

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS RELEASE

SUBJECT: Priest Killings, El Salvador 11/16/89

FILE: HQ 163-61055

PART 2 OF 3

Memorandum



Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Lab. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SSP

CLASSIFIED  
 EXTENDED  
 BY [initials]  
 DATE [initials]

To : The Director

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Date

2/2/90

WMB/jm  
W. M. Baker

~~SEE REVERSE  
 SIDE FOR  
 CLASSIFICATION  
 ACTION~~

Subject : UNSUBS; MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS,  
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR;  
 FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION-MURDER;  
 OO: HQ 163(A)-61055

3.6.92 1048 DKIN/CAF  
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 # 329075

**PURPOSE:** To report the results of an inquiry into the allegations of mistreatment of two alleged witnesses to captioned matter during interviews conducted at the Miami Field Office.

**SYNOPSIS:** FBI assistance was provided in the protection and interviewing of an alleged witness and her family in captioned murders. Interviews and polygraphs of witnesses Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna-Ramirez were conducted by FBI Miami during the period 11/24/89 through 12/1/89. Barrera was interviewed on four occasions and polygraphed twice. Cerna-Ramirez was interviewed twice and polygraphed twice. Barrera recanted her original statement. The results of her polygraphs concerning her recanted statement were judged either inconclusive or deceptive. Cerna-Ramirez provided two conflicting statements. His polygraph results were indicative of deception on both. A review of interview transcripts and audio tapes failed to disclose any verbally abusive interview techniques or unorthodox interview procedures. Security was provided by FBI Miami. Hotel accommodations were comfortable and family needs were satisfactorily addressed. The Cerna family was afforded the opportunity to visit with Jesuit acquaintances on several occasions. FBI Miami managerial oversight and direction were determined to be responsive and appropriate. Interviews of Agent personnel, Miami Field Office, determined all interaction

Enclosure **"ENCLOSURE IN BULKY ROOM"**

- 1 - Mr. Clarke
- 1 - Mr. Revell
- 1 - Mr. Davenport (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Baker (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. O'Hara
- 2 - Mr. Hicks  
(Attn: Mr. [redacted])
- 1 - Mr. Hale (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted] (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood (Enc.)

163-61055-67

Classified by SP4/MAU/mag  
 Declassify on: OADR 2/19/98

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Document #95  
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with the Cerna family during interviews and security detail assignments was professional, cordial, and appropriate to the investigative mission. The inquiry into captioned matter determined that allegations of abusive interrogation and improper investigative conduct, as asserted in the Lawyers Committee Report, were unfounded and had no basis in fact.

CURRENT BUREAU POLICY: While a number of existing FBI guidelines, policies, and procedures govern the conduct of Agents during their investigative activity, the following citations reflect policy applicable to this review:

The Manual of Administrative Operations and Procedures (MAOP) states in part that ". . . employees will obey not only the letter of the law but the spirit of the law . . . . With respect to investigative activities, this admonition particularly applies to . . . the use of any improper, illegal, or unethical tactics in the procurement of evidence." (MAOP, Section 1-4, p. 6.01)

The Legal Handbook for Special Agents provides the following guidance:

Time of Interview

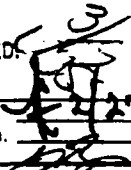
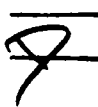

Interviews with witnesses, suspects, and subjects conducted for the purpose of obtaining information and possible further evidence should be conducted whenever possible in the daytime." (Legal Handbook, Section 7-8.1, p.86)

Place of Interview

"Interviews should preferably be conducted in field offices . . . unless such person specifically requests to the contrary." (Legal Handbook, Section 7-8.2, p. 86)

As indicated in the DETAILS segment of this memorandum, this review determined full compliance with current Bureau policy and procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (1) That a reply repudiating allegations of witness mistreatment as contained in the 12/21/89, letter from Patrick J. Burns, President, Jesuit Conference, be prepared for the Director's approval.

|                                                                                               |                      |                        |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED:  | Adm. Servs. _____    | Legal Coun. _____      | Off. of Liaison _____                                                                              |
|                                                                                               | Com. Inv. <u>BIM</u> | Rec. Mgnt. _____       | & Int. Affs. _____                                                                                 |
| Director _____                                                                                | Ident. _____         | Tech. Servs. _____     | Off. of _____                                                                                      |
| Dep. Dir. _____                                                                               | Inspection _____     | Training _____         | Public Affs.  |
| ADD-Adm. _____                                                                                | Intell. _____        | Cong. Affs. Off. _____ |                                                                                                    |
| ADD-Inv.   | Laboratory _____     | Off. of EEO _____      |                                                                                                    |

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(2) That the Office of Public Affairs prepare a press release which details the appropriate and professional conduct of FBI Agents evidenced by this review.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| APPROVED: <u>[Signature]</u> | Adm. Servs. <u>[Signature]</u> | Legal Coun. _____      | Off. of Liaison _____           |
| Director _____               | Crim. Inv. <u>[Signature]</u>  | Rec. Mgnt. _____       | & Int. Affs. _____              |
| Dep. Dir. <u>[Signature]</u> | Ident. _____                   | Tech. Servs. _____     | Off. of _____                   |
| ADD Adm. _____               | Inspection _____               | Training _____         | Public Affs. <u>[Signature]</u> |
| ADD Inv. <u>[Signature]</u>  | Intell. _____                  | Cong. Affs. Off. _____ |                                 |
|                              | Laboratory _____               | Off. of EEO _____      |                                 |

*h7c*  
DETAILS: In response to the Director's note to Assistant Director (AD) William M. Baker, Criminal Investigative Division (CID), dated 1/2/90, AD Baker assigned Supervisory Special Agents (SSAs) [redacted] and [redacted] to review the Miami Field Office's interviews and handling of Lucia Barrera de Cerna and Jorge Alberto Cerna-Ramirez. This memorandum reports the results of the requested review.

The scope of this review included the following: determination of predication for FBI involvement; interviews of Miami Field Office management and supervisory personnel; analysis of transcriptions of the interview of Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna-Ramirez; interviews of Agents assigned to the witness debriefings, polygraph examinations and protection detail; and lastly, an analysis of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights report captioned, "The Jesuit Murders: A Report on the Testimony of a Witness." Each area of this review is discussed below.

Predication

*h7c*  
The FBI's assistance in the investigation of the murder of six Jesuit priests, a cook, and her daughter at the Central American University Jose Simion Canas (UCA) on 11/16/89, was requested by cable from the American Embassy, San Salvador. This cable was dated 11/18/89. Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [redacted] was dispatched to San Salvador, El Salvador, from Guadalajara, Mexico, on 11/22/89. (A copy of the USDS cable dated 11/18/89, can be found at Tab A. *(S-1)(A)(U)*)

A determination of predication was made in this matter through a review of FBI Miami's investigative file. (The FD-302 reflecting the details of this review can be found at Tab B.)

*\* I believe that a press response would be preferable. A congressional response should also*

*[Signature]*  
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The Miami Field Office was notified shortly after noon on 11/23/89, by Jim Le Marie, Special Agent (SA), U.S. Department of State (USDS), that a plane would be travelling to the United States with a Salvadoran family. Further, one of the family members was a witness to the murders. ALAT [REDACTED] would accompany the family from San Salvador. At 10:55 p.m. on 11/23/89, the plane arrived at Miami International Airport and was met by a group of individuals including Miami SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The FBI role in the matter was to interview the person believed to be the only witness, Lucia Barrera, and to protect the family until other arrangements could be provided.

Miami Field Office Management and Supervision

b7c  
The Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Miami Field Office is William A. Gavin. The Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) is Larry E. Torrence. SSA [REDACTED] is the supervisor of the Major Case Squad which has responsibility for Foreign Police Cooperation matters.

During this review, the SAC, ASAC, and SSA were interviewed. It was determined that management and supervisory personnel were fully aware of this case at its initiation, throughout its progress, and at the time the witnesses were returned to the Jesuits. During interviews, the management and supervisory staff asserted that the witnesses were debriefed in a professional manner, treated in a courteous fashion and provided with all necessities.

SAC Gavin stated he was notified early in this matter that a witness to the murder would require debriefing and protection. He stated he was kept posted on the progress of the interviews.

b7c  
He stated he recalled a detailed briefing by ALAT [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]. During this briefing, SAC Gavin said he recalled cautioning the Agents to remain independent in their interviews and to be extremely sensitive to the family's situation. He told the Agents to put themselves in the position of the family.

SAC Gavin concluded that he was certain if any unprofessional conduct or incident occurred during the debriefing of the witnesses, he would have learned about it. (The full text of SAC Gavin's statement can be found at Tab C.)

