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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI MIAMI ROUTINE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: //0026//

PASS: LIAISON OFFICER.

SUBJECT: BRITISH POLICE PREPARE TO ASSIST INVESTIGATION  
OF JESUIT MURDERS.

BY TELETYPE DATED 12/20/89, EMBASSY LONDON ADVISED AS  
FOLLOWS:

~~E.G. 12356: DECI: OADR~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT~~

WE DELIVERED REF A NON-PAPER ON THE VIOLENCE IN EL  
SALVADOR TO THE FCO ON DECEMBER 19. THE FCO WAS  
ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]

7-11-94

DAW-262

163A-NQ-61055-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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QUESTIONING OF THE ALLEGED WITNESS TO THE JESUIT KILLINGS AND STRESSED THAT WHO FULLY SUPPORTED THE U.S. POSITION BOTH IN EL SALVADOR AND IN NICARAGUA.

THE FCO SAID A TEAM OF BRITISH POLICE DETECTIVES WOULD LEAVE FOR EL SALVADOR IN EARLY JANUARY TO ASSIST THE GOES IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KILLINGS OF THE JESUIT PRIESTS. FINAL MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR THE TRIP, WHICH WAS PLANNED FOLLOWING A DIRECT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM PRESIDENT CHRISTIANI, IS EXPECTED

SHORTLY.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL CONSIST OF TWO DETECTIVES AND A POLICE INTERPRETER. THE TEAM HOPES TO CONSULT WITH THE FBI AND SPANISH POLICE PRIOR TO ARRIVAL, AND WILL BEGIN THEIR WORK IN EL SALVADOR BY REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE GATHERED TO ENSURE THAT ALL LEADS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY FOLLOWED. THE FCO SAID THE TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO STAY IN EL SALVADOR AS LONG AS WAS NECESSARY, WITH THE GOAL OF PUTTING ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE FINAL GOES REPORT INTO THE KILLINGS.

THE FCO WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN OUR REPORT ON

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THE HANDLING OF THE ALLEGED WITNESS TO THE KILLINGS. AN EXTENSIVE LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN, OVERWHELMINGLY CRITICAL OF BRITISH AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT, HAD FOLLOVED THE KILLINGS AND INTENSIFIED WHEN REPORTS THAT THE WITNESS HAD BEEN MISTREATED IN MEXICO REACHED LONDON. THE FCO SAID THAT THE IMAGE OF A COERCIVE INTERROGATION OF THE WITNESS HAD BEEN HEIGHTENED BY LOCAL REPORTS THAT ONLY THE SALVADORAN INVESTIGATOR AND AN FBI AGENT HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING QUESTIONING. THE PRESENCE OF A LAWYER OR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WOULD HAVE, THE FCO SAID, PREVENTED SUCH ALLEGATIONS FROM BEING VOICED. THE FCO SAID IT HAD USED THIS EXAMPLE IN WARNING THE BRITISH POLICE TEAM ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING NEUTRAL OBSERVERS DURING ALL INVESTIGATIVE WORK IN EL SALVADOR.

AFTER PERUSING THE MATERIAL WE PROVIDED, THE FCO SAID THAT THE ARA PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DECEMBER 18 (REF B) WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL SINCE IT MADE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE PRESENCE OF A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AT EACH OF THE INTERVIEWS. THE FCO PLANNED TO

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THIS INFORMATION IS BEARING A MINISTERIAL

ON THE SUBJECT FOR INTERPELLATIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND IN RESPONDING TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT.

WE EXPECT CONTINUED BRITISH INTEREST IN THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION AND WOULD WELCOME PERIODIC UPDATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WE COULD SHARE WITH THE FCO.

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