEARANCE HAS BEEN GRANTED BY EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IN CONNECTION THE ABOVE TRAVEL.

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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

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TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

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SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC-GCM (MURDER); OO: FBIHQ.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Section 552

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December 29, 1989

Handwritten: 4/11/94 CA# 94-263
DATE 3-9-92 31/1048 DRM/CAE

Honorable Dante B. Fascell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please be advised that we have received your letter to Director Sessions dated December 19, 1989, regarding the murders of six Jesuit priests and two women in El Salvador.

A final response will be forthcoming.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature: JS

John E. Collingwood
Inspector-in-Charge
Congressional Affairs Office

- 1 - Mr. Baker - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Hale - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. O'Hara - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood - Enclosure
- 2 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure

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- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

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GEORGE E. SANGMEISTER ILLINOIS

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House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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MAJORITY—225-3851
MINORITY—225-6906

January 2, 1990

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The Honorable William S. Sessions
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Sessions:

I am writing with respect to the FBI's involvement in the investigation of the November 16, 1989 slaying in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their cook, and her daughter. Allegations have been made regarding the Bureau's treatment of two potential witnesses, Lucia Barrera de Cerna, and her husband, Jorge Alberto Cerna Ramirez. On December 14, the Bureau made available Headquarters officials to brief Subcommittee staff and myself on the Bureau's actions.

The briefing was helpful, and I appreciate the Bureau's willingness to discuss the matter with us. At the suggestion of Deputy Assistant Director O'Hara, Subcommittee counsel interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Cerna about their treatment by the FBI and found them to be credible in their description of the FBI interrogation. Following that interview, a number of issues remain unresolved. In particular, substantial discrepancies exist between the accounts of Mr. and Mrs. Cerna and those provided by Bureau officials.

These conflicts may be resolved by a follow-up briefing. Attached are issues that we would like to cover. Since the Subcommittee has first-hand accounts from the Cernas, it would be most helpful to have one or both of the Special Agents who interviewed the Cernas participate in the follow-up briefing, so that the Subcommittee can have the benefit of first-hand information from the FBI as well. In addition, reference to key documents and other materials would assist in resolving our concerns. I would request that the Subcommittee be provided the following materials:

F.B.I.

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Document #51

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The Honorable William S. Sessions
January 2, 1990
Page 2

- (1) Airtels and other FBI documents concerning arrangements for the FBI's handling of the Cernas and documents describing the basis or purpose of the FBI's involvement in the matter, including any documents provided to the interviewing SA's before and during the period of time Mr. and Mrs. Cerna were in FBI custody;
- (2) State Department or Salvadoran government documents provided to the FBI before and during the period of time the Cernas were in FBI custody;
- (3) any transcripts of the interviews of the Cernas;
- (4) the polygraph examiner's reports;
- (5) the final report of interview prepared by the interviewing SA's.

I can understand the Bureau's reluctance to disclose information about an on-going investigation. Neither the FBI nor the Subcommittee initiated the public controversy over this matter. But we have an obligation to address and resolve the serious allegations that have been raised. As always, the Subcommittee will treat with the strictest confidence any information conveyed to us pursuant to an understanding of confidentiality. We are not inquiring into the results of other actions, if any, undertaken by the FBI in aid of the investigation. Our concerns at this point focus solely on the treatment of Mr. and Mrs. Cerna and the context in which they came into the custody of the FBI.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Don Edwards

Don Edwards
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil and
Constitutional Rights

Enclosure

DE:jdw

Questions for Follow-up Briefing

1. How did the FBI become involved in the investigation of the November 16, 1989 murder of the six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter in El Salvador?
 - Who made the request for FBI assistance in this investigation? How was the request conveyed to the FBI?
 - Who at the FBI first received the request for assistance?
 - When the request for assistance was first received, what did it cover?
 - Since assistance was first requested, has the request for assistance been expanded? If so, when and to cover what issues or matters?
2. Please provide a chronology of the events of November 23-December 3, during which the Cernas were in the custody of the FBI, specifying on which days was there questioning, in which order were the Cernas questioned on each day, and when did the polygraping take place?
3. What type of reports has the FBI made to the Salvadoran authorities in this case and to whom have they been made?
4. When did Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia arrive in Miami? When did he first participate in the questioning of Mr. and Mrs. Cerna?
5. In the Bureau's view, who directed the questioning of the Cernas, Col. Rivas or the FBI agents?
 - Did Rivas share with the FBI testimonial, photographic or other evidence that called into question the Cernas' accounts?

What information was made available to the interviewing SA's about the Cernas, about Col. Rivas, and about the events of November 16 prior to and during the questioning of the Cernas?

7. How does the FBI typically handle foreign police cooperation matters involving the interviewing of a witness?
 - Does the FBI generally conduct such interviews jointly with officials of the foreign investigating agency?
 - In other foreign police cooperation matters involving alleged human rights abuses, how has the FBI

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coordinated with the foreign investigating authorities?

8. According to Lucia's statement to the Subcommittee, one of the agents asked her "How much did the fathers pay you to say this?" Is this true, and, if so, did the FBI have any information on which to base this question?
9. How many times were Lucia and Jorge polygraphed? Each time, what were the relevant questions and was deception indicated?
10. According to Lucia's statement to the Subcommittee, one of the agents asked her to tell them the name of the priest who told her to make up her story. Is this true, and, if so, did the FBI have any information on which to base this question?
11. What portions of the interviews of the Cernas were recorded?

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Section 552

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163-HQ-61055- 86 (Document #52)

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FM DIRECTOR FBI
TO DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC/PRIORITY/
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC/PRIORITY/
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC/PRIORITY/
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR/PRIORITY/
FBI SAN ANTONIO/PRIORITY/
LEGAT MEXICO CITY/PRIORITY/

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1045DKM/for

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: //0028//

4-8-94
CR# 94-263
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PASS: DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR ARA/CEN; AMEMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR
FOR AMBASSADOR WALKER; FBI SAN ANTONIO PERSONAL ATTN: SAC
MICHAEL J. WILSON; LEGAT, MEXICO CITY PASS TO LEGAT, PANAMA;
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PASS TO MR. BARR; NSC PASS TO AMBASSADOR
DAVID MILLER.

EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, REQUEST FOR FBI

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- 1 - MR. BAKER
- 1 - MR. HICKS
- 1 - MR. HALF
- 1 - MR. ~~██████████~~ *h7c*
- 1 - MR. ~~██████████~~
- 1 - OLIA
- 1 - MR. ROBIN ROSS, DOJ

163-61055-81

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
0953 ER
JAN 06 1990
Document # 54

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2

CONTINUATION SHEET

ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT
PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR.

RE BUTEL DATED DECEMBER 13, 1989, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE. RE
TELCAL TO SAC MICHAEL J. WILSON, JANUARY 3, 1990.

REFERENCED TELETYPE DETAILED SPECIAL AGENT {SA} [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SAN ANTONIO FIELD DIVISION, TO SAN SALVADOR TO ADVISE
AND PROVIDE QUALITY CONTROL OBSERVATIONS ON POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT {SIU}
IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

ON JANUARY 3, 1990, RICHARD CHIDESTER, LEGAL OFFICER, U.S.
EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED
FBIHQ AND REQUESTED THAT SA [REDACTED] RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR
IMMEDIATELY DUE TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CAPTIONED MATTER.
CHIDESTER DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE DETAILS FOR SECURITY
REASONS. HE STRESSED THE URGENCY OF GETTING SA [REDACTED] TO SAN
SALVADOR. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT SA [REDACTED] BRING A PORTABLE
POLYGRAPH MACHINE WITH HIM.

b7c

CHIDESTER MAY BE REACHED THROUGH TELEPHONE NUMBER 503-26-
71-00 EXTENSION 2302. SHOULD SA [REDACTED] ENCOUNTER ANY
DIFFICULTIES {TRANSPORTATION, VISA, ETC.} HE IS TO CONTACT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

3

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

CHIDESTER FOR ASSISTANCE.

~~C BY BB1 DECL 0A3R~~

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336/005/210

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

1 3
1/5/90 UNCLAS ROUTINE

FM DIRECTOR FBI (163-61206)

TO FBI MIAMI/ROUTINE/

LEGAT MEXICO CITY/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //0026//

PASS: MIAMI, PERSONAL ATTENTION SAC, MIAMI; LEGAT, MEXICO CITY, PERSONAL ATTENTION LEGAT, MEXICO CITY; MEXICO CITY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE GUADALAJARA WITH THIS INFORMATION.

Individual

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, NOVEMBER 16, 1989; FPC-MURDER;

OO: HQ.

ON DECEMBER 27, 1989, FBIHQ RECEIVED A COPY OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE JESUIT CONFERENCE DATED DECEMBER 21, 1989. THE LETTER ENCLOSED A COPY OF A DOCUMENT CAPTIONED "THE REPORT ON THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS."

[redacted] b7c

1/5/90

7446

5904

- 1 - MR. BAKER
- 1 - MR. O'HARA
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. COLLINGWOOD

b7c

163-61055-35

- 1 - MR. HALE
- 1 - MR. [redacted]

163 61055 b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Document # 55

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THE LETTER FROM THE JESUIT CONFERENCE AND THE ENCLOSED REPORT CONTAIN ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH OUR TREATMENT AND INTERVIEWS OF LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA AND HER FAMILY WHILE IN FBI PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. IN ESSENCE, THE LETTER ALLEGES THAT WE TREATED MRS. CERNA LIKE A CRIMINAL SUSPECT INSTEAD OF A WITNESS AND THAT THE FBI'S INSENSITIVE AND APPARENTLY ABUSIVE TREATMENT FORCED HER TO RECANT HER TESTIMONY.

ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION (CID), HAS INSTRUCTED THAT AN INQUIRY BE CONDUCTED REGARDING THESE ALLEGATIONS AND HAS DESIGNATED CID PERSONNEL TO CONDUCT THAT INQUIRY. THE AGENTS INVOLVED IN THE INTERVIEW OF LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA WILL BE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND RESPOND TO THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER AND ENCLOSED REPORT.

FBI, MIAMI, AND LEGAT, MEXICO CITY, WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM CID REGARDING THE FORMAT OF THE AGENTS' RESPONSES.

