

Current Classification:>

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TO: PRIORITY DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA WASHINGTON DC, DA WASHINGTON DC, CNO WASHINGTON DC, CMC WASHINGTON DC, CSAF WASHINGTON DC, TREASURY DEPT, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, DOERQ//IN, USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PH.

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

DIST: 3 MARCH 1995

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

SUBJ: EFFORTS BY CIVILIAN GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO PERSUADE THE MILITARY TO COLLABORATE IN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE BAMACA CASE

DOI: LATE FEBRUARY 1995

SUMMARY: NONE

TEXT:

1.

[REDACTED]

2. IN LATE FEBRUARY 1995, SENIOR GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MET TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF FORMER GUATEMALAN REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) COMMANDER EFRAIN ((BAMACA)) VELASQUEZ, ALIAS "COMANDANTE EVERARDO." THE MEETING INCLUDED CIVILIAN MEMBERS [REDACTED] MILITARY OFFICERS [REDACTED] AND MEMBERS OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT PEACE COMMISSION (COPAZ), WHO WERE REPRESENTING PRESIDENT RAMIRO ((DE LEON)) CARPIO. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS PRESENT

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AT THE MEETING SAID THE MILITARY OFFICERS WERE NOT VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE INITIATIVE, EVEN AFTER BEING TOLD IT HAD THE FULL BACKING OF PRESIDENT DE LEON.

3. A MEMBER OF COPAZ TRIED TO PERSUADE THE MILITARY OFFICERS TO WORK TOWARDS OBTAINING A TRUTHFUL AND CREDIBLE VERSION OF THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE DEATH OF BAMACA. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MANY DIFFERENT VERSIONS CIRCULATING ABOUT BAMACA'S DISAPPEARANCE--SOME OF THEM OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL--DO NOTHING BUT DISCREDIT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT AND COULD YET BECOME A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE MILITARY OFFICERS REACTED WITH SOME HOSTILITY, SAYING THE EXECUTIVE WAS TRYING TO FORCE THE MILITARY TO COME UP WITH SCAPEGOATS. THE CIVILIANS AT THE MEETING DISAGREED WITH THE MILITARY OFFICERS, AND SUGGESTED THAT A BETTER SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE ARMY TO ADMIT IT HAD BAMACA, AND THAT BAMACA HAD COOPERATED WITH THE ARMY. THIS SUGGESTION WAS ALSO REJECTED BY THE MILITARY OFFICERS, WHO SAID THAT THE VERSION OF EVENTS CLAIMING BAMACA WAS KILLED IN COMBAT WAS TRUTHFUL.

4. BECAUSE AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED ON THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION, OR EVEN IF AN INVESTIGATION WOULD BE PURSUED BY THE MILITARY, THE COPAZ MEMBER SUGGESTED THAT A MILITARY COMMISSION STUDY THE MATTER ON A PRIORITY BASIS. THE GROUP AGREED THAT A COMMISSION WOULD BE FORMED COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STAFF.

5. [REDACTED]

6. IN LATE FEBRUARY 1995, A [REDACTED] GUATEMALAN [REDACTED] WHO WAS AWARE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE LATE FEBRUARY MEETING SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE MILITARY COMMISSION TO BE FORMED TO DISCUSS A REINVESTIGATION OF THE BAMACA CASE WILL BE USEFUL IN FINDING A TRUE VERSION OF EVENTS RELATED TO BAMACA. [REDACTED] THE MILITARY WILL RESIST PRESSURE FROM CIVILIANS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BECAUSE IT FEELS IT WOULD HAVE TO COMPROMISE SOME OF ITS OFFICERS AND ADMIT TO WRONGDOING. [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT IN REALITY, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A REINVESTIGATION, BUT ONLY A NEED FOR THE MILITARY TO BE FORTHCOMING ABOUT WHAT IT ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT THE CASE.

7. [REDACTED] CIVILIANS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARE TRYING TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL MARIO RENE ((ENRIQUEZ)) MORALES TO HAVE THE ARMY COME UP WITH A DIFFERENT--AND MORE TRUTHFUL--VERSION OF EVENTS. [REDACTED] ENRIQUEZ IS TRYING TO BE OPEN. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE NOTED ENRIQUEZ RECENTLY GAVE THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS VERIFICATION MISSION IN GUATEMALA (MINUGUA) A LIST OF FORMER URNG COMBATANTS WHO ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE ARMY, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNLIKELY EVEN A SHORT TIME AGO. THE MINISTER HAS ALREADY BEEN TOLD BY CIVILIAN OFFICIALS THAT A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE BAMACA CASE IS URGENTLY NEEDED. WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME HOPE FOR SUPPORT FROM ENRIQUEZ, [REDACTED] THEY ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM HAVING A CANDID AND FORTHCOMING MILITARY ON THE BAMACA AFFAIR.

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