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# TELEGRAM

FROM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652  
TAGS  
SUBJECT  
ACTION

GDS 5/24/88  
PINS, PINT, CDES, ES  
(C) Majano Documents, D'Aubuisson and The Murder of Romero

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RELEASED

~~INFO: AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE~~

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~~EXDIS~~

REF: A) 80 SS 8084; B) SS 9718; C) Mexico 6698

1. S - Entire Text.

2. SUMMARY: Embassy has <sup>found</sup> copies of <sup>apparently</sup> the documents taken from Major D'Aubuisson by Colonel Majano in 12 1980. The documents are, for the most part, lists of names, addresses, telephone numbers and expenses plus an outline of the government which, presumably, was to replace the ORG. Among the more interesting--and mysterious--of the documents is a single page list of extreme rightists plus a list of equipment for "Operation Pina." Pina may have been the code word for the assassination of Archbishop Romero but nothing in the documentation states that.

While we have the unconfirmed statements of what has been

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DRAFTING DATE  
5-24-82

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

United States Department of State  
Office of FOI Privacy & Classification Review  
Review Authority LANCFAR WILLIAM C  
Date 05/27/94  
Case ID 8940048

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Page 2 of

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✓ a neurosis-plagued but reliable source which do  
incriminate D'Aubuisson in the murder of the Archbishop  
(Refs A and B), we cannot find evidence to justify  
that conclusion in the "Majano papers." Columnist  
✓ Buendia (Ref C) <sup>has</sup> the same documents which we have  
✓ but/far less regard for accuracy. END SUMMARY.

✓ 3. Embassy has in its possession copies of ~~the~~ papers  
taken from Major Roberto D'Aubuisson when he was

arrested in May 1980. Personnel at Post do not recall  
exactly how those copies came to this Embassy. They  
may have been given to ~~former~~ Ambassador White by

✓ Col. Majano. It is our understanding that statements  
linking D'Aubuisson with the Archbishop Romero  
assassination made in the past by <sup>Col. both</sup> ~~both~~/Majano and

~~Ambassador White~~ are based on this documentation.

Mexican columnist Buendia has made the link explicit.

He has also added additional twists x to the already  
tangled web that is the murder of Romero and the  
allegations of responsibility for it. Following is  
our summary of the documents and an effort to disentangle  
what is known from what is conjecture.

4. DOCUMENTS: The set of documents is made up as  
follows:

-- copies of the pages of a desk calendar which

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January 1978  
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SECRET

Classification

Page 23 of

MEMO

belonged to (or, more precisely, has on the cover the name of) one Alvaro Rafael Saravia, ~~the~~ rightist captain who was arrested along with D'Aubuisson;

-- copies of the pages of a second calendar which was used as a notebook (owner unidentified);

-- copies of notes written on both plain and hotel (e.g., Capitol Hyatt, Miami Inter-Continental) stationery;

-- two lists of armed forces contacts;

-- a list of all of those arrested on May 7, 1980 during the Santa Tecla raid on the coup plotters by Col. Majano (the list was presumably added by those who took the plotters in); and

-- a page which lists the extreme right's most notorious younger (generally under 40) civilian members and the equipment needed for "Operation Pina" (this page is a photocopy of what originally were two pages of ~~probable~~ <sup>apparent</sup> hotel stationery).

The  
5. /Saravia calendar/notebook lists names, addresses, and telephone numbers of many well-known rightist extremists and also of many people unknown to this Embassy. It also was used as an accounting ledger by the owner to keep track of purchases of weapons, food, lodging, plane tickets, and other items and of payments to bodyguards and members of the security forces--

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(Formerly FD-503)  
January 1979  
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Classification

Page 4 of

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(e.g., "500 colones...advance to Lt. Leiva.") The second notebook contains a goals and objectives statement for a post-JRG government run by F.A.N., the defunct "Broad National Front" from which ARENA sprang. The notepad jottings cite contacts made (or to be made) in Washington DC and names of candidates for positions in a hoped for rightist government. The Operation Pina page has written on it under "equipment": "1 starlight, 1 257 Robert's, 4 automatics, grenades, 1 driver, 1 rifleman, 4 security." On what originally was a separate page are listed the names of ten tough and wealthy rightists plus an eleventh who is listed only as "Lumumba". We do not know Lumumba.

6. UNTANGLING EFFORT: We recall that Ambassador White said several weeks ago that the Department has in its possession documents which prove the involvement of Major D'Aubuisson in the murder of Archbishop Romero. At the time he reportedly also stated that those documents WERE TURNED OVER to the USG in 1980. Columnist

Buendia has now surfaced the documents to which White referred and claims to have positively established the link between the Major and the murder. [REDACTED] (He adds that the documents show that D'Aubuisson "still heads" a criminal band of <sup>ominous</sup> ~~significant~~ proportions, a state-

ment which we view as peculiar given that the documents

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SECRET

Classification

Page 5 of

1289

are two years old and unlikely to demonstrate that something "still" goes on.) The fact of the matter is that without an interpreter--i.e., one of the authors or someone linked very closely to them--those documents are nothing more than an informational goulash which does not explain the murder of Romero, nor that of Mario Zamora, nor any other specific act of rightist terrorism which has occurred in this or any other country. No such interpreter has come forward, Buendia's transparently mendacious claims of "expert analysis" notwithstanding. There is no denying the fact that the purchases, travels and expenses outlined in the papers represent the activities of nefarious sorts who in early 1980 were engaged in ruthless actions to destabilize the JRG. But to go beyond that and state specifically, for instance, that Operation Pina was the Romero assassination plan is speculation.

7. We have attempted to find an interpreter. PolOff's source who claims to know about the Archbishop's murder (Refs A and B) looked at them but fared poorly. Among the names and telephone numbers he did spot the first name and the pseudonym of the man who he claimed actually shot Romero, the now deceased Walter Antonio Alvarez or "Musa". He recognized the names of other friends. But, for the most part, the documents were

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SECRET

Classification

Page 6 of

SECRET

hieroglyphics to him. He did not recognize Pina and denied that a small calibre bullet killed Romero; it was instead, he said, a 9 mm shot which killed him.

(On the other hand, other sources, Vice President Alvergue among them, insist that it was a small calibre.) Thus, we still have no interpreter.

8. The Majano papers are--to quote Buendia--sinister; evil intent lurks throughout them. But they raise more questions than they answer. Who wrote them and what they mean is not clear to us but we will continue to try to find out. Buendia, if he were honest, would do the same.

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