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b7c  
ASAC Torrence stated he was aware of the Miami Field Office's participation in this case from the onset. He recalled that the Duty Agent notified him on Thanksgiving Day that ALAT [REDACTED] was accompanying a Salvadoran citizen, alleged to be a witness to the murder of six Jesuit priests, from El Salvador to Miami. After learning that Miami Agents would meet the plane, he told the Duty Agent to keep him posted as to developments.

b7c  
ASAC Torrence stated that the next day he was briefed by ALAT [REDACTED]. In a conference call to FBIHQ, Office of Liaison and International Affairs, Inspector in Charge Martin V. Hale told him that the witness needed to be interviewed and thereafter, requested that a teletype be prepared reporting the results of the interview.

He advised that when he learned a representative from El Salvador was to participate in the interviews, he and his staff made a decision to conduct all witness interviews in the Miami Field Office. Because of security concerns, he stated FBI Agents were to be present at all times the Salvadoran representative interviewed the witnesses.

ASAC Torrence stated that he received daily briefings on the progress of the interviews and later, on the outcome of the polygraph examinations. He stated that the witnesses were treated well and that the Agents were keenly aware of the fact the witnesses were in a foreign environment. He stated that he believed the witnesses were afforded comfortable surroundings. (The complete text of ASAC Torrence's statement can be found at Tab D.)

b7c  
SSA [REDACTED] stated that his initial involvement occurred on 11/27/89, when he was briefed by SA [REDACTED]. He stated SA [REDACTED] was assigned as case Agent to this matter because SA [REDACTED] was acting in a Relief Supervisory role when this case developed and had met the witnesses on 11/24/89. SA [REDACTED] was, therefore, familiar with the facts of the case and with the witnesses. In addition, SSA [REDACTED] characterized SA [REDACTED] as a mature, competent, senior grade Agent who spoke Spanish.

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He stated that later during the morning of 11/27/89, he briefly met the witness in the reception room and also met Colonel Jorge Rivas Mejia of the Salvadoran Special Investigative Unit (SIU). SSA [REDACTED] did not participate in any of the interviews.

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b7c  
SSA [REDACTED] stated that the initial interview and all others were conducted during normal business hours within FBI space at Miami. He said that although the family of Lucia Barrera was initially left in the FBI reception room, he advised SA [REDACTED] that during subsequent interviews the family members should stay within FBI space in an adjoining interview room. Further, he stated he told SA [REDACTED] to make the family comfortable.

He said he was particularly concerned about the well-being of Lucia Barrera's daughter. He said a number of Agents furnished soda and candy to the child. He said he personally brought the little girl a stuffed toy. He said throughout the witnesses' debriefing he received no complaints, either directly or indirectly, from the witnesses.

b7c  
Later during the week, SSA [REDACTED] viewed the polygraph examination of Jorge Cerna-Ramirez. He said, in his opinion, the polygraph examination was low-key.

b7c  
SSA [REDACTED] stated he was fully advised of the progress of the interviews, discrepancies noted by the Agents, and the results of the polygraph examinations. He said he briefed SAC Gavin and ASAC Torrence on the progress of the investigation throughout the week. (The complete text of SSA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab E.)

In summary, it is the view of the SSAs conducting this review that Miami Field Office management and supervisory personnel were fully advised and actively involved in directing this investigation. They furnished adequate guidance and support to the investigators. They established procedures to insure the security and well-being of the witnesses. Because of management's involvement, any unprofessional conduct or unorthodox interview techniques would have been readily apparent to them and would not have been tolerated.

#### Analysis of Transcripts

b7c  
SSAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reviewed the typed transcripts of the interviews of Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna conducted by Miami FBI personnel and a representative of the SIU from El Salvador.

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Briefly, each interview is synopsized as follows:

On 11/27/89, Lucia Barrera advised that while sleeping at the university compound she was awakened in the night by gunfire. She looked out the window of a room adjacent to the one she was sleeping in, and saw five soldiers shooting at the priests' quarters. She also heard a disturbance and loud voices. Several days later she told her story to the legal representative for the Human Rights Office for the Archdiocese. (The verbatim transcript of the 11/27/89, of Lucia Barrera can be found at Tab F.)

On 11/28/89, Lucia Barrera changed her statement. Early during this interview, she alleged she had been advised to alter facts concerning her observations the night the murders occurred. This advice was given to her by the legal advisor to the Human Rights Office for the Archdiocese. She stated she was told to include a part about seeing the soldiers even though she saw nothing. This legal representative is the same person Lucia Barrera talked with on 11/20/89, in El Salvador. (The verbatim transcript of the 11/28/89, interview of Lucia Barrera can be found at Tab G.)

On 11/29/89, Lucia Barrera was again interviewed. She reiterated the previous statement of 11/28/89, (i.e., she saw nothing and was told to lie). (The verbatim transcript of the 11/29/89, interview of Lucia Barrera can be found at Tab H.)

On 11/27 and 11/28/89, Jorge Cerna-Ramirez was interviewed. On both occasions, he told the version wherein his wife saw the soldiers. Both of these interviews were done prior to the change of his wife's testimony. The letter from the Jesuit conference indicated a subsequent interview of Jorge Cerna on 11/30/89. No transcription of the interview was found, however, Cerna-Ramirez was interviewed during the course of his polygraph examination on 11/30/89, and again on 12/1/89. (The verbatim transcript of the 11/27/89, interview of Ramirez can be found at Tab I. The verbatim transcript of the 11/28/89, interview can be found at Tab J.)

None of the verbatim transcripts of the Lucia Barrera interviews exhibited accusatory verbiage by the interviewers, although Barrera was challenged occasionally to specify her answers and clarify discrepancies, as warranted. As mentioned, her recanting of the portion of her statement relating to seeing soldiers occurred early in the 11/28/89 interview. After recanting her 11/27/89 statement, her principal stated concern



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was that having now told the truth, she was afraid she would go to jail or be killed. She was assured that she was in the protection of the U.S. Government. No indication of a hostile or confrontational attitude on the part of Barrera or the interviewers was noted.

The two interviews of Jorge Cerna-Ramirez were more confrontational. Discrepancies were noted between the wife's statement and his. The interviewers pursued these differences aggressively to establish a consistent version of the events. On several occasions, Cerna-Ramirez's account of his behavior during the incident was challenged as being unmanly or not "Latin." In particular, the interviewing Agents questioned Cerna-Ramirez's decision to allow his wife to place herself in danger during the shooting by leaving the room and going to a window while he stayed with their child. Cerna-Ramirez's responses were not indignant and he did not appear outraged. This line of questioning did not detract from the focus of the interview.

b7c  
Additionally, on 1/12/90, SSA [REDACTED] with the assistance of Language Specialist (LS) [REDACTED] reviewed the audio tapes of the above witness interviews. The purpose of this review was to identify any audible evidence of confrontation or verbally abusive interview tactics. This audio review attempted to ascertain the verbal demeanor of the witnesses at crucial or controversial points throughout the several recorded interviews.

b7c  
The audio tapes were played aloud as LS [REDACTED] translated simultaneously with the recording. SSA [REDACTED] knowledgeable as to the content of each transcript, listened and directed LS [REDACTED] to translate those portions of the tape assessed as probable points of stressful confrontations. No evidence of confrontation, emotional distress, or verbally abusive interview techniques were detected.

Interviews of Agents Assigned to Witness  
Debriefings and the Protection Detail

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FBI SAs assigned to the debriefing of the witnesses Lucia Barrera de Cerna and Jorge Cerna-Ramirez were SA [REDACTED] and ALAT [REDACTED] Mexico City.

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Lucia Barrera was interviewed on four separate occasions. Cerna-Ramirez was interviewed twice.

*b7c*  
SA [REDACTED] advised that all the interviews conducted of both Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez were cordial and professional. The witnesses were never harassed verbally nor driven to emotional outbreaks. They were constantly reassured as to their safety and the need for truthfulness. All of the interviews and polygraphs were done with the consent and cooperation of both Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez.

Barrera's original statements alleged she saw armed men shooting in the vicinity of the priests' quarters on 11/16/89, the night of the killings. Barrera recanted that statement on 11/28/89 and 11/29/89. The recanted statement was just the opposite, i.e., she saw nothing. Subsequent polygraph examinations concerning the truthfulness of the 11/28-29/89, statements indicated that some of her responses were inconclusive and others were deceptive.

*b7c*  
SA [REDACTED] stated that on 11/28/89, the first interview of Jorge Cerna-Ramirez was conducted. Cerna-Ramirez alleged that during the shooting on the night of 11/16/89, he remained on his mattress on the floor. He claimed his wife left the room. On 11/30/89, Cerna-Ramirez was polygraphed regarding the above statement and his responses were judged to be indicative of deception.

