This set of documents focuses on United States policy towards El Salvador from the Carter Administration's formation of a new Central American policy in January 1977 through the Salvadoran Presidential elections of May 1984 that brought Napoleon Duarte to power. Major events in the period include: the military coup of October 1979; the agrarian reform efforts launched in 1980 and 1981; significant labor and peasant protest followed by a growing number of guerrilla actions by leftist organizations; a series of political slayings widely attributed to government affiliated forces including those of Archbishop Oscar Romero, The Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), four American churchwomen, and three land reform proponents.

Description from the Library of Congress