THE JESUIT CONFERENCE LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURES ARE BEING FORWARDED TO MIAMI, MEXICO CITY, AND GUADALAJARA VIA EXPRESS

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MAIL.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

5 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

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(k)(4)

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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 1/6/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 80 (Document #56)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

5 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 1/6/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 36 (Document # 57)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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CLASS
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January 8, 1990

Honorable Don Edwards
Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil
and Constitutional Rights
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

3/10/92
4/13/94
#94-263

1045DKM/CLK
SP/10/1/92

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please be advised that we have received your letter to
Director Sessions dated January 2, 1990, regarding the slaying in
El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their cook, and her daughter.

A final response will be forthcoming.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John E. Collingwood
Inspector-in-Charge
Congressional Affairs Office

- 1 - Mr. Baker - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure (info)
- 1 - Mr. Hale - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. O'Hara - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood - Enclosure
- 2 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] - Enclosure

163-61055-112X7

- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Insp. _____
- Intell. _____
- Lab. _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

SSA [REDACTED]
ROOM 7240, TL-245

APPROVED:

- Director _____
- Dep. Dir. _____
- ADD-Adm. _____
- ADD-Inv. _____
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
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- Off. of EEO _____
- Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. _____
- Off. of Public Affs. _____

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Document #58

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Section 552

Section 552a

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4 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): duplicate of a document which is processed elsewhere - see 163-HQ-61055-112x9 (document # 51)

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055-112x7 and (document # 58, incl)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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Crim. Inv.	
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Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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3.13.92

DECLASSIFIED BY: 1648DKM/cyk
AUTHORITY ON: OADR
SP7cl/amy
#94-263

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

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P 062012Z JAN 90

FM FBI WFO (163A-HQ-61055) (P) (C-3)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

CITE: //3020//

PASS: OLIA FOR SSA [REDACTED] AD WILLIAM M. BAKER, CID.

SUBJECT: UNSUB (S); MURDER OF SIX (6) JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, NOVEMBER 16, 1989.

REFERENCE WFO TELETYPE TO FBIHQ, 12/5/89 AND TELEPHONE CALL OF SA [REDACTED] TO SSA [REDACTED] 1/4/90.

REQUEST OF FBIHQ:

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

163-61055-37

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Document # 59

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY (163A-MX-11917) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

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SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS

CITE: //5450//

PASS: FBIHQ, OLIA, ATTN: INSPECTOR IN CHARGE, MARTIN V. HALE.

#94-263
DECLASSIFIED BY SP7clb/awg
ON 4/15/94
for state Dept. files case # [redacted] on 4/15/94

#329075

3.5.92 1048DM/COE

Classified by SP7clb/awg

Declassify on: OADR 3/14/90

SP7clb/awg 4/18/94 #94-263

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, FPC - MURDER; OO: FBIHQ.

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO LEGAT, MEXICO CITY ON JANUARY 9, 1990.

163-61055-38

FIRST TRIP: NOVEMBER 22, 1989 THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 1989

1. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO CITY, ALAT [redacted] WAS BRIEFED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO REVIEW INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) AND MAKE

copies sent to
Male [redacted]
sent 11/10/90
FW/sch

[redacted] b7c

Document # 60

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE TWO DE MEX 0008 UNCLAS

RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS AS TO WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ENHANCE ONGOING INVESTIGATION, AND OR FBI TECHNICAL / FORENSIC ASSISTANCE THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

b7c

2. UPON ARRIVAL ALAT [REDACTED] WAS BRIEFED BY RICHARD CHIDESTER, U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR AND HE CONFIRMED THE ABOVE STATED PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, ADDING THAT ASSISTANCE RENDERED SHOULD AUGMENT, NOT REPLACE OR TAKE OVER THE SIU INVESTIGATION.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ARE DETAILED IN THE TELETYPE FROM MIAMI TO BUREAU, DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1989. IN ADDITION, A SUGGESTION WAS MADE TO OFFER A REWARD FOR INFORMATION IN THIS CASE, AS AT THE TIME THERE WERE NO SUSPECTS / SUBJECTS IDENTIFIED.

4. ON NOVEMBER 23, 1989, AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST WAS MADE THAT ALAT [REDACTED] ACCOMPANY CHIDESTER, AND LUCIA BARRERA (AN ALLEGED EYEWITNESS) TO THE U.S., BY FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

b7c

5. THE ABOVE WAS DONE, AND IN ADDITION ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED TO ADDITIONAL REQUESTS OF ASSISTANCE BY CHIDESTER IN INTERVIEW AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS IN MIAMI ON BOTH LUCIA AND HER HUSBAND, JORGE CERNA, AS WELL AS SECURITY FOR THE FAMILY WHILE THEY WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

SECOND TRIP: DECEMBER 16 THROUGH 19, 1989

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PAGE THREE DE MEX 0008 UNCLAS

1. UPON ARRIVAL IN SAN SALVADOR ALAT [REDACTED] REVIEWED [THE U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR CABLE WHICH CONTAINED SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR FBI ASSISTANCE, THESE WERE:] (S) (X) U b7c

- A. TWO POLYGRAPH MACHINES AND OPERATORS;
 - B. AN INCENDIARY EXPERT;
 - C. A BALLISTICS EXPERT ON IMPACT MARKINGS;
 - D. AND A SCALE MODEL OF THE CRIME SCENE AND IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD.
- (S) (X) U

THESE REQUESTS WERE DISCUSSED WITH CHIDESTER ON DECEMBER 17, 1989.

CHIDESTER EXPLAINED THAT DEA SA [REDACTED] WHO WAS ON TEMPORARY DETAIL TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR TO ASSIST IN THE INVESTIGATION, HAD SUGGESTED [THE NEED FOR AN "INCENDIARY EXPERT" AND "BALLISTICS EXPERT ON IMPACT MARKINGS"] THESE (S) (X) U REQUESTS WERE BASED ON TWO UNUSUALLY LARGE HOLES ON AN INSIDE HALLWAY WALL OF THE OFFICE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PRIESTS' SLEEPING QUARTERS, AND UNUSUAL BURN PATTERNS ON A TYPEWRITER AND TABLE TOP OBSERVED BY SA [REDACTED] DURING AN EXAMINATION OF THE CRIME SCENE. b7c IN ADDITION, MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, OF THE "TUTELA LEGAL" CONTINUED TO MAKE THE ACCUSATION THAT THE FIRE HAD BEEN CAUSED BY

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PAGE FOUR DE MEX 0008 UNCLAS

A MILITARY FLAME THROWER. THE NEED FOR A SCALE MODEL OF THE
CRIME SCENE WAS EXPLAINED IN REQUESTING CABLE ~~SECRET~~ U

2. ON DECEMBER 18, 1989, AN EXAMINATION OF THE CRIME SCENE
WAS CONDUCTED BY ALAT [REDACTED] IN THE COMPANY OF A TECHNICIAN
FROM THE EL SALVADOR SIU, AND THE PERMISSION OF FATHER ESTRADA,
THE CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA). b7c

THE TWO HOLES IN QUESTION, WHICH WERE LOCATED IN THE NORTH
WALL OF THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR OF THE THEOLOGY FACULTY BUILDING
WERE OBVIOUS EXIT HOLES APPARENTLY MADE BY 7.62 MM (M-60 MACHINE
GUN) ROUNDS STRIKING THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL, WHICH FACES THE
FRONT OF THE BUILDING, AND WAS SPRAYED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE.
THE SIU TECHNICIAN CONCURRED WITH THIS OPINION ADDING THAT THEY
HAD COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION DURING THEIR INITIAL EXAMINATION.

A NUMBER OF OFFICES IN THIS SAME BUILDING SHOWED EVIDENCE OF
ARSON, SOME SHOWING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO CONTENTS, WHILE OTHERS
HAD ONLY MINIMAL DAMAGE. THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM VIEWING
THE DEBRIS THAT A FLAME THROWER, NAPALM, THERMITE, WHITE
PHOSPHOROUS OR ANY OTHER MILITARY INCENDIARY DEVICE WAS USED IN
ANY OF THESE ROOMS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL OF THESE OFFICES
WERE VERY SMALL, APPROXIMATELY 10' X 10' OR LESS. A FLAME
THROWER DISCHARGED IN SUCH A CONFINED SPACE WOULD HAVE VERY

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LIKELY NOT ONLY INCINERATED EVERYTHING IN THE ROOMS, BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE CAUSED SEVERE BURNS ON THE PERSON EMPLOYING IT.

b7c

3. ALAT [REDACTED] THEN MET WITH LTC. RIVAS, COMMANDER OF THE SIU AND ASKED HIM ABOUT THE REQUESTS MADE BY THE EMBASSY. HE ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR TO POLYGRAPH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND THEY ONLY HAD ONE MACHINE AND THREE OPERATORS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE OTHER REQUESTS OR THE REASONS FOR THESE REQUESTS. THE ONLY THING THAT HE NEEDED HELP ON FROM THE FBI, AT THIS POINT, WAS AN EXAMINATION OF THE VICTIMS' CLOTHING TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF GUNPOWDER RESIDUE, EXPLAINING THAT HIS LABORATORY DID NOT HAVE THAT CAPABILITY, AS CHEMICAL ANALYSIS WAS REQUIRED, AND ALSO IN AN EXAMINATION OF DEBRIS FROM THE SCENE OF THE ARSON, IN ORDER TO DISPEL CLAIMS THAT A MILITARY FLAME THROWER HAD BEEN USED. LTC. RIVAS ADDED THAT THE SCENE AND RESIDUE HAD ALREADY BEEN EXAMINED BY HIS TECHNICIAN AND IT WAS THEIR OPINION THAT THE FIRE WAS NOT CAUSED BY A FLAME THROWER, BUT THEIR CONCLUSION LACKED CREDIBILITY, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE ACCUSATIONS BEING MADE BY TUTELA LEGAL.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ALAT [REDACTED] MET WITH CHIDESTER AND LTC. RIVAS

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PAGE SIX DE MEX 0008 UNCLAS

TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE REQUESTS. LTC RIVAS HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF
[THE REQUEST FOR A SCALE MODEL] OF THE CRIME SCENE AND AFTER (S) (S)
CONFERRING WITH HIS TECHNICIANS, A DECISION WAS REACHED TO TRY TO
PRODUCE ONE LOCALLY. ONE ALLEGEDLY ALREADY EXISTS IN UCA, AND
HAD BEEN OFFERED BY THE UCA ADMINISTRATION DURING THE INITIAL
PHASES OF THE INVESTIGATION, OR ONE COULD BE PRODUCED BY A
MILITARY ENGINEERING UNIT. SHOULD THESE EFFORTS FAIL, SIU
TECHNICIANS WERE INSTRUCTED ON PROCEDURES FOR THE MEASUREMENTS
AND PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED FOR THE FBI, LABORATORY TO PRODUCE THE
MODEL. THE MATTER OF THE POLYGRAPH WAS DISCUSSED AND AN
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT THE POLYGRAPH TECHNIQUE WOULD BE
UTILIZED SELECTIVELY, RATHER THAN FOR SCREENING, AS THE
REQUESTING CABLE IMPLIED. IN CONCLUSION, LTC. RIVAS REQUESTED
FBI LABORATORY SUPPORT IN EXAMINING VICTIMS CLOTHING FOR GUN
POWDER RESIDUE, AND DEBRIS FROM THE SCENE OF THE ARSON FOR THE
PRESENCE OF ANY ACCELERENT.