*b7c*  
SA [REDACTED] stated that on 12/1/89, the last day of interviews, Cerna-Ramirez provided another new version of the events he and his wife were alleged to have witnessed. He stated he and his wife both looked out of the window and observed armed men in dark clothes. Cerna-Ramirez was once again polygraphed and showed deception. SA [REDACTED] said that upon post-polygraph interview, Cerna-Ramirez and his wife admitted that they fabricated the most recent version and actually saw nothing on that night.

*b7c*  
SA [REDACTED] stated that after a review and evaluation of the statements and polygraph examination results that the truthfulness of the witnesses could not be determined concerning the events they alleged to have witnessed on 11/16/89.

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b7c SA [REDACTED] emphasized, on several occasions, that the family's welfare and well-being were a constant concern throughout their stay in the Miami area. Expensive dinners, comfortable hotel accommodations, unsolicited gifts and toys given to the child, lunch breaks, and family privacy in the evenings were provided in order to make the Cerna family as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. (The full text of SA [REDACTED] can be found at Tab K.)

b7c It was the conclusion of the SSAs who conducted this inquiry that statements provided by SA [REDACTED] were corroborated by actual events and by statements obtained from other FBI employees of the Miami Field Office. The demeanor of the witnesses throughout all of the interviews was cooperative and cordial. This was evidenced by a review of the verbatim transcripts and listening to the audio recordings of the interviews.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] an eleven-year FBI Agent, currently assigned to Guadalajara, Mexico, has previously served as an SSA in the Miami Field Office. His involvement in the investigation began on 11/20/89, when he was first notified of the murders in El Salvador. Following his arrival in El Salvador on 11/22/89, he was briefed the next day by personnel from the SIU. That afternoon, he was requested to accompany Lucia Barrera and her family on a French military flight from El Salvador to the United States by Ambassador William G. Walker.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] provided a detailed accounting of his interaction with the family from the time of the flight to the United States on 11/22/89, to the release of the family to the Jesuits on 12/2/89. He asserted that the family members were well fed, comfortably lodged, and provided adequate security. He said the family met with Jesuit priests from the Miami area on three occasions, specifically on 11/23/89, 11/24/89, and 11/25/89.

b7c He maintained that the interviews were, at all times, motivated by a desire for a factual account of what the witness saw and heard. ALAT [REDACTED] said the witness interviews were limited to normal business hours after the witnesses had an opportunity to rest. By way of entertainment, the family watched

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b7c the Spanish-speaking TV channels and were provided privacy. Other amenities included toys such as puzzles, crayons, and coloring books. (The full text of ALAT [REDACTED] can be found at Tab L.)

b7c SA [REDACTED] Miami Field Office, administered polygraph examinations to Lucia Barrera on 11/29 and 11/30/89, and Cerna-Ramirez on 11/30 and 12/1/89.

b7c The use of the polygraph in these instances was approved by the ASAC, Miami, prior to the commencement of the examination. Additionally, both Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez consented to the use of the polygraph and were cooperative throughout the process. Admittedly, all examinees manifest some nervousness. It was SA [REDACTED] assessment that neither Barrera nor Cerna-Ramirez exhibited excessive nervousness or apprehension prior to, or during the examination.

Each examination consisted of a pre-exam interview, the polygraph examination, and a post-exam interview. Appropriate authorizations, consent forms, and examination reports were prepared and submitted in connection with each examination.

b7c Briefly, SA [REDACTED] advised that regardless of the version of events put forth by the witnesses throughout the series of examinations administered, neither Barrera nor Cerna-Ramirez ever tested as "truthful" in any of their responses. Their results were either "inconclusive" or "indicative of deception."

b7c Consistent with appropriate polygraph examination procedure, every effort was made to relax and reassure the examinee to insure the accuracy of the results. Barrera did advise SA [REDACTED] that she periodically takes medication for hypertension. His assessment was that this would not impact on the results of the examination.

b7c Prior to each examination, a series of questions was prepared, derived from the witnesses' statements. Each question was presented to the examinee prior to the examination. All questions posed to Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez were reviewed by them prior to the examination. (The full text of SA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab M.)

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It was determined by the SSAs conducting this inquiry that all polygraph examinations conducted of Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez were done in accordance with existing FBI policies and procedures. Additionally, it was determined that the witnesses Barrera and Cerna-Ramirez were afforded every opportunity to provide truthful and accurate statements. The results of the polygraph in these instances did not substantiate the truthfulness of these witnesses' statements. Further, the Polygraph Unit, FBIHQ, reviewed the results of these examinations and concurred with the findings. (Copies of the FD-498's polygraph reports, polygraph consent forms, and the Polygraph Unit's review are located at Tab N.)

b7c SA [REDACTED] Miami Field Office, was assigned to the Cerna family protection detail for the 4 p.m. to midnight shift on 12/1/89. SA [REDACTED] prior to arrival on duty for her assignment, purchased several play items for the Cerna child. SA [REDACTED] a mother of two children, assumed that the Cerna child would appreciate and enjoy some play toys and games. She recollected that she played with the child during her shift and had some casual conversation with the parents. The Cerna family was comfortable and voiced no complaints during her shift. (The full text of SA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab O.)

b7c SA [REDACTED] Miami Field Office, was also assigned to the Cerna family protective detail on 12/3/89, 12 midnight to 8 a.m. He and a second Miami Field Office SA, [REDACTED] accompanied the Cerna family to breakfast at the hotel that morning. The family was friendly and cordial. As he prepared to end his shift, he expressed his regrets to the Cerna family that they would not be able to see more of the Miami area and hoped they had a good stay. (The full text of SA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab P.)

b7c It was the assessment of the SSAs conducting this inquiry that both SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] manifested consideration and cordiality in their dealings with the Cerna family. Certainly, the concern exhibited by SA [REDACTED] toward the Cerna child demonstrates a sense of caring overlooked in the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights report.

b7c SA [REDACTED] was assigned the protection detail on Saturday, 11/25/89. SA [REDACTED] is a Spanish-speaking Agent. SA [REDACTED] stated he drove the Lucia Barrera family members to a meeting at Father Esquivel's sister's residence. There the family received clothing and some medicine. SA [REDACTED] left his business card with Father Esquivel in the event the priest needed to recontact the family.

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b7c  
Following this meeting, he stated the family was driven around Calle Ocho, a predominately Spanish area. The family then dined at a Honduran restaurant. SA [REDACTED] said he had a number of conversations with Lucia Barrera's husband, who he described as an intelligent person. He said it was his impression the family members were pleased with the attention provided them.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] said on Tuesday, 11/28/89, he was telephonically contacted by Father Garcia, a Jesuit priest, who was associated with Father Esquivel. Father Garcia said he had a request from Lucia Barrera's mother for a note from Barrera. He subsequently asked Barrera if she would draft a note to her mother. SA [REDACTED] said he believed it was Wednesday, 11/29/89, when he obtained the note. After being unsuccessful at facsimiling this note, he mailed it to the Jesuits at Miami to be forwarded to Barrera's mother. (The full text of SA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab Q.)

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] was assigned the protection detail on Sunday, 11/26/89. SA [REDACTED] is a Spanish-speaking Agent. SA [REDACTED] assisted the family in ordering dinner Sunday evening. He recalled Lucia Barrera spoke on the telephone at length with a Salvadoran friend of USDS representative, Mr. Chidester. He believed Lucia Barrera was put at ease during this discussion. When the food arrived Barrera commented, "This is so much; it is so wonderful." (The full text of SA [REDACTED] statement can be found at Tab R.)

Analysis of the Lawyers Committee  
for Human Rights Report - "The Jesuit Murders:  
Report on the Testimony of A Witness"

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights Report titled "The Jesuit Murders: A Report on the Testimony of a Witness," henceforth referred to as the Report, was carefully examined. (A copy of the "Lawyers Committee" report can be found at Tab S.) Following that examination, it was compared to the FBI investigative efforts and interviews conducted at Miami, Florida. The basic allegations found in a cover letter to the President are that the Report "documents that the witness was mistreated and abused during four days of intensive incommunicado interrogation in the United States, and concludes that the United States and Salvadoran investigators 'treated an obviously frightened and traumatized woman more like a criminal suspect

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than a potential cooperating witness with useful information." This review found no evidence which would support either the basic allegations contained in the cover letter or the specific allegations concerning mistreatment in the Report. Factual inaccuracies are noted:

Item I:

Report page 10:

"Lucia, Jorge and their daughter remained at her mother's house from Thursday, November 23, through Sunday, November 27."

Comment: On 11/23/89, the family was in the United States. The writer most likely meant 11/16-19/89.

