



**Intelligence Information Cable**

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FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO  
CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

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REPORT CLASS: [REDACTED]

CITE TDFIR DB-315/23974-80  
DIST 17 DEC 80

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) MEMBER'S CLAIM  
THAT THE FARABUNDO-MARTI POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES  
(FPL) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF THE FOUR  
U.S. RELIGIOUS PERSONS ON 2 DECEMBER 1980. (DOI:  
EARLY DECEMBER 1980)

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY  
ARMY (ERP) SAID ON 9 DECEMBER 1980 THAT THE FARABUNDO-MARTI  
POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES (FPL) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 2  
DECEMBER 1980 MURDERS OF THE THREE U.S. NUNS AND ONE U.S. LAY  
MISSIONARY IN EL SALVADOR. ACCORDING TO THE ERP MEMBER, THE  
MURDERS WERE COMPLETED TO PUT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNING  
JUNTA (JRG) IN THE WORST POSSIBLE LIGHT WHILE THE JRG WAS STILL  
FACING INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE FOR ITS SUSPECTED PARTICIPATION IN  
THE 27 NOVEMBER 1980 ASSASSINATIONS OF THE SIX LEADERS OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (FDR). THE FPL ALSO HOPED TO  
INFLUENCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE OR END SUPPORT TO THE

5020000-3

Approved for Release  
Date 7 JUL 1982

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JRG.

2. THE FPL HAD IDENTIFIED TWO OF THE FOUR RELIGIOUS PERSONS AS A RESULT OF THEIR MISSIONARY WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO AND FOLLOWED THEM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL. THE FPL BELIEVED THE JRG WOULD BE BLAMED WITHOUT DOUBT DUE TO PREVIOUS SECURITY FORCE ACTIVITIES AGAINST RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE FPL IS THE PRINCIPAL RADICAL LEFTIST GROUP OPERATING IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT).

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN AIRLINE SCHEDULES NO ONE IN EL SALVADOR COULD HAVE KNOWN MORE THAN AN HOUR OR TWO IN ADVANCE THAT THE U.S. RELIGIOUS PERSONS WOULD BE ON THE AIRPORT ROAD AT NIGHT. WE FIND IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE FPL COULD MOUNT SUCH AN OPERATION IN SO SHORT A TIME, EVEN IF SUCH AN OPERATION HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. ADDITIONALLY, THE AIRPORT ROAD IS PATROLLED BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES, AS WELL AS HAVING RANDOM SECURITY FORCE CHECKPOINTS FURTHER DECREASING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE FPL COULD MOUNT SUCH AN OPERATION. IT MAY ALSO BE INDICATIVE THAT AN ERP MEMBER IS REPORTING ON FPL ACTIVITIES. AN ERP MEMBER, [REDACTED] WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF A HIGHLY SENSITIVE FPL OPERATION. NONETHELESS, THE INFORMATION IS BEING REPORTED BECAUSE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT.)

4. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]