4. THERE WERE NO ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL OR
FORENSIC ASSISTANCE FROM EITHER LTC. RIVAS OR CHIDESTER. BOTH
WERE REQUESTED TO CONTACT ALAT [REDACTED] SHOULD ANY ADDITIONAL
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FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY (163A-MX-11917) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

SECTION TWO OF TWO SECTIONS

CITE: //5450//

PASS: FBIHQ, OLIA, ATTN: INSPECTOR IN CHARGE, MARTIN V. HALE.

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR, FPC - MURDER; OO: FBIHQ.

TEXT CONTINUES:

REQUESTS ARISE.

TWO BOXES CONTAINING ARSON DEBRIS, AND SIX BAGS CONTAINING
VICTIMS' CLOTHING WERE RECEIVED FROM LTC. RIVAS THE EVENING OF
DECEMBER 18, 1989 AND DELIVERED BY ALAT [REDACTED] TO THE FBI
LABORATORY, WASHINGTON, D.C. ON DECEMBER 20, 1989.

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PAGE TWO DE MEX 0009 UNCLAS

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ON DECEMBER 20, 1989 AN ORAL BRIEFING BY ALAT [REDACTED] WAS
MADE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM WALKER ON DECEMBER 20, 1989, AT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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#0009

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CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH
MOAKLEY PAPERS
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DE MEX #0003 0102313

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P 102312Z JAN 90

FM LEGAT MEXICO CITY

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

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CITE: //5450//

PASS: FBIHQ, OLIA, INSPECTOR IN CHARGE, MARTIN V. HALE.

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Exec Dir	
Asst Dir	
Adm. Servs	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Off. of Int. Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-5-92 BY 1045 DTM/ok
4-8-94 SP/ale/sury
#94-263

163-61055-39
b7c

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF DEPUTY LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TO SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, JANUARY 10, 1990.

RE OLIA TELEPHONE CALL TO MEXICO CITY JANUARY 10, 1990.

IN RESPONSE TO REFERENCED COMMUNICATION, DEPUTY LEGAL ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY [REDACTED] HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING

15 MAR 2 1990

TRAVEL ITINERARY: b7c

DLAT [REDACTED] IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART MEXICO CITY, MEXICO 1:15 PM VIA TACA FLIGHT 411 SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR 4:40 PM SAME DATE. COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR TRAVEL HAS

OLIA

Document # 61

1cc [REDACTED] b7c
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[REDACTED] (Cost)

PAGE TWO DE MEX 0003 UNCLAS

BEEN SECURED BY LEGAT, MEXICO CITY THROUGH U.S. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AND ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SECURE TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING FOR DLAT [REDACTED] WHILE IN SAN SALVADOR. *b7c*

THE PURPOSE OF ABOVE TRAVEL IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR INTO THE NOVEMBER 19, 1989 KILLING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS AT SAN SALVADOR.

WHILE IN SAN SALVADOR, DLAT [REDACTED] WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR LEGAL OFFICER, RICHARD CHIDESTER AND WILL BE LODGED AT THE EL CAMINO REAL HOTEL, SAN SALVADOR, TELEPHONE NUMBER (503)23-3344. *b7c*

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Section 552

Section 552a

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For your information: this is a Department of State communication
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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 96 (Document # 62)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055- 82 (Document # 65)

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FM FBI SAN SALVADOR/DLAT [REDACTED]
 TO RUEHFB/FBIHQ//ATTN: OLIA MARTIN GALE, RM 7443//, NIACT IMMEDIATE
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~~SECRET~~ FBI SAN SALVADOR 236

SUBJ: UNSUB(S); SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR, 11/16/89

RE: SECURE FAX FROM FBIHQ, RECEIVED 1/13/90

FOR INFORMATION, SECURE FAX RECEIVED AND PROVIDED TO U.S. [REDACTED]
 AMBASSADOR, EL SALVADOR AND MUCH APPRECIATED.

163-61055- [REDACTED]

U.S. AMBASSADOR, EL SALVADOR, HAS (1/13/90) SPOKEN TO THE
 PRESIDENT, EL SALVADOR REGARDING MAJOR NEWS RELEASE BY THE
 PRESIDENT AS SAME PERTAINS TO CAPTION MATTER. NEWS CONFERENCE
 TO BE HELD 1/13/90 WHEREIN IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT
 OF EL SALVADOR WILL ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF 10 (TEN) SUBJECTS IN
 CAPTION MATTER TO INCLUDE 4 OFFICERS (ONE COLONEL, 3 LTS.), AND
 OTHERS (ALL MILITARY). U.S. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE ADVISED THAT

Document #66

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BASED ON FORENSIC EVIDENCE THE FOUR WEAPONS (TO INCLUDE AK-47) HAVE BEEN LINKED TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS THROUGH BALLISTIC MATCHING OF SHELL CASINGS. (DONE BY SIU LAB PERSONNEL).

ADDITIONALLY, HANDWRITING ANALYSIS OF NOTE (HAND PRINTED) LEFT AT SCENE OF PATION MATTER, CLAIMING FMLN WAS RESPONSIBLE, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING WRITTEN BY A MEMBER OF THE EL SALVADORAN MILITARY (NAME HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED). THIS INDIVIDUAL IS ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS BEING DETAINED. SIU PERSONNEL CONDUCTED THIS ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATION.

AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, COLONEL CARLOS A. AVILES WAS POLY-GRAPHED BY SIU ON 1/6-7/90 AND DETERMINED TO BE DECEPTIVE REGARDING MAJOR BUCKLANDS CLAIMS. U.S. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE PICKED UP INFORMATION THAT AVILES HAS BEEN TALKING TO THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA IN AN EFFORT TO LESSEN HIS EXPOSURE AND DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IT IS NOTED THAT AVILES WAS THE FORMER PRESS OFFICER FOR SALVADORAN MILITARY AND CONTINUES TO HAVE MEDIA CONTACTS. U.S. EMBASSY, EL SALVADOR WILL MAKE EFFORT TO HAVE AVILES INTERVIEWED AND RE-POLYGRAPHED.

COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL AFTER NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

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Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055- 101 (Document # 67)

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FM FBI SAN SALVADOR //DLAT

TO RUEHFB/RUEHQ//ATTN: OLIA MARTIN V. HALE ROOM 7443//, VIACIT IMMEDIATE

SECTION 01 OF 02

SUBJ: UNSUB(S); SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR, 11/16/89

RE: SAN SALVADOR TEL TO BU, 1/13/90

163-61055-59

AS REPORTED IN RETEL, THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR HELD A NEWS
CONFERENCE AT 3:00 PM 1/13/90 AND ANNOUNCED THE IDENTIFICATION OF
THE EL SALVADORIAN MILITARY INVOLVED IN CAPTIONED MATTER AND THE ARREST
OF 2 OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. (ONE SOLDIER DESERTED IN DECEMBER 1989
AND REMAINS IN A FUGITIVE STATUS). THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO

cc Hile

Document #68

DA

PAGE 02

0237 ~~S E C R E T~~

~~LT. JOSE RICARDO ESPINOZA GUERRA~~

~~LT. YUSSHY RENE MENDOZA VALLECILLOS~~

~~2ND LT. GONZALO GUEVARA CERRITOS~~

~~SUBSGT. ANTONIO RAMIRO AVALOS VARGAS~~

~~SUBSGT. TOMAS ZARPATE CASTILLO~~

~~CPL. ANGEL PEREZ VASQUEZ~~

~~PVT. OSCAR MARIANO AMAYO GRIMALDI~~

~~PVT. JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASCENCIO~~

PVT. JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASCERICIO DESERTED THE MILITARY IN DECEMBER 1989 AND REMAINS IN A FUGITIVE STATUS.

ALL OF THE ABOVE WERE MEMBERS OF THE SALVADORIAN MILITARY "ATLACATL BATTALION", WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COLONEL GUILLERMO BENAVIDES, COMMANDER OF THE SALVADORIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, AND LT. YUSSHY RENE MENDOZA VALLECILLO, WHO WORKS FOR BENAVIDES. (IT IS NOTED THAT THE ATLACATL BATTALION WAS HOUSED THAT NIGHT AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR). BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, AS OF 1/18/90, IS NOT AVAILABLE ON SUBJECTS ABOVE.

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TO RUEHFB/BSIHQ//ATTN: OLIA MARTIN V. HALE, RM 7443//, NIACT IMMEDIATE

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SECRET SECTION 02 OF 02

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ADMINISTRATIVE

DEPENDING UPON THE VALIDITY OF THE MAJOR BUCKLAND INFORMATION, OTHER SALVADORIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE IMPLICATED, TO SOME DEGREE, IN CAPTIONED MATTER.