Item II:

Report pages 16-17:

"The family remained under the exclusive charge and control of the State Department from Thursday, November 23, to Thursday, November 30. During the first four days of this period, the family remained largely in the Raddison Hotel."

Comment: This statement overlooks the fact that Friday, November 24, the family was moved from one hotel to another before noon. They were visited by three Jesuit priests from Miami. Furthermore, Saturday activities included a trip to visit the Jesuits, a car tour of Spanish neighborhoods, and also, a dinner at a Honduran restaurant.

It is important to note that there were concerns for the safety of these witnesses and substantially more movement could have increased the risk for these witnesses.

Item III:

Report page 17:

"On the third day of this interrogation, Lucia, who was frightened and intimidated by the harsh manner in which she was being questioned, concluded that the investigators did not believe her testimony. At this time, she changed her testimony and began telling the investigators that she had not seen anything on the night of the murders."

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Comment: The comments concerning Lucia Barrera's change in testimony are not supported by the transcriptions of the interviews. In fact, Lucia Barrera changed her statement on the second day (11/28/89) early in the interview. There is no indication of intensive questioning of Lucia Barrera. Also, importantly, this was only the second interview of this witness.

Item IV:

Report page 18:

Monday, November 28.

"At about 8 a.m. on the morning of November 27, Chidester picked up Lucia, Jorge and Geraldina at the hotel and took them by car to an office in Miami. They were accompanied by a Spanish-speaking man named Sanchez, who apparently is a special agent of the F.B.I. Jorge and Lucia believe the place to which they were taken was an F.B.I. office."

*WTC*  
Comment: The correct date for this interview is 11/27/89. The Spanish speaking man, ALAT [REDACTED] had by Monday, (November 27) already spent three days with the family, having flown from El Salvador with them, having interviewed Lucia Barrera on Friday, (November 24), and having had breakfast on Sunday, (November 26) and Monday, (November 27) with the family.

Item V:

Report page 19:

"At about 1 p.m., Lucia was brought back to the room where Jorge and Geraldina had been waiting. Hamburgers were brought in for the family's lunch, which they ate in the waiting room."

Comment: Through interviews, it was determined that the family, in fact, had lunch at the Las Delicias restaurant in Hialeah, Florida. Lunch conversation was light and did not center on anything pertinent to the witnesses' observations. The family selected whatever items they wished from the menu.



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Item VI:

Report pages 19-20:

"Jorge had not previously disclosed to anyone that he too had looked out a window on the night of the murders and observed armed men. . . . The alien setting and disbelieving manner in which Sanchez and Rivero questioned Jorge only reinforced this feeling of distrust, and he decided not to tell them what he had seen."

Comment: This summary purports to be new information from Jorge Cerna-Ramirez. In fact, Cerna-Ramirez provided a statement to the interviewing Agents on 12/1/89, that he too went to the window and looked out. He was polygraphed concerning it and the polygraph indicated deception.

Item VII:

Report page 20:

"The questioning of Jorge lasted several hours. During this time, Lucia and Geraldina were in the waiting room. Lucia was growing increasingly anxious about the time it was taking to question Jorge. She was also worried about four-year-old Geraldina, who was still wearing the shorts and sandals she had on when they left San Salvador. The weather in Miami in November is somewhat colder than El Salvador."

Comment: This paragraph attributes concern to Lucia Barrera about the adequacy of attire of her daughter. While it is true that the weather in Miami in November is somewhat colder than El Salvador, the family was within the controlled climate of the office. In fact, during one interview session, Lucia Barrera was provided an FBI jacket when she said it was cold. Furthermore, they were provided transportation to and from the office.

One Agent recalled a specific discussion concerning the wearing of sandals by the young girl. Lucia Barrera stated the girl preferred sandals and regularly took off any other shoes she provided her.

Not only did the family bring clothing from El Salvador, additional items were provided by the Jesuits.

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Item VIII:

Report page 21:

Tuesday, November 28

"On the way, they stopped at another hotel to pick up a Salvadoran whom Chidester introduced to them as 'Doctor.' Chidester told Jorge and Lucia that 'the Doctor' was a man they could speak to with confidence.

"Later, Jorge overheard the man addressed as 'colonel.' He is in fact Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia, a Salvadoran Army officer assigned to the Special Investigative Unit, or 'S.I.U.,' a Salvadoran investigatory agency established with U.S. assistance in 1985 to investigate significant human rights cases."

Comment: Through a review of transcriptions and interviews of the Agents, Lieutenant Colonel Rivas was introduced to the family and participated in the interviews on 11/27/89. In addition to this alleged introduction occurring on the wrong day, the introduction was made as "The Director" and not "Doctor." Furthermore, there was no effort to disguise the fact that Rivas was a Colonel. It was the view of the Agents conducting these interviews that throughout the questioning when witnesses addressed Rivas as "Doctor," it was out of respect and not a misconception that he was a doctor. One Agent noted that it is not uncommon to refer to a "degreed" person as Doctor.

Item IX:

Report page 22:

"Sanchez told Jorge he could not believe that a real Latin man would have let his wife get out of bed and look out a window during a gun battle. Sanchez expressed disbelief and said to Jorge, 'You have sideburns and a mustache, I can't believe you are that effeminate,' or words to that effect. Jorge was angered and insulted by this, but insisted that Lucia had looked out the window and had seen what she said she had seen."

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Comment: From a review of the transcripts and through interviews, it was disclosed that a series of questions were asked concerning Cerna-Ramirez's decision to allow his wife to investigate the shooting while he watched the child. The Agent conducting the interview, upon seeing scars on the face and hands of Cerna-Ramirez, determined Cerna-Ramirez had been involved in a fight which lead to the death of his assailant. The Agent did find it unusual that a man of such courage would place his wife in jeopardy and questioned him accordingly.

The transcripts disclosed the exact statement of the Agent was "You don't look like you are a homosexual or dumb or nothing like that."

Item X:

Report page 22:

"At some point in the interrogation, Sanchez asked Jorge whether he had any relatives with the guerrillas, and whether he was political. Jorge answered 'no' to both questions, and told them that he had two brothers who had served in the Salvadoran army."

*7c*  
Comment: ALAT [REDACTED] stated that it was a complete fabrication that he asked Jorge Cerna-Ramirez whether or not he was political or had relatives with the guerrillas. SA [REDACTED] stated he had no recollection that Cerna-Ramirez was asked if he had relatives with the guerrillas.

Item XI:

Report page 23:

"Jorge was offended by many of the questions put to him. One of the investigators asked Jorge how long Lucia had known the Jesuits and how she earned money. When Jorge responded that she had worked for eight years for the Jesuits as a cleaning woman, Sanchez asked, 'Are you sure that's what she was doing for them?'"

*7c*  
Comment: During interview, ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the above statement was attributed to him. He stated at no time did he imply that Cerna-Ramirez's wife was doing anything other than cleaning in order to earn money from the Jesuits. ALAT [REDACTED] advised he did not make the statement, "Are you sure that's what she was doing for them?" A review of the transcripts for Cerna-Ramirez's interviews failed to locate this statement.

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Item XII:

Report page 23:

"Jorge's interrogation lasted a number of hours. Lucia, waiting in another room with Geraldina, again became worried and apprehensive. When a man passing by said in Spanish, 'Yes, there is extradition,' she was terrified that they were thinking of sending Jorge back to Salvador."

*b7c*  
Comment: ALAT [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] both stated they were unaware of any casual discussion concerning extradition which may have been overheard by Lucia Barrera. They advised the only discussion which may have been interpreted as pertaining to extradition was held on Thursday afternoon. This discussion occurred in the context of ALAT [REDACTED] advising both witnesses that they had failed the polygraph, and he was at a loss as to why they would have lied.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised that in response to some statements from Cerna-Ramirez about returning to El Salvador that ALAT [REDACTED] stated the witnesses should remember that they were in the United States because their lives may be endangered. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that there was no discussion about extradition, and that he is not sure that the witnesses would have even been familiar with the term.

Item XIII:

Report page 23:

"Lucia recalls that Jorge was white and shaking when he joined her. Jorge wanted to talk to Lucia about what he had experienced, but during the entire time they were together waiting for the next interrogation session there was an investigator sitting with them."

*b7c*  
Comment: During interviews, ALAT [REDACTED] said this was a confrontational interview. He said that in his opinion, Colonel Ramirez may have been being overly polite in his line of questioning and that he believed a more direct line of questioning was in order based on discrepancies. It was his belief that Cerna-Ramirez was in fact unnerved by his questioning during the morning.

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While the line of questioning was direct, there were substantial inconsistencies in his statement, which the interviewing Agents attempted to resolve. No harsh, accusatory, coercive language was utilized. No threats were made. The transcripts show that in closing, the interviewing Agent stated "through the investigation we are establishing what the truth is."

