



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

AM: 0810475-1107

SECRET

PAGE 01
ACTION SS-30

SAN SA 03083 2500102

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
7031

-----232365 2500172 166167
O 232343Z APR 81

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

SECRET SAN SALVADOR 3083

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY (PARA 9)

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 4)23101

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CDES, ES

SUBJECT: SECURITY FORCE OFFICER COMMENTS ON SHERATON MURDERS,
OTHER RIGHTIST VIOLENCE

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY. DURING AN APRIL 22 CONVERSATION A SECURITY FORCE OFFICER GAVE POLOFF ADDITIONAL (BUT SKETCHY) DETAILS ABOUT THE SHERATON KILLINGS. THE SOURCE DESCRIBED HIS OWN PAST PARTICIPATION IN VIOLENCE SPONSORED OR CONDONED BY THE SECURITY FORCE OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER. HE GAVE POLOFF NAMES OF SEVERAL RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS AND OUTLINED SOME OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE OFFICER DESCRIBED, FOR INSTANCE, SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP ROMERO ASSASSINATION. THE SOURCE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JOHN SULLIVAN. END SUMMARY.

3. ON APRIL 22 POLOFF SPOKE WITH A SECURITY FORCE OFFICER ABOUT A SERIES OF NOTORIOUS ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS COUNTRY. THE TALK WAS FOCUSED ON ONE CRIME (REPORTED SEPTEL). THE OTHER CASES CAME UP INTERMITTENTLY

SECRET
SECRET

AGE 02

SAN SA 03083 2500102

DURING THE CONVERSATION WITH LITTLE OR NO RHYME OR REASON.

SECRET
UNCLASSIFIED

Handwritten notes and stamps in the right margin, including a circled 'O' and the date '7-14-93'.

Department of State IS/PFC/CDR El Salvador OP Date 7/23/93
Declassified under EO 12356 () in full; () in part;
portions withheld: classified (); deliberative ();
law enforcement (); privacy (); statutory ();
not relevant to El Salvador ()

SECRET

POLOFF WAS ABLE TO GLEAN THE FOLLOWING FRAGMENTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER INCIDENTS.

4. SHERATON MURDERS: THE OFFICER TOLD POLOFF THAT HE HAD UNCOVERED SOME INFORMATION ON TWO OF THE GUNMEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDERS OF VIERA, PEARLMAN AND HAMMER. HE DID NOT KNOW NAMES BUT KNEW, HE SAID, THAT ONE WAS A MUNICIPAL POLICEMAN IN SANTO TOMAS (SAN SALVADOR) AND WAS NICKNAMED "EL CHINO." THE OTHER WAS STASHED AT A HACIENDA CALLED EMPANIZADA (AS HEARD). HE MADE A VAGUELY THREATENING COMMENT THAT RESEMBLED: I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM. (POLOFF BELIEVES THAT HE MEANT TO FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE AND NOT TO DO THEM IN). THE OFFICER ALSO SAID THAT THE OWNERS OF THE "LA CONSTANCIA" BREWERY WERE INVOLVED IN FINANCING THE MURDERS. HE SAID THAT A MIAMI RESIDENT NAMED LEONEL (LNU) HAD FURNISHED 100,000 COLONES. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, 80,000 DOLLARS HAD RECENTLY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE.

5. EXTREME RIGHTIST DOINGS: THE OFFICER GAVE POLOFF BITS OF INFORMATION ON ANTI-LEFT ACTIVITIES SPONSORED OR CONDOOMED BY MEMBERS OF HIS SERVICE. HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL OF THESE ACTIVITIES UNTIL MID-1980. HE SAID FOR EXAMPLE THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE DYNAMITING OF THE (BPR) POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOC HEADQUARTERS, CATHOLIC RADIO YSAX, AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. (THE DYNAMITE, INCIDENTALLY, WAS BROUGHT IN BY THE OWNER OF A FLYING SERVICE WHICH, SAID THE SOURCE, IS STILL IN OPERATION.) HE ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CAPTAIN VICTOR HUGO YEGA VALENCIA. THE OFFICER SAID THAT HE HAD ENDED HIS OWN PARTICIPATION AFTER FINDING OUT THAT HIS FRIENDS WERE BEING PAID FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES, WHILE HE HAD FELT OBLIGATED TO DO THESE THINGS OUT OF CONVICTION THAT SUCH MEASURES WERE

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03083 250010Z

NECESSARY TO "SAVE THE COUNTRY." NEVERTHELESS HE STILL MAINTAINED TIES WITH HIS FORMER ACCOMPLICES.

