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 RUEBFGA/VOA WASH DC  
 RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHINGTON DC  
 RUEBJMA/VOA MEXICO CITY MX  
 RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
 RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY  
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 RUEORMA/CDR470THMIGP COROZAL PM//IAGPP-O-AS//  
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((V. KUZNETSOV ARTICLE UNDER THE RUBRIC "THE 20TH-CENTURY SLAVE TRADE": "CHILDREN ARE BECOMING COMMODITIES"))  
 ((EXCERPTS)) IN MY FILE THERE IS A NEWSPAPER REPORT WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE TO READ WITHOUT A SHUDDER. IN GUATEMALA FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN A ROW THE INTERNATIONAL MAFIA HAS BOUGHT UP CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND SENT THEM TO THE UNITED STATES FOR "TREATMENT." THERE THE BUTCHER MEDICS CUT OUT THEIR HEARTS, KIDNEYS, AND EYES -- WHATEVER WAS REQUIRED FOR SAVING U.S. CHILDREN. THOSE GUATEMALAN CHILDREN WERE KILLED IN COLD BLOOD. ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE, UNTHINKABLE?

IN THE NORTHEAST OF HONDURAS NOT FAR FROM THE CITY OF SAN PEDRO SULA, IN A LITTLE HOUSE WHERE 53-YEAR-OLD ELODIYA MACDERMOT ((NAME AS TRANSLITERATED)) WAS LIVING, THE POLICE FOUND 13 DISABLED CHILDREN. THE YOUNGEST WAS NOT EVEN A YEAR OLD. NO, THEY WERE NOT BEING STARVED; ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WERE BEING VERY WELL FED AND LOOKED AFTER. THE "GOODS" HAD TO LOOK "IN GOOD CONDITION," OTHERWISE THEY WOULD NOT FETCH A GOOD PRICE. E. MACDERMOT ADMITTED: "YES, I SPECIALLY COLLECTED SUCH CHILDREN, THE NURSES IN THE HOSPITALS HELPED ME, AND ATTORNEYS FROM THE CITIES OF TEGUCIGALPA AND SAN PEDRO SULA HELPED DRAW UP THE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS FOR THEIR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES." "HOW MUCH DID THE SENORA RECEIVE FOR HER BUSINESS?" THE INVESTIGATORS ASKED. "THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER CHILD FROM THE ATTORNEYS." "AND HOW MUCH DID THE ATTORNEYS RECEIVE?" "ASK THEM..."

AND WITH SUCH SANGFROID AND IN SUCH A MATTER-OF-FACT WAY THEY TALKED ABOUT HOW SHE PERSUADED THE WEeping MOTHERS, SYMPATHIZED WITH THEM IN THEIR GRIEF, WHISPERED THAT THE LITTLE ONE WOULD BE SAFE, THAT THE WORLD IS NOT WITHOUT GOOD PEOPLE; NOW, THEY SAY, MANY COME FROM THE UNITED STATES, THEY ARE GOOD CHRISTIANS, THEY ARE TAKING THE DISABLED CHILDREN AND PLACING THEM IN MAGNIFICENT HOMES. THE SOOTHING LIE ABOUT THE SYMPATHETIC AMERICANS, THE SENORA'S SINCERE EYES -- THE POLICE FOR A LONG TIME COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WAS PRECISELY THIS FINE-LOOKING WOMAN WHO SO SHAMELESSLY PROFITS BY PARENTAL GRIEF.

THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPER LA REPUBBLICA REPORTED THAT 3 MONTHS AGO THE POLICE FOUND 30 CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 1 AND 2 IN 4 SHELTERS IN THE CAPITAL OF GUATEMALA. FROM OCTOBER 1985 THROUGH MARCH THIS YEAR, THE POLICE CONFIRMED, 163 CHILDREN WERE SOLD ILLEGALLY ACROSS THE BORDER FROM GUATEMALA -- 79 OF THEM TO THE UNITED STATES... WASHINGTON'S OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN TRIED TO HUSH UP THIS SCANDAL. NOTHING OF THE KIND HAPPENED, THEY SAID. "NO, IT DID," THE GUATEMALANS THEMSELVES AND THEIR PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS STATE. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE, THEY STATED TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, TO RECONCILE STATEMENTS IN DEFENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS AT THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE PURCHASE OF DISABLED CHILDREN WHOSE LIVES ARE NEEDED TO SAVE U.S. CHILDREN? WHAT IS THIS? INDIVIDUAL EXCESSES IN PURSUIT OF DOLLARS OR THE INEXCUSABLE ARROGANCE AND PERCEPTION OF OTHER PEOPLES AS "SECOND-CLASS" PEOPLE WHO MUST GIVE UP EVERYTHING, EVEN LITTLE HEARTS AND KIDNEYS? THERE IS ONLY ONE STEP FROM AMERICAN ARROGANCE, FROM RACIST CONTEMPT FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES, TO CANNIBALISTIC TOTAL LICENSE. "SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE PASSED, HAS THE SITUATION CHANGED?" I ASKED

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MARIE-FRANCOISE LYUKER-BABEL ((LAST NAME AS TRANSLITERATED)),  
 EMPLOYEE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF "INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE OF CHILDREN"  
 IN GENEVA.  
 "YOU KNOW," SHE REPLIES, "THE REPORTS HAVE STOPPED FOR THE TIME  
 BEING." BUT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME SUCH SCANDALS HAVE  
 EMERGED. IN THE SEVENTIES THERE WERE CASES OF THE "EXPORT" OF  
 DONORS' BLOOD FROM GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED STATES. NOW THE  
 GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED: WHEN DRAWING UP DOCUMENTS FOR  
 THE EXPORT OF THE CHILDREN TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THE FOSTER PARENTS  
 MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEM TO GUATEMALA UNTIL THE CHILD  
 REACHES THE AGE OF 14. BUT WHO IS GOING TO OBSERVE THIS ORDER? IT  
 WAS FORGOTTEN THE NEXT DAY. ((PASSAGE OMITTED))  
 THE "INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE OF CHILDREN" ORGANIZATION HAS COME UP  
 WITH A NEW REPORT: IN THE STATE OF PARANA (BRAZIL) A GANG OF 60  
 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. IT SOLD 150 CHILDREN AT AN AVERAGE OF  
 5,000 DOLLARS FOR EACH NEWBORN BABY.  
 "YES, THE FACTS ARE SCREAMING OUT," MARIE-FRANCOISE LYUKER-BABEL  
 ENDED THE CONVERSATION. "WHEN I LOOK AT THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE  
 CHILDREN SAVED, THOSE WHO HAVE HAD NEW KIDNEYS AND HEARTS  
 TRANSPLANTED, I SEE BEFORE ME THE GUATEMALAN CHILDREN AND  
 UNDERGROUND NURSERIES IN BRAZIL. WE MUST NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT,  
 WE MUST TALK ABOUT THIS AT THE TOP OF OUR VOICES. WE CAN ONLY STOP  
 THIS DISGRACE -- THE 20TH-CENTURY SLAVE TRADE -- THROUGH THE  
 EFFORTS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY."  
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