Item XIV:

Report page 23:

"Between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Sanchez, Rivero and Rivas went out together for lunch."

*b7c*  
Comment: At no time did the Agents take a two-hour lunch break. ALAT [REDACTED] stated he, in fact, had not taken lunch except for Monday.

Item XV:

Report page 24:

"Once again, hamburgers were brought in for the family to eat."

*b7c*  
Comment: During interviews, the Agents stated that the hamburgers furnished the witnesses for lunch were given them at their specific request. They told ALAT [REDACTED] that the hamburgers were similar to what they had in San Salvador and they liked hamburgers.

Item XVI:

Report page 24:

"At 3:00 p.m., Lucia was taken in to be questioned. The investigators told her to relate once again everything that had happened after her family had fled Soyapango on November 15 for the relative safety of the U.C.A. The investigators occasionally interrupted her with questions."

Comment: A review of the transcriptions and interviews disclosed that the above is an erroneous statement. In fact, on Tuesday, 11/28/89, Lucia Barrera recanted her original statement that she had seen soldiers, early during this interview.

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Beginning on page 13 of the transcript from her interview on 11/28/89, Barrera states "Look, I've told you that I'm going to help you by telling you the truth . . . I did not get up from the bed . . ."

The transcript indicates Barrera's stated concern was her potential exposure to prosecution in El Salvador. Immediately after recanting her initial statement, she said on three occasions, ". . . they are going to get me and put me in jail . . ." She was reassured that the interviewing Agents represented the American Government and that "while the American government is involved, you (Barrera), your husband, your daughter and any other family member you may have who needs protection . . . we are willing to provide it for them."

Later during the interview (page 67), Barrera explained her motivation for her initial statement was ". . . I was afraid of looking bad in saying what I had said before, of being labeled a liar . . . that's why I kept it up . . ."

Item XVII:

Report pages 24-25:

Wednesday, November 29

"The next morning, November 29, Chidester woke the family at 6:30 a.m. They were driven to the F.B.I. office at 8:00 a.m. Lucia was the first to be questioned.

"She was told once again to describe everything that had happened after the family left Soyapango on November 15. This time the investigators peppered her with questions. At the point in her testimony where she describes calling Padre Nacho for assistance, the investigators, principally Rivas, began repeating questions that had already been asked.

"After three days of interrogation, Lucia was frightened and confused. She did not understand why she was constantly being asked to tell the investigators over and over again about events she had already described in the first two days of questioning. She was a long way from the only home she had ever known, in a foreign country being questioned incessantly by strange and intimidating men."

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Comment: These statements failed to disclose the fact that Lucia Barrera, according to the transcription of her interview conducted on November 29, furnished the same version of events she provided on the preceding afternoon: that is, she had seen nothing. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Regarding her being intimidated, it was noted the transcript disclosed a formal address of the witness by use of the term "Dona." and nothing was said of an intimidating nature.

The facts also reflect that the "strange and intimidating men" were the same individuals with whom she had a daily breakfast, and had in fact, met upon her departure from El Salvador. The interviewing Agents stated that there were ample opportunities for breaks, rest, and relaxation. The questioning was at all times limited to normal business hours in accordance with existing FBI policy.

Item XVIII:

Report page 25:

"Lucia did not think the investigators believed what she was telling them. She recalls that at one point, when she was describing once again what she had seen from the window, one of the investigators asked her what priest had told her to say these things. The investigator stared at her, and she was very frightened. She replied that no one had told her to say these things. A short time later, she was asked again to describe what she had seen from the window. Lucia recalls that Rivas was staring hard at her, and that she was very frightened. She told us that 'she was afraid they were going to make me tremble the way they made Jorge tremble.' At this point she decided to tell them she had seen nothing."

Comment: As mentioned, this recordation of events is inaccurate. Lucia Barrera recanted her statements of November 24 and November 27 the preceding afternoon.

Her decision to change her statement occurred after two FBI interviews. The first on November 24 lasted 15 minutes. The second, on November 27, lasted longer. However, the November 27 interview was the first full interview.

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It is the opinion of the reviewing Supervisors that none of the actions or questions of the Agents could be reasonably asserted as causing this witness to be "very frightened."

Item XIX:

Report page 26:

"The investigators wanted to know who had told her to say she saw soldiers. They pressed her. Rivas said, 'Tell us the name of the priest. . . . If you tell us the name of the priest, we'll give you some whiskey to celebrate. Which priest said this?' Lucia was afraid and felt she had to say something. She did not want to say it was any of the priests she knew, for whom she felt great loyalty and affection. She decided to give them the name of someone who was not a priest and whom she did not know personally. She gave them the name of Maria Julia Hernandez, the director of Tutela Legal. . . . She remembers the investigators asking whether any priest told her to say things, whether she was collaborating with the guerrillas, or with the priests. She remembers the name of a particular Jesuit being mentioned, and one of the investigators telling her he was a guerrilla. Lucia defended the Jesuits and insisted that they were good people and that she didn't know anything about politics."

Comment: Concerning the statement attributed to Colonel Rivas that if Lucia Barrera would tell the name of the priest, they would "give you some whiskey to celebrate," this statement and offer of whiskey was never made. There is no comment like this in the transcripts. Likewise, the reference made to the fact that one of the investigators mentioned a particular Jesuit and said he was a guerilla, was denied by both the interviewing Agents. They advised that there was never a statement made that the Jesuits were guerrillas, or that a particular Jesuit was a guerilla.

Item XX:

Report page 27:

"After lunch, one of the investigators asked Lucia whether she was ready for "la maquina." He was apparently referring to a polygraph. Lucia saw the apparatus, with its wires, tubes and electrodes. It made her think of an electirc chair, and she was terrified. She told the investigators that doctors had told her she suffered from hypertension. They told her not to worry."



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Comment: This review determined that the interviewing Agents, as well as the FBI polygraph examiner, provided ample preparation for this witness prior to the examination. The pre-test interview included a description of each and every component of the polygraph equipment. The characterization of the witness as "terrified" was not supported by the Agent's statements.

The Agent conducted this examination in compliance with existing policies. Not only did Lucia Barrera consent to the examination, but also she signed the consent forms.

Item XXI:

Report pages 27-28:

"Lucia recalls being on the polygraph all afternoon, with one break which she was able to spend with Jorge and Geraldina. At about 4:30 p.m., after her second session on the polygraph, Lucia was unstrapped from the machine and taken back to the room where Jorge and Geraldina were waiting. They stayed in the room until 6:30 p.m., and were driven back to the hotel."

Comment: The above paragraphs lead one to conclude that the witness was "strapped" to the polygraph equipment throughout the afternoon. In fact, interviews determined that the equipment was attached to the witness only during the series of questions. After each series, each lasting no more than four minutes, the components of the polygraph equipment were removed.

Item XXII:

Report page 28:

Thursday, November 30

"On November 30, the family was driven to the F.B.I. office at about 8 a.m. Only Jorge was questioned this day. Jorge was asked whether either he or Lucia had seen anything on the night of the murders. He told them that they had not.

"The investigators pressed Jorge on this point. One of them told Jorge, 'Tell us the truth - what you tell us will determine whether you stay here or go back to Salvador.' Jorge told them that neither he nor Lucia had gotten out of bed on the night of the murders. He was asked whether any priest had told

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him to say things. He told the investigators he didn't have access to any priests. Jorge told us: 'All morning they were asking the same. I couldn't stand it any more. . . . The suffering of my daughter. . . . I wanted them to leave us in peace.'"

Comment: The interviews of Agents involved in the debriefing disclosed that this paragraph is inaccurate in that it asserts linkage between telling the truth and what the witness told them would determine whether they stay in the United States or go back to El Salvador. There was never any linkage drawn between the two. The Agents took strong exception to Cerna-Ramirez's statement about "the suffering of his daughter." One commented that it was absurd.

Item XXIII:

Report page 29:

"At one point, an investigator came into the room, and she told him she wanted to call a Spanish speaking Jesuit from the Miami area who had visited with the family briefly after their arrival in the U.S. The investigator told her that they did not have the priest's telephone number."

*b7c*  
Comment: This review determined Lucia Barrera's request was made to ALAT [REDACTED] ALAT [REDACTED] stated he told her that he did not know how to contact the priests but he would advise USDS Chidester of her request when he returned from Washington, D.C. He advised her that Chidester was scheduled to arrive at about 8 p.m. and he would let Chidester know that she wanted to talk to a priest. He advised that he had only one meeting with the priest and did, in fact, not know the names of the priests, nor their telephone numbers. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he had no reason not to grant this request and that if he had the telephone number, he would have made the appropriate calls.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] continued that he requested the Duty Agent to advise Chidester to call him when Chidester got in. He stated that he later learned that Chidester arrived late and did not get the message to contact him.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Friday, 12/1/89, they met for breakfast. He stated in the conversation with Chidester, he was advised the Jesuits would accept the family and the Chidester was finalizing arrangements. He stated he told Chidester the family had requested a priest.

