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PAGE 001

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GUAT

CITE GUATEMALA CITY

TO: IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR.

FOR:

SUBJECT: SISTER DIANA ORTIZ

REF: DIRECTOR 331541

TEXT:

COMBINE: COMPLETE

1. PER REF REQUEST, FOLLOWING IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SISTER DIANA ORTIZ INCIDENT. STATION IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT VISIT OF SISTER ORTIZ TO GUATEMALA, THE STATED PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO RECONSTRUCT THE ALLEGED ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND RAPE. THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUAL AT POST ON THE CASE IS THE POLITICAL OFFICER WHO HANDLED THE INITIAL REPORT OF THE INCIDENT AND THE EMBASSY FOLLOW UP. PER POLOFF, APART FROM CALLING FOR COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION BY ALL INVOLVED PARTIES AND PROVIDING ASSURANCES OF SAFETY FOR SISTER ORTIZ, THE POLITICAL SECTION IS STAYING OUT OF THE CASE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IT IS BEING HANDLED BY THE CONSULATE'S AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES SECTION.

2. THIS IS POLOFF'S SUMMARY: THE ALLEGED INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON 2 NOV 89 WHEN URQUINE SISTER AMCIT DIANA ORTIZ HAD BEEN IN GUATEMALA FOR PERHAPS A COUPLE OF YEARS (THE "FACTS" IN THIS CASE CHANGE CONSTANTLY - THE LENGTH OF TIME SHE HAD BEEN IN COUNTRY PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION IS ONE OF THE FACTS THAT CHANGES.) SHE WAS TEACHING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IN HUEHUETENANGO WHEN SHE TRAVELED TO ANTIGUA TO ATTEND A RELIGIOUS RETREAT AT THE POSADA BELEN ON 1 NOV 89. ACCORDING TO HER STORY, SHE WAS IN THE BACKYARD OF THE POSADA BELEN WHEN TWO MEN, ONE BRANDISHING A HANDGRENADE, KIDNAPPED HER AND FORCED HER TO ACCOMPANY THEM BY BUS TO MIXCO - (A) GUATEMALA CITY

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SECRET

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SUBURB) WHERE THEY GOT OFF AND WERE MET BY A POLICE CAR MARKED "NO. 7." INSIDE THE POLICE CAR WERE TWO MEN, ONE DRESSED IN A POLICE UNIFORM. SHE WAS FORCED INTO THE POLICE CAR AND DRIVEN TO A HOUSE WHERE SHE ALLEGEDLY WAS TORTURED. VERSIONS OF THE TORTURE HAVE CHANGED. THE PERPETRATORS ALSO HAVE CHANGED - POLICE ORIGINALLY, LATER MILITARY. IN ONE VERSION SHE WAS BURNED ON THE BACK 110 TIMES WITH CIGARETTES. IN ONE VERSION SHE WAS FONDLED, IN ANOTHER VERSION SHE WAS REPEATEDLY RAPED AND BEATEN. WINE REPORTEDLY WAS POURED OVER HER BODY AND EITHER DOGS OR RATS LICKED THE WINE OFF, CANDLES BEING LIT AROUND THE SCENE OF THE TORTURE AND RAPE. FINALLY SHE WAS THROWN INTO A PIT WHERE OTHER TORTURE VICTIMS, SOME ALREADY DEAD, WERE LYING. DURING A SUBSEQUENT TORTURE EPISODE, SOMEONE NAMED "ALEJANDRO" WALKED IN AND ORDERED HER GUATEMALAN TORTURERS TO STOP BECAUSE SHE WAS AN AMERICAN. (PER ORTIZ, ALEJANDRO WAS A NORTH AMERICAN BECAUSE HE "WALKED LIKE AN AMERICAN" AND USED AN AMERICAN OBSCENITY WHEN HE WALKED IN ON HER GUATEMALAN TORTURERS. THE POLOFF HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING ALEJANDRO.) ALEJANDRO THEN HELPED HER GET OUT OF THE TORTURE HOUSE, AND WHILE DRIVING HER IN HIS JEEP TO A "FRIEND AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY," SHE JUMPED OUT IN RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC IN ZONE 5 OF THE CAPITAL. SHE GOT MONEY FROM A WOMAN PASSERBY AND TOOK A PUBLIC BUS TO A TRAVEL AGENCY IN ZONE ONE. FROM THE TRAVEL AGENCY SHE CALLED THE MARYKNOLL PRIESTS WHO PICKED HER UP AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY ON 2 NOV 89. SHE ALSO VISITED THE PAPAL NUNCIO AND DEPARTED GUATEMALA ON 3 NOV 89. SHE REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE EMBASSY BEFORE DEPARTING GUATEMALA, REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES AND REFUSED THE OFFER OF AN EMBASSY-SPONSORED MEDICAL EXAMINATION, WHICH COULD HAVE REVEALED THE FACTS REGARDING THE INJURIES SHE ALLEGEDLY SUFFERED.

3. SINCE LEAVING THE COUNTRY ON 3 NOV 89 ORTIZ HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATORS ON THE CASE, INCLUDING FBI AND STATE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATORS. SHE ALSO HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE GUATEMALAN POLICE, THE DEPUTY HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN WHO TRAVELLED TO KENTUCKY WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AND CARL WEST, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR ON THE CASE. SHE HAS REFUSED TO MAKE ANY OFFICAL STATEMENTS/DEPOSITIONS AND SHE HAS REFUSED ALL MEDICAL EXAMS. SHE DID, HOWEVER, AGREE TO AN INTERVIEW WITH DIANE SAWYER IN DEC 90. ORTIZ IS CURRENTLY IN GUATEMALA TO RECONSTRUCT THE ALLEGED EVENTS OF NOV 89, HOWEVER, RECONSTRUCTION WAS NOT COMPLETED BECAUSE SHE FAINTED. SHE IS LEAVING THE COUNTRY ON 10 APRIL. AT ONE OF THE PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS MADE BY ORTIZ, SHE ALLEGEDLY IDENTIFIED A RECENTLY ARRIVED EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER AND A GUATEMALAN EMBASSY DRIVER AS ACCOMPLICES IN HER ABDUCTION.

[REDACTED]

4.

[REDACTED]

AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERTAKEN TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THOSE POLICE OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING.

[REDACTED]

NOT A SINGLE PIECE OF

