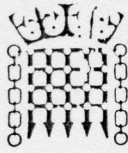


PRESS RELEASE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1979 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION

A letter signed by 118 Members of Parliament and Peers of all parties was sent today to the Nobel Committee in Oslo nominating Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo ROMERO, Archbishop of San Salvador in Central America for the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

Archbishop Romero has been nominated because of his courageous stand in defence of human rights. Since his appointment as Archbishop he has consistently and uncompromisingly denounced the numerous arbitrary arrests, detentions, tortures, disappearances and killings taking place in El Salvador today. Almost alone he has become the champion of the poor and the defenceless. As a result he is subject to regular vilification in the press and elsewhere as insane, subversive, as a man who "sells his soul to the Devil".

He is a committed man of peace and has rejected violence from whatever quarter and has advocated social and economic reforms to remove the injustices of El Salvador's poverty-ridden feudal society. In recognition of his stand for human rights, he was awarded an honorary doctorate earlier this year by the University of Georgetown, Washington.

The 118 signatories to the nomination (77 Labour, 27 Conservative, 11 Liberal and 3 others) include from the Labour Party, Deputy Party Leader Mr. Michael Foot, Mrs. Shirley Williams, Minister for Education, Mr. Eric Varley, Minister for Industry, Mr. Tony Benn, Minister for Energy, Mr. Stan Orme, Minister of Social Security, Mr. Roy Hattersley, Minister for Prices and Consumer Affairs, Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, Mr. Peter Archer, Solicitor-General, Mr. Frank Allam, current Chairman of the Labour Party. The Conservative signatories include Mr. Norman St John-Stevas, Shadow Leader of the House, Mr. Mark Carlisle, Shadow spokesman on Education, Mr. John Moore, Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party and Mr. Peter Walker and Lord Carr of Hadley, former Cabinet Ministers in the Heath administration. The Liberal

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signatories include the Party Leader, Mr. David Steel and Deputy Leader John Pardoe. 13 signatories are Privy Councillors.

The nomination has been supported by Trade Union Leaders Mr. Joe Gormley (NUM), Mr. Alex Kitson (TGWU), Mr. Jim Slater (NUS), Mr. Sam McCluskey (NUS), Mr. Danny Crawford (UCATT) and Mr. Ray Buckton (ASLEF).

A full list of signatories, together with a copy of the letter to the Nobel Committee is attached. Also enclosed is a background article on Archbishop Romero which appeared in Time magazine of July this year.

For further information contact:

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