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b7c  
The review also noted that a request was made of SA [REDACTED] from the Jesuits for Lucia Barrera to write to her mother. This request was relayed to Barrera. Thereafter, Barrera prepared a note and this note was forwarded to the Jesuits. ALAT [REDACTED] was unaware that SA [REDACTED] also had a contact number for the Miami-based Jesuits.

Item XXIV:

Report pages 29-30:

"In the afternoon, after his second session on the polygraph, Jorge was reunited with Lucia and Geraldina in the room where they were waiting. One of the investigators accused them of telling lies just to be able to come to the United States. The investigator warned them, "Tell us the truth, or go back to Salvador where death is awaiting you", or words to that effect. At this time, or on an earlier occasion when a similar threat was made to her, Lucia remembers telling the investigators: 'If I'm here, it's out of necessity, because I would much rather be back in Salvador. we could get by, I could work even if it meant selling pupusas\*.'"

b7c  
Comment: The interviewing Agents stated that before leaving the office for the evening ALAT [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] told the family that they should discuss their answers. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he reassured them that they were not mad and that the interviewing Agents understood it was quite stressful, and that they should go back, talk it over, and that the FBI interviewing Agents simply wanted the truth. They stated that they would do so.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] added that during this discussion, they had probably one of the more heated exchanges. He advised that Jorge Cerna-Ramirez made a statement that "he was tired of this crap" and they should let them go back to EL Salvador. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he responded that they may have violated the law when they gave a false statement to the judge. To his surprise, Cerna-Ramirez said something to the effect, "You're right, that's worth three to five years for perjury." He advised that Lucia Barrera stood up and said, "That's okay, we have friends who will take care of us." He said that both he and SA [REDACTED] were surprised by the comment made by Cerna-Ramirez. [REDACTED] advised that they did not realize that he had such a familiarity with the legal system to the extent he was aware of the penalties for a specific crime.

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Item XXV:

Report page 30:

"On Friday, December 1, the family was once again taken to the F.B.I. office in Miami. There they were introduced to another Salvadoran investigator, who took elaborate notes on Jorge's and Lucia's physical features and characteristics. He took hair samples, asked for the addresses of family members, and took their fingerprints. No one clearly explained why this was being done. This was the family's last encounter with investigators.

*b7c*  
Comment: The paragraph purports to be the recordation of events on December 1. This review determined that ALAT [redacted] was informed by USDS Chidester that he and another USDS employee, Ms. McCarthy, had spoken to the witnesses and the witnesses admitted that they had lied. ALAT [redacted] said that he did not participate in this discussion and that it lasted no more than five minutes. He advised the witnesses told Chidester they would tell the truth on 12/1/89.

The Agents reported that upon arrival in the office, a pre-polygraph interview was conducted and that during this interview, Cerna-Ramirez stated that they both got up and looked out the window of house fifteen. Further, they had not seen people in the moonlight, but saw people on the wall and as they ran across the chapel. Cerna-Martinez said that both he and his wife made these observations, and also later, on the morning of the murder, went to look at the dead bodies.

*b7c*  
ALAT [redacted] said he suggested that the interviewing Agents simply take the statement, conduct the polygraph and assess the truthfulness of the statement. If in fact it was verified as accurate, they would take a formal statement. According to the polygraph examiner, Cerna-Ramirez showed deception when questioned concerning his December 1 statement.

*b7c*  
SA [redacted] said the polygraph examination was conducted and that deception was indicated on the part of Cerna-Ramirez. During the post-polygraph interview, Cerna-Ramirez stated something to the effect that he had provided a truthful response when he said that neither he nor his wife got up, however, since the polygraph machine did not believe those statements, he, Cerna-Ramirez, thought that they would tell the story that the machine would believe.

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Concerning the assertion that no one explained why fingerprinting and the taking of hair samples was done, this review disclosed the following. The taking of hair samples is attributed to an El Salvadoran investigator. In fact, Lucia Barrera took a hair sample from Cerna-Ramirez and he did likewise from her. Likewise the assertion that no one clearly explained why this was being done was unfounded. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that he was present when the El Salvadoran polygraph examiner explained the need for the witnesses' cooperation. Further, that the samples and fingerprinting were needed to establish their presence in the room that they claimed they were in. They were told their fingerprints would be used to compare to other fingerprints found at the crime scene. b7c

Item XXVI:

Report page 31:

This section asserts that the Lawyers Commission interviews of the witnesses were delayed because they anticipated the family would be anxious and disoriented by the trauma of what they experienced in El Salvador and the suddenness of their relocation. Further, "Had the FBI Agents taken similar precautions and conducted their questioning with greater sensitivity to the emotional and physical needs of this frightened and vulnerable family, we are convinced that the results would have been different."

Comment: This review disclosed an appropriate balance was achieved between the needs of the family and the requirement to obtain an accurate, complete, truthful statement in order to further this investigation in a timely manner. Following their quick departure from El Salvador, the family had three days of rest interrupted only by a brief 30-minute interview on Friday, 11/24/89.

b7c The emotional support provided to the family included an absolute assurance of their safety within the United States. Every physical need was either met directly by the FBI or facilitated by the Agents. Shelter, food, and transportation were provided. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that a Jesuit priest commented on November 24 that "the government was keeping the family in a situation which was much too luxurious. . . ." and that ". . . the family would get spoiled."

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Agents assigned to this investigation were keenly aware and frequently reminded of the situation in which the family found itself. They demonstrated concern. They demonstrated a high degree of professionalism.

Item XXVII:

Report page 33:

"Lucia's brief recantation of her testimony on the third day of her interrogation by the F.B.I. was a completely understandable response to the manner in which she had been treated and the circumstances in which she found herself. She was gravely concerned about the safety and well being of her child and husband, and without any idea of what the future would hold for her family. Alone and uncounseled in a foreign country, subjected to days of intense interrogation at the hands of men she found rude, threatening and disbelieving, it is hardly surprising that she chose to stop cooperating with her interrogators."

Comment: This review established that Lucia Barrera's recantation was neither brief nor did it occur on the third day of the interview. The transcriptions of interviews from November 28 and November 29 verify this fact.

*bx*  
Likewise, through Agent interviews and the recordings of the witness interviews, there is no indication whatsoever of rudeness or threats. SA [REDACTED] stated that the witness, Barrera, actually embraced him when they parted.

### Conclusions

In view of the above, the following conclusions have been reached from the inquiry into captioned matter:

1. Managerial oversight by the Miami Field Office was determined to be responsive and appropriate.
2. All interaction with the Cerna family by Miami Field Office personnel was determined to be professional, cordial, and appropriate to the investigative mission.
3. Allegations of mistreatment of the two alleged witnesses to captioned matter in the Report of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, was determined to have no basis in fact.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum from W. M. Baker to The Director  
Re: Unsubs; Murder of Six Jesuit Priests,  
San Salvador, El Salvador;  
Foreign Police Cooperation-Murder;  
OO: HQ 163(A)-61055

Therefore, it is recommended that a reply repudiating the allegations of witness mistreatment as contained in the 12/21/89, letter from Patrick J. Burns, President, Jesuit Conference, be prepared for the Director's approval; and that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a press release which details the appropriate and professional conduct of FBI Agents evidenced by this review.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Section 552

Section 552a

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# Memorandum



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 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_

To : Mr. Baker

Date 1/12/90

From : N. O'Hara

Subject : UNSUBS;  
 MURDER OF SIX JESUITS  
 EL SALVADOR  
 FPC

PURPOSE: To respond to your request to determine the techniques utilized, as well as the conduct of the interviews of witnesses Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna, in light of the 12/21/89 letter from the Jesuit Conference to the Director.

*b7c*  
DETAILS: SSAs [redacted] and [redacted] have reviewed the typed transcripts of the interviews of Lucia Barrera and Jorge Cerna conducted by FBI personnel and a representative of the Special Investigative Unit from El Salvador.

Briefly, each interview is synopsized as follows:

On 11/27/89, Lucia Barrera advised that while sleeping at the University compound she was awakened in the night by gunfire. She looked out the window of a room adjacent to the one she was sleeping in, and saw five soldiers shooting at the priest's quarters. She also heard a disturbance and loud voices. Several days later she told her story to the legal representative for the Human Rights Office for the Archdiocese.