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT BUCKLAND, PRIOR TO 11/16/89, WAS TOLD BY COLONEL AVILES OF A PENDING MILITARY ACTION/OPERATION (NOT CONNECTED TO THE KILLINGS) PLANNED FOR THE UCA AREA. THEN LATER, COLONEL AVILES, IN LATE DECEMBER 1989, TELLS BUCKLAND WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT THE 11/16/89 INCIDENT. BUCKLAND COULD HAVE

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TALKED HIMSELF INTO ASSUMING THAT COL. AVILES TOLD HIM (HOWEVER CRYPTIC) PRIOR TO THE 11/16/89 INCIDENT, WHERE ACTUALLY COL. AVILES HAD ADVISED HIM OF SOME OTHER PENDING MILITARY ACTION, STATING THAT THE UCA AREA WAS CONSIDERED A "HOTBED" OF PREVIOUS REBEL ACTIONS. THIS AREA SHOULD BE EXPLORED WITH BUCKLAND AS HE MAY BE OVERREACTING AND CREATING A FALSE SCENARIO, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO LOGICALLY CONSIDER WHEN HE KNEW WHAT (CONSUMED WITH GUILT). IT IS NOTED THAT COL. AVILES POLYGRAPH DID NOT ACTUALLY COVER DATES (BEFORE 11/16/89 AFTER 11/16/89) EVENTHOUGH COL. AVILES SHOWED DECEPTION TO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT HIM INFORMING MAJOR BUCKLAND OF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTIONED MATTER. THIS COULD BECOME QUITE SIGNIFICANT AS THE NEWS MEDIA DEVELOPS THE AMERICAN MILITARY ANGLE.

IT IS NOTED THAT THE NEWS MEDIA IS QUITE ACTIVE IN EL SALVADOR AND THERE APPEARS TO BE EXTENSIVE INTERACTION WITH THE NEWS MEDIA BY U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE "OPEN DOOR" POLICY WILL IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS, AND IN FACT MAY BE A "POSITIVE", HOWEVER, THE BUREAU SHOULD BE AWARE OF SAME.

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PAGE 08

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IT IS NOTED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS EXCELLENT LIAISON AND SUPPORT WITH ALL LEVELS OF THE PRESENT EL SALVADORIAN ADMINISTRATION, TO INCLUDE SIU. THE SIU IS AN ICITAP DEVELOPED AND FUNDED UNIT. ICITAP EMPLOYEE RAY BAGNON, WHO RESIDES IN EL SALVADOR HAS ASSISTED U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS SINCE CAPTIONED INCIDENT AND HAS ACTED, AND CONTINUES TO ACT IN A LIAISON CAPACITY, IN THIS CASE, AND SPENDS THE MAJORITY OF HIS TIME AT SIU ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY.

AS THE SIU BEGAN TO DEVELOPE POSITIVE FACTS IN THIS MATTER THEY BECAME LESS WILLING TO SHARE CASE DIRECTION, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO IMPART SOME ASPECTS OF SAME TO U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL, SUCH AS POLYGRAPH RESULTS AND THE LIKE. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE BASED ON THE FACT THAT MOST INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES REACT IN THE SAME MANNER AS A CASE OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE ENTERS A SENSITIVE STAGE. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, NEW SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATORS, AND OTHERS WERE ALL INVOLVED AND IN SOME CASES DUPLICATING EFFORT. IN ADDITION, IT IS APPARENT THAT BASED ON THE RANK OF SOME OF THE SUBJECTS

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IMMEDIATELY. THE SALVADORIAN GOVERNMENT REQUIRED SOME TIME TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE AND SUBSEQUENT FALLOUT. IT IS NOTED THAT IN THE EL SALVADORIAN MILITARY A COLONEL IS A POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL AND CARRIES THE TYPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES USUALLY ASSIGNED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

END OF PAGE

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SHOULD ADDITIONAL U.S. MILGROUP PERSONNEL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW/POLYGRAPH, THAT SAME BE ACCOMPLISHED OUT OF COUNTRY (WASHINGTON, D.C.). IT IS NOTED THAT U.S. EMBASSY, EL SALVADOR, WAS IN RECENT YEARS, DAMAGED BY AN EARTHQUAKE CONSEQUENTLY SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM AND MOST EVERYONE ARE IN SMALL CRAMPED QUARTERS, MAKING PRIVACY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE OF CONTINUED TERRORIST THREAT OF ANOTHER LARGE OFFENSIVE, EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE JUSTIFIABLY INTERESTED IN ONGOING MATTERS, FURTHER AFFECTING THE ABILITY TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIALITY. BASED ON SPACE LIMITATIONS, IT IS EVEN DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT A TELEPHONE CALL IN PRIVATE (ON SCENE BUAGENTS PRESENTLY SHARING A 10X10 OFFICE WITH U.S. EMBASSY LEGAL ADVISOR RICK CHIDESTER).

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PAGE 10

0237 ~~SECRET~~

THE BUREAU IS FURTHER REQUESTED TO ADVISE ON SCENE BUAGENTS,
OF ANY EXPECTED CID INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER. ALSO, IF U.S.
MILITARY CONTEMPLATES MILITARY ACTION AGAINST MAJOR BUCKLAND.

LEADS

WILL REPORT RESULTS OF THE SIU CASE PRESENTATION TO THE
PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE.

WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REPLYGRAPH AND INTERVIEW COL. AVILES.

WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SOME BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON SUBJECTS NAMED.

WILL FOLLOW UP ON OBTAINING FULL DETAILS FROM BUCKLANDS ROOMMATE,
AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RE POLYGRAPH.

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TO RUEHFS/FBIHQ//ATTN: OLIA MARTIN V. HALE, RM 7443//, IMMEDIATE

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DATE 4-11-94 BY SP7/CLP/ptc
CA# 94-263

SUBJ: UNSUB (S); SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR, 11/16/89

①

REF: AMB CABLE TO DDS, HDC AND FBIHQ, 1/16/90
FBI SAN SALVADOR TELETYPE TO BU, 1/16/90
FBI SAN SALVADOR FACS TO BU, 1/16/90

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163-61055-91

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, SUBJECTS (REFERRED TO IN REFERENCED
TELETYPE DATED 1/16/90) APPEARED BEFORE PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE
AT 8:00 AM 1/16/90. THE COURT NOW HAS 72 HOURS TO FORMALLY CHARGE
EACH DEFENDANT.

SUPREME COURT MAGISTRATES WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO REVIEW SIU

FEB 1990

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FOUND EVERYTHING TO BE IN ORDER AND NO PROBLEMS ARE ANTICIPATED. ALL 8 SUBJECTS IN CUSTODY ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. SIU BECOMES AN INVESTIGATIVE ARM OF THE COURT.

CAPT. CARLOS ALBERTO PUENTE'S STATEMENT, WHILE BRIEF, COVERS THE AREAS OF IMPORTANCE, NOTING THAT HE, PUENTE, DOES NOT PLACE COL. AVILES WITH MAJOR BUCKLAND THE NIGHT OF CAPTION MATTER, THEREBY LENDING MORE CREDENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT BUCKLAND IS MESHING FRAGMENTED FACTS/EVENTS AND MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE ACTUAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. NO RECOMMENDATION TO POLYGRAPH CAPT. PUENTE BEING MADE AT THIS TIME. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CAPT. PUENTE'S STATEMENT (MADE TO U.S. MILGROUP [REDACTED] [REDACTED] EL SALVADOR) SHOULD BE USED DURING ANY SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR BUCKLAND. FBIHQ MAY WANT TO CONSIDER HYPNOSIS AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING ACCURATE INFORMATION IN A LESS CONFRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE.

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INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

ADMINISTRATIVE

CASE DIRECTION, FROM THE INCEPTION HAS BEEN HANDLED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE, SPECIFICALLY LEGAL OFFICER DICK CHIDESTER, POLITICAL OFFICER JANICE ELMORE, ICITAP COORDINATOR RAY GAGNON, AND OTHERS AS REQUIRED. CHIDESTER AND ELMORE ARE QUITE CAPABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY AND THE SOURCES TO KEEP THIS MATTER MOVING FORWARD. THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM ARE VERY INVOLVED AND WHEN NOT PERSONALLY DIRECTING THE MATTER, ARE UPDATED THROUGH A DAILY FORMAL CONFERENCE, AND INFORMALLY BRIEFED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AS EVENTS WARRANT.

CHIDESTER HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB KEEPING THE MOMENTUM OF THE CASE GOING AND ELMORE'S COMPILATION OF CONTACT INFORMATION (AND ASSESSMENT OF SAME) HAS PROVED VALUABLE TO THE OVERALL UNDERSTANDING OF EVENTS, BOTH POLITICALLY AND CULTURALLY. THE CHIDESTER/ELMORE TEAM EFFORT IS QUITE EFFECTIVE, NOT ONLY WITH

THE NECESSARY STREET LEVEL WORK, BUT ALL LEVELS OF THE MILITARY,
NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER EL SALVADORIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

REGARDING THE RECENT NEW YORK TIMES AND NEWSWEEK ARTICLES ON
THE MAJOR BUCKLAND STORY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Referral
to State*

IT IS NOTED THAT A DDS CABLE, DATED 15 JAN 90, ENTITLED "U.S.
OFFICER HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF SALVADORIAN MURDERS" INDICATES
THAT THE PENTAGON REFUTED PRESS SPECULATION THAT A U.S. MILITARY
OFFICER HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE.... FBIHQ MAY WANT TO OBTAIN A
COPY OF THIS NEWS ARTICLE.

DECL OADR.

~~ALL SECRET.~~

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055- 79 (Document # 70)

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1/16

Please Furnish Complete Information

Agency submitting evidence CLIA, FBIHQ		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Local or State	Date 1/16/90
Delivered by SSA [REDACTED]		Accepted by [Signature]	Laboratory # 00116093 P
Suspect(s) [REDACTED]		Victim(s) SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, housekeeper & 1 child	
Offense Foreign Police Cooperation		Place and date of offense 11/16/89, San Salvador, El Salvador	
Agency case #		Date of hearing, grand jury, trial, or reason why expeditious handling is necessary	

Who examines this case Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Evid. located Room # _____	Report to be directed to CLIA/1111 Room 1446 71295
Evidence to be returned to <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed Back <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picked Up by Contributor		

ORIGINAL Copy & Specs Detached to
Facts covering case
THIS IS AN FPC MATTER, ASSISTING U.S. EMBASSY & EL SALVADORIAN SECURITY.

