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28 November 1994

Talking Points for the DCI's Weekly Meeting

SUBJECT: Efrain BAmACA Velasquez, AKA "Commandante Everardo"

PURPOSE:

To advise for your meeting with Secretary of State Christopher that the information currently available to us suggests [REDACTED] and that Bamaca probably was captured alive and detained in March 1992. We currently lack sufficient reliable information, however, to judge his subsequent fate or whereabouts after April 1992. CIA continues to query assets for more information. Attached are talking points and a copy of the current DI/ALA analysis of the intelligence reporting on the Bamaca case.

[REDACTED]

-- Ambassador McAfee requested that Latin America Division coordinate with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central America, Anne Patterson on efforts to brief all USG entities that have expressed concern over the Bamaca case on the larger implications of the case. (TAB B) Latin America Division plans to instruct Station to advise the Ambassador that this agency will continue to provide intelligence support, however we cannot become a part of the policy-making discussion.

For the DCI's background,

On 21 November 1994 Ms. Harbury met and discussed the Bamaca case with White House National Security advisor, Anthony Lake. Also in attendance were National Security Advisor to the Vice President, Leon Feurth, NSC Senior Director Interamerican

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Affairs, Richard Feinberg, and Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, John Shattuck.

BACKGROUND:

From 11 October to 11 November 1994, US citizen Jennifer Harbury, who claims to be the wife of Guatemalan guerrilla commander Efraim BANCACA Velasquez, staged a hunger strike in Guatemala City, charging that her husband has been secretly detained by the Guatemalan military since his capture in March 1992. Her charges stem from allegations in February 1993 by two ex-guerrillas, who escaped from clandestine Guatemalan Army detention, where they claim to have seen Bancaca alive shortly after his capture in March and again in July 1992. The Guatemalan government continues to claim that it does not keep guerrillas in secret prisons, that Bancaca died of a self-inflicted wound in March 1992 and was buried in an unmarked grave. [REDACTED]

-- All reliable informants indicate Bancaca was captured alive and interrogated by the army [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-- GOG is unlikely to deviate from current story line on Bancaca's fate and it is unlikely that the Human Rights Ombudsman independent investigation will differ from that story line. Guatemalan public reaction and media coverage is generally unsympathetic towards Harbury.

-- Reporting indicates that the URNG has been manipulating the Bancaca case through Harbury to upset US/Guatemala relations. [REDACTED], they provided fabricated information concerning Bancaca's fate to encourage Harbury in her current activities. Driving a wedge between the US and GOG is a political goal of the URNG. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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