

MORI - DDC ID 50045

DENIED IN TOTO

PAGE(S) 1-5

DOC. DATED 31 MARCH 95

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE AUG 1993

#293

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] Julio Roberto
ALPIREZ in connection with the Bamaca and Devine cases

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] January 1989, Alpirez [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] attends the U.S. Army Command and
General Staff course at Ft. Benning, Georgia from late January to
mid-December 1989.

[REDACTED]

-- January 1990, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Alpirez is
assigned to command the Kaibil (Special Forces) school located at
a base at Poptun in the Peten.

--08 June 1990, US Citizen Michael Devine is found murdered near
his home in Peten Department.

[REDACTED]

000152

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date JUL 1996

~~SECRET~~

(152)

50045/50315

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

--25 September 1991, Alpirez is reassigned from the Peten to San Marcos, another remote command.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--30 October 1991, Memo Dissem on Alpirez involvement in Devine's murder disseminated to community.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--18 November 1991, Mark Richard, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Criminal Division was briefed on the Alpirez involvement in the Devine murder by Latin America Division. Also at the briefing were CIA General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. Mr. Richard advises that a review for Department of Justice (DOJ) jurisdiction in the matter would be conducted.

--19 November 1991, Letter from OGC to DOJ.

-- 12 March 1992, Efrain Bamaca, ORPA commandante captured in San Marcos Department. Bamaca is in good condition, despite a light wound to the arm. [REDACTED] Bamaca discloses information about Cuban weapons shipments and training for ORPA guerrillas.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

00046/00315

SECRET

[REDACTED]

-- mid-May 1993, [REDACTED] reported that unidentified [REDACTED] claimed the Army held members of the URNG in clandestine jails and coerced them to work against their former comrades. [REDACTED] reported believed the accounts of two former URNG members who testified they saw Bamaca alive inside a clandestine camp.

-- October 1993, former Army specialists Francisco Solobal and Tiburcio Hernandez, both serving a 30-year sentence for their role in the murder of Michael Devine, publicly claimed they had engaged in Army-run death squad activity and had information on clandestine cemeteries and jails.

-- mid-April 1994, [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] Bamaca after the guerrilla's capture. At that time, Bamaca was in good health. [REDACTED] claimed Bamaca was subsequently taken away by military intelligence officers from the Armed Forces General Staff. He claimed he never saw Bamaca again.

[REDACTED] Santiago Cabrera Lopez, a guerrilla who was in Army custody between March 1991 and December 1992 claimed that he saw Bamaca alive at MZ18 HQS (San Marcos) in July 1992 and that he was warned by Alvarez not to talk about what he had seen.

-- In late October 1994, [REDACTED] related a conversation he had with other [REDACTED] where Bamaca was captured in March 1992 and taken to a military camp in San Marcos.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bamaca had been slightly wounded and cooperated with his military intelligence (D-2) interrogators -- although information about arms caches later proved to be false. In April 1992, Bamaca reportedly was taken away in a D-2 helicopter and never seen by [REDACTED] again.

00045/50316

SECRET

[redacted] reported that a [redacted] Guatemalan [redacted] said that Bamaca had been captured alive in March 1992, but that he is now dead. The officer who reportedly took charge of the interrogations was Colonel Julio Roberto Alpirez, then-third commander of Military Zone 18. [redacted] offered no information on how Bamaca died. In late November 1994 an [redacted] said that Bamaca had been captured alive and believed he was still alive 4-5 weeks later. [redacted] subsequently lost track of the case, but believed Bamaca had been killed.

-- 6 December 1994 the [redacted] reported that [redacted] said that Guatemalan military personnel familiar with the Bamaca case noted that he had been captured alive, held and interrogated for about one month, but is now dead. The exact circumstances of his death are unknown. [redacted] has no firsthand evidence to confirm Bamaca's death.

-- 13 January 1995, the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman Office submitted its final report on the 30-day investigation into the Bamaca case. The Office concluded that Bamaca was not found to be detained by any Guatemalan officials or the security forces, but that it could not determine whether Bamaca was alive or dead.

-- 19 January 1995, a [redacted] review of the Guatemalan press in March 1992 revealed a number of articles about an encounter between the Army and ORPA guerrillas near Nuevo San Carlos on 12 March 1992 -- the incident which involved Bamaca. The articles refer to a guerrilla casualty left on the field, and one paper claims the "leader of the group" was killed. These press reports do not further identify the dead guerrilla.

-- On 25 January 1995, [redacted] reported that a [redacted] Guatemalan [redacted] in early December learned from [redacted] that "it was known within the senior ranks of the Army" that Bamaca was killed by Colonel Julio Roberto Alpirez, third commander of Military Zone 18 (San Marcos). [redacted]

SECRET