Description of evidence 1 VHS VIDEO CASSETTE (1 hr 10 min ±)	Exams requested Duplicate cassette twice for CLIA
--	---

INDEX EGG

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Document # 71

[Signature]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FM FBI SAN SALVADOR//DLAT



TO RUEHFR/FBIHQ//ATTN: BLIA MARTIN Y. HALE, RM 7443//

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ FBI SAN SALVADOR 0239

SUBJECT: CHANGED

DECLASSIFIED ON 3.6.92 BY 1048DKM/epk # 329075

M. V. H. H. H.

COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO;

LT. JOSE RICARDO ESPINOZA GUERRA;

LT. YUSSHY RENE MENDOZA VALLECILLOS;

2NDLT GONZALO GUEVARA CERRITOS;

SUBSGT. ANTONIO RAMIRO AVALOS VARGAS;

SUBSGT. TOMAS ZAPATE CASTILLO;

CPL. ANGEL PEREZ VASQUEZ;

PVT. OSCAR MARIANO AMAYO GRIMALDI;

PVT. JORGE ALBERTO SIERRA ASCENCIO;

SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR,

11/16/89; FPC, 00:8U

#94-263
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/12/94 BY SP/CL/BJG

163-61055-60

Document #72 *cc*

GAH

PAGE 02 RUESAL 0239 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TITLE CHANGED TO REFLECT SUBJECTS NAMED IN CAPTIONED MATTER TO DATE. TITLE PREVIOUSLY CARRIED AS "UNSUB(S); SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, 11/16/89."

REQUEST OF BUREAU

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO NOTE CHANGED TITLE AND NOTIFY APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICES THAT HAVE RECEIVED PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

EFFORTS CONTINUE TO SECURE SUFFICIENT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON SUBJECTS FOR INDEXING PURPOSES.

IT IS NOTED THAT EXTENSIVE DUS CABLE BEING TRANSMITTED 1/17/90, ATTENTION TO FPI, MARTIN V. HALE, WHICH SUMMARIZES CURRENT STATUS OF CASE.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055-112X (Document # 73)

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Section 552

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dated 1/17/90

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TO FBIHQ //ATTN: OLIA MARTIN V. HALE, RM 7445//
T
E C X E T FBI SAN SALVADOR 0240

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1048 dxm/jck
ON 3.6.92

OBJ: COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO DEVAVIDES MORENO;
ET AL: SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS,
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, 11/16/89; FPC, JO: BU

163-61055-71

E: SAN SALVADOR FBI TEL TO BU, 1/17/90

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ADMINISTRATIVE

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4-8-94 SPT Cle/jck
CA# 94-263

OLIA

SA [REDACTED] PRESENTLY IN EL SALVADOR, HAS BEEN REQUESTED
TO TRAVEL TO PANAMA CITY, PANAMA (REQUEST MADE BY OLIA UNIT CHIEF
[REDACTED] TO CONDUCT SEVERAL POLYGRAPHS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
A [REDACTED] IS PRESENTLY SECURING A VISA FROM THE PANAMANIAN
EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR.

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① [REDACTED]
② # [REDACTED] (get copy)

CC: HALE, [REDACTED] *b7c* Document # 76
1-14 R-7458 (OLIA) [initials]

PAGE 02 RUESAL 0240 ~~S E C R E T~~

FURTHER, DLAT MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER SINCE JANUARY 10, 1990 AND AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE QUITE COMMITTED TO REMAINING ABREAST OF ALL ASPECTS OF SAM . SINCE THE ARRESTS OF CAPTIONED SUBJECTS, THIS MATTER HAS MOVED MORE INTO A "FOLLOW AND REPORT" AND POLITICAL ARENA RATHER THAN AN INVESTIGATIVE ONE, THEREBY DIMINISHING FBI ROLE AND NEED FOR FBI PRESENCE. ALL PERTINENT DOS CABLES PERTAINING TO CAPTION MATTER GO DIRECTLY TO FBIHQ FOR INFORMATION AND SUFFICIENTLY COMMENT ON ALL IMPORTANT AREAS/ASPECTS OF CAPTIONED MATTER FROM AN INVESTIGATIVE, JUDICIAL, AND POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

IT IS NOTED THAT ONCE THIS CASE MOVED FROM THE INVESTIGATIVE PHASE TO THE COURT SYSTEM, FURTHER INVESTIGATIVE REQUESTS, FROM THE SALVADORIAN GOVERNMENT FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE, ARE MOST PROBABLY NOT FORTHCOMING UNLESS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SEES A NEED FOR SAME AND PRESSURES THE SALVADORIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT SAME.

DLAT MEXICO CITY HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM WALKER WHO CONCURS THAT FBI PRESENCE IS NOT NECESSARY AT THIS TIME BASED ON DIMINISHED INVESTIGATIVE REQUESTS BY THE

PAGE 03 RUESAL 0240 ~~S E C R E T~~

SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. DLAT MEXICO CITY ASSURED U.S. AMBASSADOR WALKER THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE FOR FBI INVESTIGATIVE OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SAME WOULD BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY.

IN VIEW OF ABOVE, AND ON A UACB BASIS, DLAT, MEXICO CITY HAS MADE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SATURDAY, 1/20/90. DECL OADR

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FM FRI SAN SALVADOR 0701AT [REDACTED]
TO DIRECTOR/ASST/ATTN: ELIA MARTIN V. GILL, 744311

Mart, Hake

~~S F C F T F L I S A J S A L V A D O R 0241~~

SUBJ: COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO CENAVIDES TORRES,
ET AL; SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN
SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, 11/13/79; FPO,
08:00

RE: FRI, SAN SALVADOR, TEL TJ 00, 1/17/83

163-61055-92

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, ON 1/17/83, SIG. COMMANDER COLONEL RIVAS
ADVISED AGENTS THAT HE DOES NOT FORESEE ANY REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE (POLYGRAPH) FROM THE FBI IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RIVAS INDICATED
THAT SHOULD THE NEED ARISE HE WOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH U.S.
EMBASSY PERSONNEL, SAN SALVADOR. RIVAS STATED THAT FUTURE CASE DIRECTION

366
cc - CRIM DIV
OLIA

cc Hake
Document # 77

Duba

PAGE 02 RUESAL 0241 S ~~E~~ C R E T

AND INVESTIGATIVE REQUESTS ARE UP TO THE PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE.

ON 1/17/90 RIVAS ADVISED HE SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH A JESUIT REPRESENTATIVE WHO ADVISED THAT THEY, THE JESUITS, INTEND TO HIRE A PRIVATE PROSECUTOR IN THIS CASE. RIVAS INDICATED THAT UNDER SALVADORAN LAW IT IS PERMISSABLE TO HIRE THE PROSECUTOR FOR A PARTICULAR CASE. RIVAS ADVISED THAT THIS MAY BE GOOD FOR THE CASE SINCE THE JESUITS WOULD BE QUITE VOCAL CRITICAL OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE, DEPENDING ON FINAL RESOLUTION.

ON 1/18/90 RIVAS MADE AVAILABLE, FOR REVIEW, TO BUAGENTS, THE STATEMENTS MADE BY CAPTIONED SUBJECTS. BASICALLY, ALL OF THE ENLISTED MEN (SGTS, CPL. & PVTS) ADMIT TO THEIR ROLE IN CAPTIONED MATTER. STATEMENTS MADE BY THE OFFICERS ARE IN CONFLICT IN TERMS OF WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION AT THE UCA CAMPUS AND WHO WAS PRESENT WHEN COL. BENAVIDES GAVE THE ORDERS. COLONEL BENAVIDES DENIES GIVING THE ORDER TO KILL ANYONE. LT. MENDOZA DENIES BEING PRESENT WHEN COL. BENAVIDES ORDERS LT. ESPINOZA TO KILL THE PRIESTS, AND DENIES BEING IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION AT UCA. LT. ESPINOZA AND 2ND LT. GUEVARA PLACE LT. MENDOZA IN THE

PAGE 03 RUESAL 0241 S E ~~C R~~ E T

BRIEFING WITH COL. BENAVIDES AND GUEVARA & ESPINOSA ACKNOWLEDGE THAT
LT. MENDOZA WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION BY COL. BENAVIDES.
ALL FOUR OFFICERS HAVE ENTERED "NOT GUILTY" PLEAS BEFORE THE COURT.

ON 1/19/90, PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE DR. RICARDO ZAMORA,
REVIEWED THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND MADE THE DETERMINATION THAT
THERE WAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO CHARGE ALL 8 SUBJECTS IN CUSTODY
(THE 9TH SUBJECT REMAINS A FUGITIVE).
THE CASE NOW GOES INTO AN INSTRUCTIONAL PHASE WHEREIN THE JUDGE
REVIEWS THE TOTAL CASE PRIOR TO AN ACTUAL TRIAL (WHICH MAY OR MAY
NOT BE A JURY TRIAL, DEPENDING ON PLEASE MADE, ETC.).

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~~SECRET~~ FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: [CIA] WASHINGTON, DC/IMMEDIATE/

DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CEN//IMMEDIATE

BT

~~UNCLAS E F T O~~

CITE: //0026//

PASS: [CIA TRANSMIT TO] AMEMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, FOR AMBASSADOR
WILLIAM G. WALKER, SAN SALVADOR; ARA FOR BERNARD ARONSON.

SUBJECT: COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO; ET AL;
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR,
NOVEMBER 16, 1989; FPC - MURDER.

U.S. ARMY MAJOR ERIC WARREN BUCKLAND WAS INTERVIEWED AT
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA, ON JANUARY 18-19, 1990, BY SPECIAL
AGENTS OF THE FBI. AT THE OUTSET OF THE INTERVIEW, MAJOR
BUCKLAND WAS ADVISED THAT HE WAS BEING QUESTIONED PARTICULARLY
ON ANY INFORMATION KNOWN TO HIM PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 16, 1989,

163-61055-77

MVH [REDACTED] (93) 1/19/90 7443 5904

- 1 - MR. REVELL
- 1 - MR. BAKER
- 1 - MR. HICKS
- 1 - MR. [REDACTED]
- 1 - MR. HALE
- 1 - MR. [REDACTED]
- 1 - MR. [REDACTED]
- 1 - MR. [REDACTED]

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4-8-94
CA# 94-263

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Document # 78

AV

2

COMMUNICATION SHEET

REGARDING THE KILLING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS. ~~SECRET~~

MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED THAT ALL STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY HIM TO THE FBI ON JANUARY 10, 1990, REGARDING EVENTS BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 20, 1989, WHEN SALVADORAN COLONEL CARLOS A. AVILES TOLD HIM ABOUT THE JESUIT KILLINGS ARE CORRECT.

