

25X1

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

0 5 DEC 1985

25X1  
Mr. Charles L. Bartlett

Dear Charley:

I appreciated your candid and perceptive views on the Guatemalan elections and your assessment of the presidential candidates. I have forwarded your letter to the officers who are watching Central America and the Guatemalan elections. Your comments are both perceptive and timely. While I know you are disappointed that Mr. Serrano is not one of the candidates in the run-off elections now scheduled for 8 December 1985, we must all be pleased that the first round went off so well. This is a significant step in Guatemala's history and promises to go a long way in improving the country's abysmal image in the world. It is my firm belief that whatever candidate is chosen by the Guatemalan people, it will be in truly free and fair elections. The United States Government is prepared to work with the winner to continue to improve the country's human rights record and to reinforce the winner's respect for democratic principles.

Again, I would like to thank you for your comments on this important issue. I would welcome receiving additional views such as those contained in your letter in the future.

Sincerely,

*WJ Casey*

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

P-304

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

DD/O-85-2079

FROM:

[Redacted]  
Chief, LA [Redacted]

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

27 November 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/LA [Redacted]

2.

DC/LA

3.

C/LA

4.

5.

SA/ODDO

6.

ADDO/DDO

7.

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SA/DCI

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DDCI

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DCI

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15.

Attached herewith is a draft response for the Director's signature which was prepared at his request.

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

P-304

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

O/DCI

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

18 November 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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C/LA

The Director requests that a reply to the attached letter be drafted for his signature.

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25X1

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO	X			
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	C/LA		X		
18					
19					
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22					

SUSPENSE 27 NOV 85  
Date

**ER**

Remarks

Executive Secretary  
18 NOV 85  
Date

3637 (10-81)

25X1

25X1

### ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
O/DCI		DATE
		18 November 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		

25X1

1.	C/LA <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>			
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The Director requests that a reply to the attached letter be drafted for his signature.



P-304

(202) 234-3681

Executive Registry

85- 4572

CHARLES L. BARTLETT



Dear Bill,

I am concerned by our policy toward the Guatemalan elections next Sunday. The State Department is maintaining we can live with the election of Vinicio Cerezo, the Christian Democrat; Jorge Carpio, a well-financed publisher whose backers are presumed to be the military establishment; or Jorge Serrano, who was the appointed president of the appointed Council of State under Rios Montt.

Neutrality towards all three is perhaps sound diplomacy but it is not shrewd or far-sighted politics. It is true we have not seen solid proof that Carpio is the candidate of the crooked generals but the assumption is widely spread among the army's reformist elements so that if he gets in and neglects to prosecute anyone for the blatant corruption of the past, the prediction I get is that there will be more political coups and instability.

Cerezo is an attractive fellow who will probably get the most votes in the first round. He can be beaten in the run-off, more likely by Serrano than by Carpio. The problem Cerezo's election will create is that he is seen by the business community to be far to the left of the ambiguous centralism he has talked in the campaign. His election will therefore provoke a flight of whatever dollars remain in Guatemala and it will certainly not lure any back from the banks in Houston and Miami. This means continuing economic decline and real social turmoil.

Serrano has a good base as a result of his work under Montt, the only decent President Guatemala has had for 15 years, despite the handicaps he derived from Fred Chapin's bitter hostility. Serrano is popular with the Indians because he was fair to them. He is a businessman, a practical thinker, and an exceedingly good politician who is not motivated by the urge to settle scores. He is very articulate and tells his story well in Washington. He can get through to the Dodds and Barneses.

I see him as the only real hope for a consolidation of Guatemala's progress toward democracy. I don't know what options you have in the political action down there but I urge you to consider doing what you can for Serrano.

Best wishes to you both -

Sincerely,

Oct. 27, 1985