On 11/28/89, Lucia Barrera changed her statement. Early during this interview, she admitted she had been advised to alter facts concerning her observations the night the murders occurred. This advice was given to her by the legal advisor to the Human Rights Office for the Archdiocese. She stated she was

- 1 - Mr. Baker
- 1 - Mr. O'Hara
- 1 - Mr. Hale
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [redacted]

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Memorandum from N. V. O'Hara to Mr. Baker  
Re: Unsubs; Murder of Six Jesuits, El Salvador, FPC

told to include a part about seeing the soldiers even though she saw nothing. This legal representative is the same person Lucia Barrero talked with on 11/20/89.

On 11/29/89, Lucia Barrera was again interviewed. She reiterated the previous statement of 11/28/89 (i.e. she saw nothing and was told to lie).

On 11/27 and 11/28/89, Jorge Cerna was interviewed. On both occasions, he told the version wherein his wife saw the soldiers. Both these interviews were done prior to the change of his wife's testimony. The letter from the Jesuit Conference indicated a subsequent interview of Jorge Cerna on 11/30/89. No transcription of the interview was found, however, Cerna may have been interviewed during the course of his polygraph examination on 11/30/89.

None of the verbatim transcripts of the Lucia Barrera interviews exhibited accusatory verbiage by the interviewers, although Barrera was challenged occasionally to specify her answers and clarify discrepancies, as warranted. As mentioned, her recanting of the portion of her statement relating to seeing soldiers occurred early in the 11/28/89 interview. After recanting her 11/27/89 statement, her principal stated concern was that having now told the truth, she was afraid she would go to jail or be killed. She was assured that she was in the protection of the U.S. Government. No indication of a hostile or confrontational attitude on the part of Barrera or the interviewers was noted.

The two interviews of Jorge Cerna were more confrontational. Discrepancies were noted between the wife's statement and Cerna's. The interviewers pursued these differences aggressively with the clear intent of establishing a consistent version of the events. On several occasions, Cerna's account of his behavior during the incident was challenged as being unmanly or not "Latin." In particular, the interviewing agents questioned Cerna's decision to allow his wife to place herself in danger during the shooting by leaving the room and going to a window while he stayed with their child. Cerna's responses were not indignant and he did not appear outraged. This line of questioning did not detract from the focus of the interview.

Memorandum from N. V. O'Hara to Mr. Baker  
 Re: Unsubs; Murder of Six Jesuits, El Salvador, FPC

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. Review polygraph results.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*  
 Director \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Review interview logs, notes and documentation of initial contacts with these witnesses during the period of 11/24-12/1/89 at Miami.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*  
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 Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADD-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Interview ALAT [redacted] and SSA [redacted]

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4. Interview SAs involved in the protection assignment as to the well-being of the family while in FBI care.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*  
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5. Determine any other individuals who can attest to the well-being of the witnesses to include hotel employees.

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6. Ascertain physical accommodations at Miami FBI interview rooms and hotel, if possible. Prepare sketch of hotel rooms showing locations of SAs, witness and family and entry/exit points to demonstrate, if possible, freedom of movement by witness.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*  
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Section 552

Section 552a

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ENCLOSURE TO MEMORANDUM

FROM W. M. BAKER TO THE DIRECTOR,

DATED 2/2/90, CAPTIONED:

UNSUBS; MURDER OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS,  
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR;  
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION-MURDER;  
OO: HQ 163(A)-61055

# 329075  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-13-92 BY 1248DKM/c



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dated November 18, 1989

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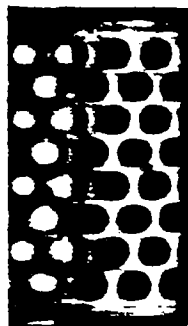
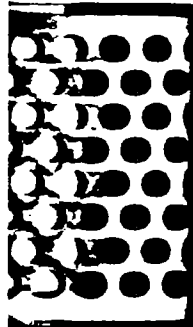
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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/18/90

A file review of an investigation captioned "UNSUBS; SHOOTING OF SIX (6) JESUIT PRIESTS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR; FPC - MURDER; OO: HQ" was conducted. This review disclosed the following information:

*b7c* Serial 1 is an FBI Complaint Form (FD-71) prepared by SA [REDACTED]. This report disclosed that at approximately 12:05 PM on 11/23/89, JIM LEMARIE, Special Agent, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Miami, Florida, telephonically contacted the FBI. LEMARIE advised that a plane was en route to the United States with a Salvadorian family. One of the members of the family was a witness to captioned matter. In addition to the details that were known at that time, the compliant form indicated Mr. CLARKE (identified further as Executive Assistant Director) wanted the female witness interviewed.

*b7c* The complaint form indicated that SA [REDACTED] notified the duty agent that at 10:55 PM the three Salvadorians and Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [REDACTED] had arrived and that the IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) would provide lodging.

The form noted that at 11:05 PM, FBIHQ Supervisor [REDACTED] was notified of the arrival of the Salvadorians.

*b7c* Serial 2 is a teletype prepared by ALAT [REDACTED] to the Director and Legal Attache, Mexico City. This teletype was sent in an Immediate status on 11/25/89 at 5:02 PM. The teletype reported that ALAT [REDACTED] had attended a briefing by Lieutenant Colonel RIVAS, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), on 11/23/89. ALAT [REDACTED] had offered assistance through RICHARD CHIDESTER, Legal Officer, U.S. Embassy, San Salvador. It also reported the preliminary results of the interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, date of birth (DOB) [REDACTED]. In her interview on 11/24/89, LUCIA BARRERA recounted her statement that she was awakened by gunfire, went to a window at the University in San Salvador and observed persons in military uniforms firing at the buildings. Additional information concerning her statement was reported.

*b7c* Serial 3 is a teletype prepared by ALAT [REDACTED] dated 11/29/89 and sent in an Immediate status to the Director and Legal Attache, Mexico City. This teletype referenced a telephone call from ALAT [REDACTED] to Unit Chief [REDACTED] on 11/29/89. The teletype reported that both LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA and JORGE ALBERTO CERNA RAMIREZ recanted their statement and now claimed that they had heard the shooting but had not observed anything.

Investigation on 1/16/90 at Miami, Florida

File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA [REDACTED] *b7c* [REDACTED]

Date dictated 1/17/90

Continuation of FD-302 of SSA [REDACTED] *b7c*

On 1/16/90

Page 2

*b7c* Also noted in the teletype was the fact that the author believed it appeared at least three of the priests, [REDACTED], may have been aware that LUCIA BARRERA was fabricating her original story.

*b7c* The teletype advised that a polygraph examination of the witnesses was requested by Colonel RIVAS and that Unit Chief [REDACTED] approved the polygraph examination.

Serial 4 as a memorandum dated 11/30/89, which assigned various agents to a protection detail during the period of time from 11/30/89 through 12/6/89. In brief, one agent was assigned to the 4 PM to 12 Midnight shift and one agent was assigned the Midnight to 8 AM shift.

Serial 5 was a Miami teletype to the Director dated 12/1/89. This teletype reported the results of the polygraph examination afforded to the witnesses on 11/30/89. It noted that the witnesses were questioned regarding their statements of 11/29/89. In these statements, both maintained that neither one had observed anything, through both heard the shooting. LUCIA stated that she had been convinced by MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ to lie regarding the events. Both individuals were "deceptive on all relevant issues tested."

Further, the teletype reported an interview on 12/1/89, of JORGE CERNA RAMIREZ. CERNA RAMIREZ said he was in fact lying and that both he and his wife stood up and saw men in fatigues carrying weapons. When polygraphed on this issue, CERNA RAMIREZ' responses indicated deception. The teletype concluded that when confronted with the results of the polygraph examination, CERNA RAMIREZ said he told the truth on 11/29/89, when he stated they did not see anything.

Serial 6 was an article from the SUN SENTINEL, page 18A, 11/25/89, captioned "Massacre Witness Escapes". In the article, a Jesuit Priest, Father TOJERIA, identified LUCIA BARRERA as the witness to the murder of six Jesuit Priests.

Serial 7 was a copy of a MIAMI HERALD article, pages 1A and 32A, 12/3/89, captioned "Salvador Crackdown Menaces Churches." This article reports the arrest of JENNIFER CASOLO, 28, a church worker from Connecticut following the seizure of a cache of weapons in El Salvador.

Serial 8 is a press response dated 12/11/89. This brief response indicates that the FBI, at the request of the DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS), is assisting the Government of El Salvador in the investigation of the 11/16/89 murder of six Jesuit Priests and that the investigation is being conducted as a Foreign Police Cooperation matter.

Serial 9 is a facsimile of a letter to Ambassador MILLER from Assistant Director BAKER. The letter discusses the FBI investigation and cooperation rendered.