MAJOR BUCKLAND ADVISED THAT HIS STATEMENTS TO THE FBI OF JANUARY 11-12, 1990, SPECIFICALLY REGARDING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE KILLINGS, ARE NOT CORRECT. HE ADVISED HE DOES NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING ANY PROPOSED THREAT TO OR ATTACK ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA (UCA) AND/OR JESUIT PRIESTS PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 16, 1989.

MAJOR BUCKLAND ADVISED THAT AROUND THE END OF OCTOBER, 1989, HE DID ACCOMPANY COLONEL AVILES ON ONE VISIT AND POSSIBLY TWO VISITS TO THE SALVADORAN MILITARY SCHOOL WHERE COLONEL BENAVIDES WAS THE COMMANDANT. HE STATED COLONEL AVILES TOLD HIM HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO GO SEE COLONEL BENAVIDES TO "SMOOTH OUT A PROBLEM," NOT FURTHER DEFINED BY COLONEL AVILES. DURING THE VISIT(S) TO THE SCHOOL, MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED HE DOES NOT RECALL COLONEL AVILES MAKING ANY STATEMENT REGARDING ANY PROPOSED ACTION AGAINST THE UCA OR THE JESUIT PRIESTS BY

3

COMMUNICATION SHEET

ANYONE.

MAJOR BUCKLAND RECALLS THAT AROUND THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN NOVEMBER, 1989, COLONEL AVILES AND HIS FAMILY VACATIONED AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. HE STATED HE SAW COLONEL AVILES UPON HIS RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR ON EITHER NOVEMBER 15 OR 16, 1989. MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED HE DOES NOT RECALL COLONEL AVILES MAKING ANY COMMENT ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 16, 1989, TO THE EFFECT THAT ANY SALVADORAN MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNING OR WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK AT UCA.

MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED THAT SHORTLY AFTER HEARING OF THE KILLING OF THE SIX PRIESTS IT WAS HIS, MAJOR BUCKLAND'S, SUSPICION THAT THE FMLN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME.

MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED ALSO THAT SOME TIME BETWEEN THE KILLING OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS AND DECEMBER 20, 1989, COLONEL AVILES DID MENTION TO HIM THAT AVILES HAD VISITED THE SCENE OF THE CRIME AND THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AND AVILES FELT THERE WAS A 50-50 POSSIBILITY THE SALVADORAN MILITARY HAD CONDUCTED THE ATROCITY.

MAJOR BUCKLAND ADVISED THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER 29 AND DECEMBER 2, 1989, HE, COLONEL AVILES, AND SALVADORAN VICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

4

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, RICHARD VALDIBIASO, TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, D.C., TO TRANSPORT AN SA7 WEAPON WHICH HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE THEN RECENT PLANE CRASH IN EL SALVADOR. MAJOR BUCKLAND NOTED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THAT THREE OR FOUR DAY VISIT, HE DOES NOT RECALL ANY SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ABOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE JESUIT KILLINGS OR ABOUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE OTHER THAN THE FMLN.

IN SUMMARY, MAJOR BUCKLAND STATED THAT HE POSSESSED NO SPECIFIC PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MURDERS OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS OR ANY SPECIFIC PLANS OR THREATS AGAINST THEM.

MAJOR BUCKLAND ATTRIBUTED HIS JANUARY 11 AND 12, 1990, STATEMENTS AS TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF PRE-NOVEMBER 16, 1989, EVENTS TO: HIS BEING CONVINCED AT THE INTERVIEW/POLYGRAPH THAT HE DID HAVE SOME PRIOR KNOWLEDGE; THAT HE HAD BEEN SUPPRESSING SUCH PRIOR KNOWLEDGE; HIS FEELINGS OF HELPLESSNESS AND CONFUSION; AND THAT HE BEGAN TO DOUBT HIMSELF AND THE THINGS THAT HE KNEW TO BE TRUE.

MAJOR BUCKLAND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY FOR MEDIA ACCOUNTS RELATING TO HIM AND HIS REPORTED KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE INCIDENT AT UCA, SAN SALVADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

5

CONFIDENTIAL

PARTICULARLY HIS COOPERATION WITH AND STATEMENTS TO THE FBI.

BT

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TO FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/

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Industrial

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SUBJECT: MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN SAN SALVADOR,
EL SALVADOR; FPC.

ON THURSDAY JANUARY 4, 1990, THE LANGUAGE SERVICES UNIT
{LSU} REQUESTED TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE FROM WMFO RE CAPTIONED
CASE IN ORDER TO MEET A JANUARY 8, 1990, DEADLINE SET BY THE
OFFICE OF LIAISON AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. WMFO LANGUAGE
SPECIALISTS {LS} [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WERE ASSIGNED TO
HELP LSU PERSONNEL COMPLETE THE WORK.

b7c

BAT

THE ACCOUNTING AND BUDGET ANALYSIS UNIT, ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES DIVISION, HAS APPROVED 29 HOURS OF OVERTIME FOR LS

- 1 - Mr. Christensen [REDACTED] *b7c*
- 1 - Mrs. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Ms. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] Room 7446
- 1 - Ms. [REDACTED] room 6037

163-61055-41
1/19/90 3505 2989/7
~~163-61206-4~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

1523 CK
JAN 22 1990

Document # 79

[Handwritten mark]

2

██████████ AND 4 HOURS FOR LS ██████████ FOR PAY PERIOD 2 FOR THE ABOVE
MENTIONED CASE.

BT

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hrc

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

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| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A) | <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6) | | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |

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_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 1/19/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
163-HQ-61055- 42 (Document # 80)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(A)

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(b)(7)(B)

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(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

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(k)(7)

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_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 1/20/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055-62 (Document # 81)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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DOMTE B. FASCELL, FLORIDA,
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM S. BROOMFIELD, MICHIGAN
RANKING MEMBER

One Hundred First Congress
Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

LEE H. HAMILTON, INDIANA
GUS YATRON, PENNSYLVANIA
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, NEW YORK
GERRY E. STUDS, MASSACHUSETTS
HOWARD WOLFE, MICHIGAN
GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR., MICHIGAN
SAM GEJDENSON, CONNECTICUT
MERYVYN M. DYBALLY, CALIFORNIA
TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
PETER H. KOSTMAYER, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT G. TORRICELLI, NEW JERSEY
LAWRENCE J. SMITH, FLORIDA
HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
MEL LEVINE, CALIFORNIA
EDWARD F. FEIGHAN, OHIO
TED WEISS, NEW YORK
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
MORRIS K. UDALL, ARIZONA
JAMES McCLURE CLARKE, NORTH
JAMIE B. FUSTER, PUERTO RICO
WAYNE OWENS, UTAH
HARRY JOHNSTON, FLORIDA
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
DOUGLAS H. BOSCO, CALIFORNIA
FRANK McCLOSKEY, INDIANA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, NEW YORK
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, CALIFORNIA
JIM LEACH, IOWA
TOBY ROTH, WISCONSIN
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, MAINE
HENRY J. HYDE, ILLINOIS
DOUG BERLETER, MASSACHUSETTS
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
MICHAEL Dwyne, OHIO
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JAN MEYERS, KANSAS
JOHN MILLER, WASHINGTON
DONALD E. "BUZ" LUKENS, OHIO
BEN BLAZ, GUAM
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA
AMO HOUGHTON, NEW YORK
PORTER J. GOSS, FLORIDA
KEAMA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA

STEVEN K. BERRY
MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

January 22, 1990

William S. Sessions
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building, Room 7176
Washington, DC 20535

Jesuit Priests

Dear Mr. Director:

I am a member of the House Speaker's Special Task Force on El Salvador, which is charged with monitoring the investigation of the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador last November. As you know, the Salvadoran government two weeks ago arrested eight members of the military in connection with the murders.

I understand that FBI personnel assisted El Salvador's Special Investigative Unit (SIU) with aspects of this investigation. The members of the El Salvador Task Force plan to make their first visit to El Salvador beginning February 11. It would be useful for myself and the other members of the Task Force if the FBI could address two matters prior to our departure.

First, I would like the FBI to describe the character of the assistance it has provided the SIU or any other Salvadoran government body in their conduct of this investigation. Does the FBI plan to provide further assistance?

Second, I would like to know the FBI's assessment of the quality of the Salvadoran investigation thus far. Insofar as the FBI has knowledge of evidence gathered by the SIU linking the arrested men to the crime, what is the FBI's view of its quality? Does the FBI have any reason to believe other individuals who might have been involved in the crime have yet to be arrested? Has the SIU's investigation been deficient in any respects? If so, how might the Salvadoran or U.S. governments help improve its performance?

F.B.I.
↑

163-61055-112X8

Document # 82

3.10.92
4/12/94
911-2112

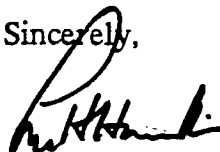
1048DKM/CAF
Special Agent

January 22, 1990
Page 2

I appreciate the FBI's valuable contributions to this investigation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your reply.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe
and the Middle East

cc: Congressman Joe Moakley

REPORT of the

1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

b7c



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Mr. Martin V. Hale Deputy Assistant Director Office of Liaison and International Affairs

January 23, 1990

FBI FILE NO. 163A-HQ-61055

LAB. NO. 00116093 P X0

Re: *murd of*
SAN JUANET BRIGATS, HOUSEKEEPER,
ONE CHILD
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION

SAN SALVADOR EL SALVADOR

Examination requested by: Bureau
Reference: Evidence received: January 16, 1990
Examination requested: Photographic
Specimens received: January 16, 1990

Specimens:

Q1 One Maxell T-120 VHS surveillance video cassette

Result of examination:

The Q1 submitted video tape was reviewed and two VHS copies were made from the Q1 video tape. No copies will be retained in the Laboratory. The evidence and one VHS copy was picked up on January 18, 1990.

