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Central Intelligence Agency

[Redacted]



Washington, D.C. 20505

3 April 1995

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The Honorable Anthony Lake  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
National Security Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Tony:

Attached for your information is our analysis of

[Redacted]

As you recall, we have had a verbal request from Congressman  
Combest for the DCI's evaluation of what information disclosed by  
Congressman Torricelli [Redacted] I propose you  
authorize us to pass the enclosed information to the Chairman and  
ranking member of both the Senate and House Intelligence  
Committees, to ensure bipartisan dissemination of this evaluation.

Very respectfully,

*/s/*

William O. Studeman  
Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

# 2954

(120)

DCI  
EXEC  
REF

[Redacted]

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28 March 1995 --

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Distortions in Public  
Statements by Congressman Torricelli

1. [REDACTED]

A. [REDACTED]

B. [REDACTED]

2. Distortions. In his public comments, Congressman Torricelli also made statements that were inaccurate or a distortion of the facts. He repeated these distortions and inaccuracies to buttress his more inflammatory claims that the CIA is out of control, that CIA contains a criminal element, and that our credible knowledge of the reported role of Alpirez in the Bamaca murder was known two years earlier.

A. In his letter, Mr. Torricelli asserts that both Devine and Bamaca were murdered under the direction of Colonel Alpirez. While our information points clearly to a direct role for Alpirez in the Bamaca death, his involvement in the Devine incident is less clear. Reporting indicates that he might have been at the interrogation for at least some portion of it, but the details of the interrogation and the exact circumstances of the death are still unknown.

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[REDACTED]

Approved for Release  
Date AUG 1998

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Distortions in Public  
Statements of Congressman Torricelli

B. In his 23 March 1995 appearance on "Good Morning, America," Mr. Torricelli comments on the Bamaca case that the CIA "knew for several years, it appears, exactly what happened and who was responsible and why." In fact, we do not know exactly what happened to Bamaca, or who was ultimately responsible for the interrogation or decision to kill him. Nor do we know the facts of his death--when, where, and how it occurred. He later comments that Alpirez was responsible for both deaths. We do not know who was responsible for the death of Devine, and we have only the 25 January 1995 report which implicates Alpirez in Bamaca's death.

C. He also claims, ". . . it is clear [that] knowledge both about the death and those responsible was pervasive in the CIA while Jennifer was demanding answers, even while she went on a hunger strike, and the official position continued to be that they didn't know what had happened to her husband." In fact, knowledge about what happened to Bamaca remains extremely limited and fragmentary, although our analytical judgment (which was strengthened by the 25 January 1995 report) was that he had died at some point in the weeks after his capture in March 1992.

D. Based on our fragmentary information, Ms. Harbury was advised by the State Department that the U.S. Government did not know what had happened to Bamaca but that we believed he was dead. At no time did the CIA have direct contact with Ms. Harbury, nor could we [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] We did volunteer to provide the names of [REDACTED] Guatemalan officers, to include Alpirez, who would have detailed knowledge of the Bamaca case to Harbury. This effort was overtaken by the public revelations by Congressman Torricelli.

E. His assertion that Alpirez murdered both Devine and Bamaca is not known to be accurate. We have one reliable report saying he killed Bamaca, and conflicting information on who killed Devine. [REDACTED]

F. He asserts that "the individual with whom there was a contract [Alpirez] was known to be involved in gross violations of human rights." [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Distortions in Public  
Statements of Congressman Torricelli

[REDACTED]

G. Congressman Torricelli also claims that he was not briefed on the facts of the case. He was in fact briefed in detail on the evening of 22 March 1995, after he had made public his letter to the President. He later claimed, "What they didn't do was dispute any facts (as he presented them); nobody's disputed any facts. This has been known for three years. These people were murdered. They were murdered by a man who had a contractual relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency, and these families have gone years, and now months, with a variety of people knowing the truth who fail to speak it. They can call me anything they want; they can say anything they want. I haven't seen anybody convince me, or even attempt to convince anybody else, that those facts aren't accurate." This claim is inaccurate, and at sharp variance with the comment he made to the CIA briefers on the evening of 22 March 1995, when he remarked that it looked like the CIA had acted appropriately.

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