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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ GUATEMALA 09871

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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, EAID, SHUM, PINS, PINT, GT
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON THE INFORMATION
- CONCERNING THE DEATHS OF THE THREE AID PROJECT
- RELATED PERSONS.

REF: GUATEMALA 9870

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE GUATEMALAN PRESS, PARTICULARLY THE EVENING PAPERS OF NOVEMBER 12, GAVE GREAT PROMINENCE TO THE DEATHS OF THE AID RELATED PERSONS, AND LA HORA GAVE IT BANNER HEADLINES ACROSS THE ENTIRE FRONT PAGE. NONE OF THE PAPERS SWALLOWED THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF AN ACCIDENT. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ALSO GIVES NO CREDIBILITY TO THE OFFICIAL VERSION.

3. FROM THE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE FOUND, IT LOOKS AS IF THE AUTHORITIES INTENDED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FOR FELIPE RELAC'S WIFE AS WELL. THERE WERE FOUR PASSES FOR TRAVEL TO MEXICO AND A PASSPORT AND A CEDULA DE VECINDAD ISSUED TO ELVIRA DE JESUS SOLARES, BUT WITHOUT PHOTOGRAPHS. WHY CELIA CHET DE RALAC HAS NOT TURNED UP IS STILL A MYSTERY. IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AN OVERSIGHT TO HAVE LEFT THE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE TO BE USED FOR HER WITH

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THE REST OF THE DOCUMENTS AND THIS MAY INDICATE THAT THE WHOLE ACCIDENT WAS RAPIDLY STAGED.

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4. QUITE APART FROM THE REPORTED EARLY MORNING WARNING TO THE FIREMEN IN COATEPEQUE, THE AUTHORITIES ACTED WITH EXTRAORDINARY DILIGENCE AND SPEED IN REMOVING THE CAR FROM ITS ALLEGED RESTING PLACE AND MOVING IT TO THE POLICE STATION AT PAJAPITA BY 8:15 A.M. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, FOR AT THAT HOUR INTER-AMERICA WAS NOTIFIED BY THE FUNERAL HOME IN COATEPEQUE THAT THE VEHICLE WAS ALREADY IN PAJAPITA. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT THE BODIES WERE TRANSFERRED TO NATIONAL HOSPITAL AT COATEPEQUE, WHERE A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE COULD ISSUE THE REPORTS OF DEATH, WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED MUCH CLOSER TO PAJAPITA. AN EXAMINATION OF THE SITE OF THE WRECK BY THE TRAVELING GROUP FROM GUATEMALA CITY MENTIONED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, REVEALED NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION.

5. MY OWN VIEW IS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A PROMPT RESPONSE BY THE ARCHIVOS UNDER COL. JUAN JOSE MARROQUIN SILIEZAR (CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PRESIDENT) TO THE VIGOROUS HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTATION MADE BY UNDER SECRETARY IKLE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLIOT ABRAMS ON NOVEMBER 7. THE THEME BEING: *YOU CAN'T TALK TO US THIS WAY; WE WILL SHOW YOU* THERE IS, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OR MORE OF THE PERSONS DIED UNDER TORTURE AND THAT THE INCENDIARY DEVICE WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO DESTROY ALL EVIDENCE OF TORTURE ON THE BODIES OF THE TWO OLDER PERSONS. THE THIRD PERSON HAD TO BE THROWN OUT OF THE CAR IN ORDER TO PROVIDE VERISIMILITUDE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE GENUINE AND FRAUDELENT

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DOCUMENTS IN GOOD SHAPE. THE GENUINE DOCUMENTS WERE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND THE FALSE DOCUMENTS WERE SAID BY THOSE WHO EXAMINED THEM TO BE VERY CLUMSY FORGERIES WITH THE SEALS ON THE PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS NOT MATCHING PARTS OF THE SEALS ON THE PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH PAGES.

6. I STILL DON'T SEE THAT WE HAVE A VERY GOOD LEGAL-CASE FOR IMAGINING THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF AN ACCIDENT. THERE IS ONE ADVANTAGE IN THIS CASE, SO FAR, OVER THE FEBRUARY CASE, IN THAT A DEATH CERTIFICATE IS BEING ISSUED FOR FELIPE RALAC KELOC AND THIS DOES ALLOW HIS TWO AND A HALF YEAR OLD SON

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TO OBTAIN WHATEVER PENSION IS GOING TO BE AWARDED BY INTERAMERICA. THE CASE CRIES OUT FOR JUSTICE, BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO EASY UNTIL WE KNOW THE FATE OF RALAC'S WIFE.

7. I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS CASE BY SECURE PHONE WITH ARA/CEN AT 5:00 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME.

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*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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