MAILED 17

JAN 24 1990

FBI

SP2 clep/pte 4-8-94 CA# 91-263

163-61055-9

UNCLASSIFIED

3.5.92 511048DKM/CRK

JAN 23 1990

[Signature]
[REDACTED] 185(4)

Document # 83

[Signature] 3457

RECORDED
01/18/90
msh #48

01/16/90

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

To: Mr. Martin V. Hale
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Liaison and International
Affairs

FBI FILE NO. 163A-HQ-61055

LAB. NO. 00116093 P XO

Re: SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, HOUSEKEEPER,
ONE CHILD
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION

YOUR NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by: Bureau

Reference: Evidence received January 16, 1990

Examination requested: Photographic

Specimens received: January 16, 1990

Specimen:

Q1 One Maxell T-120 VHS surveillance video cassette

See Attached for Dictation
& Report

Picked up evidence on 1/18/90 and 1 VHS copy of Q1

4/18/94 CAA 94-263
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3.5.92 BY 1048DKM/CRK
DOB/12/12

7-16
1-23-90
DOB/12/12



FBI
Washington, D.C.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/16/90
Time 1:35 PM

EVIDENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Received from SSA [REDACTED] of the
(Name and Title)

FBIHQ, OLIA, FLU
(Department or Agency)

Room 7446 TL 245 X4631
(Address) (Phone Number)

1 box(es), 1 bag(s), 1 envelope(s), 1 vial(s), 1 object(s)
of sealed evidence for examination in connection with case number _____
entitled _____

Evidence Should Be
 Mailed Back
 Picked Up By
Contributor

This evidence will remain in the custody of the FBI Laboratory while the examinations are being conducted. Following completion of the examinations, a report containing the results of the examinations and the disposition of the evidence will be forwarded to your department. If evidence is picked up personally, your representative should identify it with the Laboratory case number(s) assigned in the FBI Laboratory report.

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

163-61055

Video Operations Area Evidence Worksheet

16

Lab Number <i>0011609370</i>	Assigned To [REDACTED]	Date Assigned <i>1/17/90</i>
Date Worked <i>1/18/90</i>	Date Completed <i>1/18/90</i>	Date Due
Special <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES NO	Removed Tape <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES NO	Initialized Tape <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES NO

Tape Machines Used

JVC VHS Machines

Enhancement Equipment Used

Worked Performed

*MADE two VHS Copies of the Q1
Video Tape*

Remarks

SP7 clp/ste 4-8-94 CA# 94-263
LAB 3.5.92 *3/1048DKM/csk*

Date to PPU	Rolls To PPU 1 2 3 4 5	Size of Prints
No. Prints Prepared	No. of Negatives	Date From PPU

No. of Tape Submissions

1 2 3 4 5

File: CASELOAD VIDEO

INSERT NEW RECORDS

Escape: Review Add Change

Record 00 of 004

LAB NUMBER: 00116096NC

OFFICE: WASHINGTON, DC

TITLE: -

ARTICLE: SIN. JESUIT PRIESTS

DATE DELD: -

DATE DICT: -

DATE OUT: Dec 16 90

COMMENTS: -

CONTACT: [REDACTED]

VIDEO DATE: Jan 17 90

ASSIGNED: [REDACTED]

SPECIAL: YES

ISC: -

ISC: -

ISC: -

fr

Type entry or use 9 commands

689K Avail.

App - complete 4/8/94 CA# 94-263
3.5.92 BY 1048DKM/cdk

VIDEO OPERATIONS

REPORT DICTATION

TECHNICIAN : [REDACTED]
SYMBOL : XO
LAB NUMBER : 00116093XO
DICTATION DATE : January 18, 1990

h7c

=====

RESULTS:

The Q1 submitted video tape was reviewed and two VHS copies were made from the Q1 video tape. No copies will be retained in the laboratory. The evidence + one copy was picked up on 1/18/90

AP? clefite 4/8/94 OR# 91-263

3.5.92 BY 1048DKM/colk

RECORDED
01/18/90
msh #48

01/16/90

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

To: Mr. Martin V. Hale
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Liaison and International
Affairs

FBI FILE NO. 163A-HQ-61055 - 9

LAB. NO. 00116093 P XO

Re: SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, HOUSEKEEPER,
ONE CHILD
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION

YOUR NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by: Bureau

Reference: Evidence received January 16, 1990

Examination requested: Photographic

Specimens received: January 16, 1990

Specimen:

Q1 One Maxell T-120 VHS surveillance video cassette

1/16/90 4.8.94 00116093-363
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-5-92 BY 1046 DM/csk

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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(b)(7)(A)

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(b)(7)(C)

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(b)(7)(D)

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(b)(7)(E)

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(b)(7)(F)

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
163-HQ-61055- 43 (Document #84)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552a

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(b)(7)(C)

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 73 (Document # 85)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

1

1842/024/117

1/24/90

~~UNCLAS E F T O~~

IMMEDIATE

CLASS
SRC'D
SER
REC

~~SECRET~~

START HERE

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO [CIA] WASHINGTON DC/IMMEDIATE/

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP/dep/pt*
4-8-94
OA# 94-263

DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CEN//IMMEDIATE/

3.11.92

BT

CLASSIFIED BY *b180km/cpk*
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

~~UNCLAS E F T O~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CITE: //0026//

PASS: [CIA TRANSMIT TO] AMEMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, FOR AMBASSADOR
WILLIAM G. WALKER, SAN SALVADOR; ARA FOR BERNARD ARONSON.

SUBJECT: COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO BENAVIDES MORENO; ET AL;
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR,
NOVEMBER 16, 1989; FPC - MURDER.

RE DIRECTOR, FBI, CABLE TO RECIPIENTS, JANUARY 19, 1990,
CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

U.S. EMBASSY, SAN SALVADOR, IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE FBI
HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION: MARTIN V. HALE, OLIA, AS TO THE
RESULTS OF ANY INTERVIEW(S) CONDUCTED AT SAN SALVADOR OF

MVH [redacted] (9) 1/24/90 7443 5904

- 1 - MR. REVELL
- 1 - MR. BAKER
- 1 - MR. HICKS
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. HALE
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. [redacted]
- 1 - MR. [redacted]

163 - 61055 - 78

0422bm
Document # 86

AD

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

2

CONTINUATION SHEET

SALVADORAN COLONEL CARLOS ARMANDO AVILES.

IT IS ALSO REQUESTED THAT IF NOT ALREADY DONE, AN EFFORT BE MADE TO CONFIRM WHETHER COLONEL AVILES AND HIS FAMILY WERE VACATIONING AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AROUND THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF NOVEMBER, 1989, AS REPORTED BY U.S. ARMY MAJOR ERIC W. BUCKLAND.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS BEING REQUESTED IN ORDER TO FURTHER EVALUATE MAJOR BUCKLAND'S STATEMENTS.

FBI HEADQUARTERS IS ALSO INTERESTED IN ANY PERTINENT POLYGRAPH RESULTS REGARDING COLONEL AVILES AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. OR SALVADORAN PERSONNEL REGARDING MAJOR AVILES.

BT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

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_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

For your information: this is a Department of State communication
dated 1/25/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
163-HQ-61055- 44 (Document # 87)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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(b)(7)(C)

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: this number was skipped

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- (Document# 88)

Documents in this release are in date order.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: this is a Department of State communication

dated 1/26/90

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

163-HQ-61055- 45 (Document # 89)

Documents in this release
are in date order.

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Section 552

Section 552a

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163-HQ-61055-63 (Document # 90)

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January 29, 1990

Honorable Peter DeFazio
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 3-10-92 BY 104EDKM/CRK
SP7 CAG/TE 4-11-94 CAA 94268

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

In your letter of December 18, 1989, you brought to the attention of Director Sessions your interest in the interviews of Lucia Barrerra de Cerna and her husband regarding the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador. I certainly understand your concern, and I am saddened at the senseless death of these people.

While I am not able to reveal all the details of this investigation while it remains pending, I want to assure you that our law enforcement cooperation with a foreign law enforcement authority is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We render assistance only after we are satisfied that a legitimate law enforcement purpose exists and, as is often the case, after coordination with the Departments of State and Justice. In this instance, the FBI has only a limited role. We are providing support to the Special Investigative Unit of El Salvador, the law enforcement organization charged by the government of El Salvador to investigate the killings. It appears that they are making substantial progress in their investigation.

We are cooperating with Congress on the issue of FBI assistance to the El Salvadoran authorities. On December 15, 1989, the FBI received a request from Congressman Joe Moakley for a briefing concerning the FBI's handling and interviewing of the Salvadoran family in this matter. Congressman Moakley chairs an ad hoc congressional task force on behalf of the Speaker that is investigating the murders. On December 19, 1989, after approval by Director Sessions and the Department of Justice, representatives of the FBI briefed Congressmen Moakley, McHugh, McClosky, Hoyer, Hamilton, Bonior, Spratt, Obey, and Murtha. Several staff were also present. The topics of the briefing included the FBI's handling of the Salvadoran family, how the FBI uses the polygraph as an investigative aid, and the FBI's role in foreign police cooperation matters. Many of the same issues you have raised were of concern to Chairman Moakley's task force.

- 1 - Mr. Baker
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. Hicks
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood
- 3 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

105-105-
163-61055-87

(9) SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

SSA [REDACTED]
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- Exec AD LES _____
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- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
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- Legal Coun. _____
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- Rec. Mgnt. _____
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- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

APPROVED: _____

Director _____	Adm. Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs. _____
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	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	

Document #91

MAIL ROOM

Honorable Peter DeFazio

In addition, the Congressional task force recently asked several further questions of us to properly document their record, and we are preparing responses. Because of the multiple congressional inquiries we have received in regard to this issue, I respectfully request that your staff coordinate with the task force to receive the information the FBI has provided. I believe it will be very helpful in addressing your concerns.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Collingwood
Inspector-in-Charge
Congressional Affairs Office

Honorable Peter DeFazio

NOTE: By letter dated December 18, 1989, Congressman PETER DEFAZIO requested that the FBI provide a detailed account to him of the interrogation of LUCIA BARRERRA de CERNA and her husband regarding their alleged eye witness accounts of the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador. In our response, we note that the FBI briefed the ad hoc congressional task force appointed to review this issue and we recommend that Congressman DEFAZIO contact the task force to obtain the results of information we provided.

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163-HQ-61055- 64 (Document # 93)

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Memorandum



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- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
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- Intell. _____
- Lab. _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

To : Mr. Baker

Date 1/31/90

From : J. W. Hicks

Subject : FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION
 GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR;
 MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS;
 NOVEMBER 11, 1989
 SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

PURPOSE: To forward the enclosed documents to the Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

DETAILS: On 1/5/90, captioned individual was administered a polygraph examination by SA [redacted] in El Salvador. *hrc*

RECOMMENDATION: That the enclosed documents be forward to CID and be placed in Bufile 163-HQ-61206 for retention.