6. AMONG THE SOURCE'S MOST INTERESTING COMMENTS WERE THOSE HE MADE ABOUT THE MURDER OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO. HE REPEATED WHAT HE HAD SAID TO POLOFF IN NOVEMBER: THE MURDERER OF ROMERO WAS AN EX-GUARDSMAN CURRENTLY LIVING IN CIUDAD DELGADO; MAJOR D'AUBUSSON PLANNED THE KILLING DURING A MEETING WITH A GROUP OF SUPPORTERS; THE PARTICIPANTS DREW LOTS FOR THE "RIGHT" TO KILL THE PRELATE. THE SOURCE ADDED A FEW DETAILS. HE WAS

SECRET

SECRET

RELUCTANT TO GIVE POLOFF THE NAME OF THE ASSASSIN BUT DID SAY THAT "DOUGLAS" IS THE LEAD TO FOLLOW. PARTICIPANTS AT THE ASSASSINATION PLANNING SESSION WERE D'AUBUISSON, SORAVIA, AMAYA ROSA, THE SOURCE AND OTHERS. (COMMENT: CAPT. ALVARO SORAVIA AND LT. AMAYA ROSA WERE ARRESTED WITH D'AUBUISSON IN MARCH.) THE SOURCE SAID THAT AMAYA ROSA AT FIRST DID NOT ACCEPT HIS LOSS TO "DOUGLAS" BUT THEN GRUDGINGLY ACCEPTED AT LEAST THE GETAWAY CAR DRIVER'S ROLE IN THE OPERATION. THE OFFICER ENDED BY SAYING EMPHATICALLY THAT THE WEAPON USED TO KILL ROMERO WAS NOT A .22 CALIBRE BUT WAS, INSTEAD, A 9 MILLI-METER. THE SOURCE SAID, AS HE DID IN NOVEMBER, THAT HE GAVE THE BULLETS TO THE ASSASSIN.

7. THE SOURCE ALSO TOLD POLOFF THAT THE HEAD OF INCAFE, RENE MARCHON, HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY RIGHTISTS AND WAS NOW UNDER GUARD IN GUATEMALA. THE GUARD WAS IDENTIFIED AS AMAYA ROSA. (AMAYA ROSA WAS CASHIERED IN 1980, IN PART FOR BEING PART OF A CAR THEFT RING.) MARCHON WAS SEQUESTERED, TAKEN TO A HOUSE IN THE FLOR BLANCA SECTION OF SAN SALVADOR USED BY MAJOR DENIS MORAN AND LT. RODOLFO LOPEZ SIBRIAN AND THEN FLOWN TO GUATEMALA BY THE AFOREMENTIONED OWNER OF THE FLYING SERVICE. THE SOURCE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THE RIGHTISTS WANTED OUT OF MARCHON. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY KILL HIM.

8. THE OFFICER KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF J.S.

SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 04 SAN SA 03083 2500102

REPORTER JOHN SULLIVAN EXCEPT FOR WHAT HE HAD READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

9. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO HAS THIS CONTACT BELIEVES THAT HIS INTERLOCUTOR REPORTS ACCURATELY BUT FROM HIS OWN CURIOUS AND LIMITED PERSPECTIVE. THE DATA GIVEN HAS NOT BEEN AND MAY NEVER BE SUBSTANTIATED. THOUGH MUCH OF WHAT THE EMBOFF HAS TOLD MAY APPEAR INCREDIBLE TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE EL SALVADOR, THE EVENTS DESCRIBED AND THE ALLEGED PARTICIPANTS WOULD RAISE FEW EYEBROWS HERE. UNFORTUNATELY, FOR FIFTY YEARS THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE ENGAGED IN KIDNAPPING, MURDER, BOMBINGS, TORTURE AND ASSORTED MAYHEM AT THE SERVICE OF THE WEALTHY FAMILIES; ONLY THE SCALE AND ATROCIOUSNESS OF THE CRIMES THIS OFFICER DESCRIBES AS OUT OF THE ORDINARY FOR THE SECURITY FORCES.

CHAPIN

SECRET