APPROVED: _____

Director _____	Adm. Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Liaison _____
Dep. Dir. _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____	Ident. _____
Asst. Dir. _____	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	Intell. _____
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ADD-Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Cong. Affs. Off. _____	Lab. _____
	Laboratory _____	Off. of EEO _____	

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Enclosures (4)

163-61055-130X

- 1 - Mr. William M. Baker, Room 5012, Attn: SA [redacted] (OLIA), Room 7446
- 1 - Mr. [redacted] Room 3206
- 1 - Mr. [redacted] GRB-210

[redacted] (5)
JW *hrc*

[redacted] *hrc*

Document #94

Enclosures (5)

Bureau (163-HQ-61206)

for cleft 4-1-91 2009/263
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UNCLASIFIED
DATE 3-10-92 BY 1048 DM/crk

105

POLYGRAPH REPORT

DATE OF REPORT 1/10/90	DATE OF EXAMINATION 1/5/90	BUREAU FILE NUMBER	FIELD FILE NUMBER 163A-HQ-51206
FIELD OFFICE OR AGENCY REQUESTING EXAMINATION U.S. Dept. of State via FBIHQ			
AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL Asst. Director, Laboratory Division			DATE AUTHORIZED 1/2/90
EXAMINEE NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) BUCKLAND, ERIC WARREN			

CASE TITLE FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION;
GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR;
MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS;
NOVEMBER 11, 1989,
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

REFERENCES

Handwritten:
11-11-94
CA#94-263

00126502
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CASE SYNOPSIS/EXAMINER CONCLUSION

3-10-92

1045DXM/CJK

On 11/11/89, The FMLN, a Marxist-Leninist Guerrilla organization fighting to overthrow the Government of El Salvador, launched its biggest offensive to date against the city of San Salvador. The Salvadoran Armed Forces' elite group, the Atlacatl Battalion, participated in the Salvadoran government's efforts to repel the guerrilla attack. The offensive lasted, off and on, for approximately three weeks.

On the night of 11/15-16/89, unknown individuals entered the Central American University (UCA) and killed six Jesuit priests, their cook, and the cook's daughter. A hand-printed sign was left by the killers wherein the FMLN took responsibility for carrying out the adjudication of the Jesuit traitors.

Investigation by El Salvador's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) determined that the murders had occurred on 11/16/89, between 2:00 and 3:00AM. Further investigation determined that on 11/13/89, members of the Atlacatl Battalion had conducted a search of the Jesuit priest's living quarters. SIU continues its investigation with no particular suspects or witnesses to date.

ERIC WARREN BUCKLAND, a Major in the U.S. Army is presently assigned to the Military Group (MilGroup) in El Salvador. He is assigned to Salvadoran Armed Forces Col. CARLOS A. AVILES. On 1/3/90, BUCKLAND furnished a statement to his U.S. superior officer stating that on or about 12/20/89 he (BUCKLAND) received information, which he did not report, concerning the Jesuit killings. BUCKLAND stated that, in a confidential conversation, AVILES had told him that Col. BENAVIDEZ, Commandant of the Military School, was responsible for the Jesuit killings. According to the statement, BENAVIDEZ went to current SIU Chief, Lt. Col. MANUEL RIVAS, told him (RIVAS) that he (BENAVIDEZ) was responsible for the killings and asked RIVAS for help. RIVAS mentioned the conversation to Col. LOPEZ LOPEZ, LOPEZ told AVILES, and AVILES told BUCKLAND.

EXAMINER NAME: SA [REDACTED]

Handwritten: b7c

Because of the seriousness of the matter, Major BUCKLAND was requested and agreed to submit to a polygraph examination concerning the veracity of his statement. During the pre test interview, BUCKLAND denied lying in his statement and denied making up any part of it. He admitted, however, that AVILES had also told him something else that he had not reported to anyone yet. BUCKLAND stated that AVILES told him that the individual responsible for killing Archbishop ROMERO was now living in the United States and that his identity was known to AVILES and to SIU. BUCKLAND denied having been told the identity of this person. The following relevant questions were used during the examination

- A. Is anything in your statement a lie? no
- B. Did you make up anything concerning what Col. AVILES told you?no

It is the opinion of the examiner that the responses recorded on the polygraph charts are indicative of deception. BUCKLAND was informed of the results but maintained that his statement was true and correct to the best of his recollection. Additional testing was afforded in which the following relevant questions were asked:

- C. Did you lie about what Col. AVILES told you? no
- D. Did AVILES indicate to you that he had information on the Jesuit killings? yes

It is the opinion of the examiner that the responses recorded on these charts are indicative of deception. BUCKLAND was again informed of the results. He claimed that everything he said was true. It was subsequently agreed by BUCKLAND's superiors, including the Ambassador, that BUCKLAND be sent to the United States and be tested at FBIHQ the following week.

CONSENT TO INTERVIEW WITH POLYGRAPH

PLACE: San Salvador
DATE: 1-5-90
TIME: 10:00 AM

Before we begin an examination by means of the polygraph in connection with my conversations with CO2 Carlos A. Ariles concerning the Jesuit murders.

you must understand your rights.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to refuse to take the polygraph test.

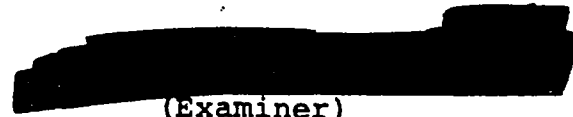
If you agree to take the polygraph test, you have the right to stop the test at any time.

If you agree to take the polygraph test, you have the right to refuse to answer any individual questions.

WAIVER AND CONSENT

I have read this statement of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I voluntarily agree to be examined by means of the polygraph during this interview. I understand and know what I am doing. No threats or promises have been used against me to obtain my consent to the use of the polygraph. I understand that the examination room ~~(DOES)~~ (DOES NOT) contain an observation device and that the examination ~~(WILL)~~ (WILL NOT) be monitored or recorded.

SIGNED Eric W. Buckland
(Examinee)


(Examiner)

h7c

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DATE 3.10.92 BY 1048 Dkm/OTK

WITNESS: _____

Polygraph Examination Worksheet

Date of Report 1/10/90	Date of Examination 1/5/90	Bureau File Number	Field File Number 163A-HO-
Location of Examination San Salvador, El Salvador		Examiner Name SA [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i>	
Examinee Name (Last, First, Middle) BUCKLAND, ERIC WARREN		SSN [REDACTED]	
Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Age 35	Place of Birth [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i>	
HT 5'11"	WT 188	Sex M	Marital Status Married
Previous Polygraph Examination None		Language During Exam English	Current Address % MILGROUPE, AMEMB, El Salvador
Education (Total Years) 16 1977 graduate of the University of Kansas		Requested By Examinee <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Employment History/Military:
1977 to Present = U.S. Army (Major)

Health Medication:
Claimed to be in good health.
Not under M.D. care. Not taking medication.

Arrests/Convictions:
Claimed none.

Check One Only	FBI EMP APP	Type of Investigation	Total Examiner Time (include Travel)
Subject	Special Agent	Criminal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8 hours
Victim	Support	FCI	
Witness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Translator	Admin Inquiry	Estimated Property Value
Suspect	Contract	PSPP	
Asset	Leak Case <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Applicant	<i>P 2 b7E</i>
Informant		WITSEC	
Applicant		Other Federal	
FBI Employee			

Date(s)	Time In	Time Out
1/5/90	9:50A	2:10P



Examination Results

DI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INC	Pretest Admission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confession
NDI	NO	Post Test Admission	Confession

Comments: Name of Witness or Interpreter

APN Clebte 4-11-94 CA# 94-263

3-10-92 - 1048DKM/CAF

FBI/DOJ

S T A T E M E N T

copy

b7c I, MAJ Eric W. Buckland [redacted] am writing this statement of my own will and will present all details, as I know them, to the best of my ability and as I remember them.

On or about 20 December 1989, I was in the office of the ESAF C-V, COL Carlos A. Aviles and we were talking about current events, ongoing projects for PSYOP - essentially the typical, almost daily conversation we had. During the course of our discussion, the case of the Jesuits arose and COL Aviles mentioned that he had some new information about the case. Before continuing, he repeated several times that I was to use this information for "Break in Case of Emergency." He then began to tell me the information:

COL Lopez y Lopez had told him that LTC Rivas had told him that COL Benavides (Commandant of EM) had admitted his responsibility in the slaying of the Jesuits. Again - when the investigation of the killings had started, COL Benavides had approached LTC Rivas and said something to the effect of, "I did it. What can you do to help me?" According to COL Aviles, LTC Rivas was scared and did not know what to do. As a result, the investigation slowed and eventually, COL Lopez y Lopez went to talk to LTC Rivas. During the conversation LTC Rivas told COL Lopez y Lopez about COL Benavides' comments. COL Lopez y Lopez then passed on the information to COL Aviles and COL Aviles told me. Additionally, he told me that members of the BIRI Atlacatl GOE, lead by a lieutenant, had done the actual killing. The GOE had been working out of the Escuela Militar during the offensive.

// I asked COL Aviles who else knew and he said no one. I asked if COL Ponce knew and he said he believed that he did, but wasn't sure. He did not feel that it was his place to tell him. I wanted to know why they did not arrest COL Benavides right then and COL Aviles said that nothing could be done until the investigation was completed. We talked about the problem, in general terms and both agreed that the killings made no sense.

// In subsequent discussions, I continued to ask about the investigation and COL Aviles told me that it was going well. One lieutenant from the Atlacatl had been questioned a few times and had done poorly with the polygraph - according to COL Aviles, the lieutenant had several excuses for why he had done poorly on the polygraph and appeared to be nervous. The Colonel also stated that the troops from the Atlacatl were being questioned and that their stories were starting to conflict. During our last discussion about the issue, COL Aviles told me that he had seen COL Benavides briefly at the Escuela Militar and that he looked like he had not eaten, was losing weight and seemed worried.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-10-92 BY 1248DKM/COX
Eric W. Buckland

San Salvador, January 3, 1990

ERIC W. BUCKLAND
MAJ, USA

[redacted]

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