*Referential to State*

*b7c*

Serial 11 is a Headquarters teletype to the DOS, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, Miami FBI and LEGATS at Mexico City, London and Paris. The teletype discussed the assignment, on a temporary duty basis, of ALAT [REDACTED] to El Salvador and also the assignment of SA [REDACTED] San Antonio Division, to provide assistance concerning polygraph examinations.

Serial 12 is a routing slip dated 12/15/89, with an attached summary of information from the REUTERS INFORMATION SERVICES, INC., dated 12/11/89. The report states that President BUSH, Monday, denied claims that the FBI SAs mistreated a possible witness to the murders of the six Jesuits in El Salvador. The article pointed out that R. SCOTT GREATHEAD, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, said the U.S. Government attempted to discredit her testimony and that Agents told the witness that she wouldn't want to go back to El Salvador and face the guns.

Serial 13 is a newspaper clipping from the MIAMI HERALD, pages 1A and 10A, dated 11/25/89, captioned "Salvador Massacre Witness Slips Into Miami For Protection." The article reported the arrival of LUCIA BERRERA DE CERNA into Miami.

Serial 14 is a MIAMI HERALD article, page 6A, dated 11/30/89, captioned "Cleaning Woman Who Saw Jesuits Slain Tells of Massacre." The article reported information concerning LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA's observations.

*b7c*  
*b7D*

Serial 15 is an airtel from Cincinnati which concerned information volunteered to the FBI by [REDACTED] (protect identity). The information concerned [REDACTED]

Serial 16 is a letter from the Jesuit Conference with a report from the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights. This letter outlined complaints concerning the treatment of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, her daughter and her husband.

Serial 17 is an article from the NEW YORK TIMES, page A-1, dated 12/18/89, captioned "Witnesses in Jesuit Slayings Charge

Continuation of FD-302 of SSA [REDACTED]

On 1/16/90

Page 4

Harassment in the U.S." The TIMES report basically paralleled the information from the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights which alleged mistreatment of the witnesses while at Miami.

Serial 18 is a NEW YORK TIMES article, page D-21, dated 12/17/89, by Father PAUL S. TIPTON. Father TIPTON reiterated the charges of mistreatment of the witnesses to the murder of the six Jesuits in El Salvador.

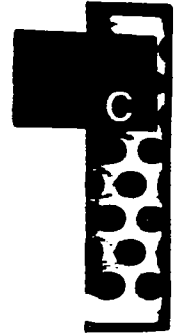
Serial 19 is a teletype from Legat, London to the Director and Miami. The teletype discussed the scheduled travel of [REDACTED]

Serial 20 is a teletype from the Director to SAC, Miami, which reports that the British have and are prepared to assist in the investigation of the Jesuit murders. [REDACTED]

Serial 21 is a MIAMI HERALD article dated 12/11/89, pages 1A and 17A, with a dateline of San Salvador. In the article, Archbishop RIVERA y DAMAS accused the U.S. of aggressive and violent interrogations of the witnesses.

Copies of serials 3, 5 and 9 were obtained.





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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/21/90

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) WILLIAM A. GAVIN, was contacted to obtain his recollections and observations concerning the conduct of the Miami Division's investigative effort in the Foreign Police Cooperation matter instituted following the murder of six Jesuit Priests in El Salvador. SAC GAVIN provided the following information:

SAC GAVIN stated that he recalled fairly early in the investigation receiving notification that a witness who had seen the murder of the Jesuit Priests would be relocating to the Miami, Florida area. He stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had an Agent, Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [REDACTED] who was accompanying the witness. He advised that initially, he was unaware of the fact that a child was involved. *b7c*

SAC GAVIN advised that he kept generally abreast of developments in the investigation as it continued at Miami, but did not follow the day-to-day questioning of the witnesses. He stated that it is consistent with his management of the Miami Division to remain somewhat apart from the detailed, day-to-day investigative activity in order to provide the overall management of a Division the size of Miami.

SAC GAVIN advised that he did not meet the Department of State representative, nor did he meet the El Salvadorian Colonel who participated with the FBI in the interviews.

SAC GAVIN then made reference to his calendar for November of 1989 and determined that on November 28 and November 29, 1989, he attended the OCEDTF meeting at the BISCAYNE BAY MARRIOTT. He stated there were a number of issues requiring his attention, including a matter being jointly conducted with the Little Rock Division of the FBI. He advised he met with Deputy Assistant Director ROBERT BRYANT and Drug Section Chief [REDACTED] *b7c*

*b7c* SAC GAVIN stated that on his return to the Miami Office, he obtained a comprehensive briefing from the Case Agent [REDACTED] and ALAT [REDACTED]. He stated that they discussed the differences in stories and the fact that the individuals had indicated deception during the polygraph examinations. One of the issues discussed was the continuing commitment of investigative resources dedicated to the security, as well as the financial expenses being incurred by the Department of State. SAC GAVIN advised that

1/18/90

Miami, Florida

MM 163A-HQ-61055

Investigation on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ File # \_\_\_\_\_  
 SSA [REDACTED]  
 SSA [REDACTED] 1/18/90  
 by \_\_\_\_\_ Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_ *b7c*

Continuation of WILLIAM M. GAVIN, on 1/18/90, page 2

following the briefing, he had cautioned the Special Agents to remain independent in their approach to the investigation and to use discretion. He advised that all were aware of the extremely sensitive situation for the family, and he advised the Agents to put themselves in the position of the family, specifically that they were in a foreign country, were not well educated, and were in unfamiliar surroundings.

SAC GAVIN advised that he was aware that one of the Agents obtained a stuffed animal or stuffed toy for the child during the course of the interviewing process. He stated that in his view, that was indicative of the good faith efforts on the part of the Agents involved to make the family feel at ease.

SAC GAVIN stated that he was aware of the fact that the Agents involved in the detail and the debriefings had incurred expenses relating to the family. He stated that he believed that they could not be reimbursed from the Foreign Police Cooperation classification, inasmuch as these expenses are normally from the budget category of Representation Funds. He stated that he discussed this with the Office of Liaison and International Affairs Chief, Inspector MARTY HALE.

SAC GAVIN stated that he believed it was toward the end of the week that arrangements had been made for turning over the witnesses to the Jesuits, who were to assist them in relocating in the United States.

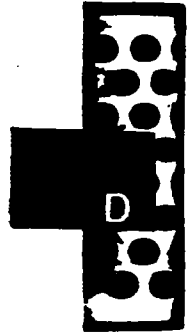
SAC GAVIN stated he recalled being contacted by Inspector HALE from FBI Headquarters. He advised that Inspector HALE had requested a teletype on the conduct of the interviews while the witnesses were being debriefed at the Miami Office. SAC GAVIN stated that he believed it would be necessary for him to review the transcriptions before an assessment could be made on the conduct of these interviews. He stated he was also aware of the fact that Inspector HALE and other representatives from FBI Headquarters were going to meet with the Jesuits in Washington, D.C., to discuss the interview of the Salvadorians.

SAC GAVIN stated that he had obtained a copy of the Lawyers on Human Rights Commission report through the Press Office Special Agent [REDACTED]. He advised that he believed this report was furnished to the Miami Office by an organization known as "Accuracy in Media". He advised when he received the report, he sent it to the Supervisory Special Agent in charge of the C-3 Major Case Squad, SSA [REDACTED].

h7c

Continuation of WILLIAM M. GAVIN, on 1/18/90, page 3

In conclusion, SAC GAVIN stated that he is thoroughly convinced that he would have been promptly advised of any improper activities on the part of the Agents conducting this investigation. He characterized the personnel involved as extremely competent investigators and supervisors, who were well aware of the sensitivities of the relocated witnesses. SAC GAVIN advised he has no reason to believe the witnesses were treated in anything other than a most acceptable fashion.



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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/21/90

LARRY E. TORRENCE, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC), Miami Division, was contacted in connection with certain allegations raised in a report by the Lawyer's Commission for Human Rights. These allegations alleged mistreatment of two witnesses who were interviewed in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Office at Miami, Florida, during late November and early December, 1989. ASAC TORRENCE provided the following information:

*b7c* ASAC TORRENCE stated that he was first notified by the Duty Agent, Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] that several persons were en-route to the United States from El Salvador. He stated he was told that Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [REDACTED] and Department of State (DOS) officials were accompanying these individuals and that they were going to request political asylum. He stated the normal role of the FBI in situations where individuals request political asylum would be to interview those individuals. He stated he was also aware of the fact that French officials, up to and including the French Ambassador, may have been involved in the arrangements for travel of the Salvadorian persons. He advised that he told the Duty Agent to keep him posted as to this particular matter.

ASAC TORRENCE stated that the protection of the individuals came up fairly early in the FBI's involvement in this matter. He stated that he thought it occurred as early as the next day. He advised he was aware that FBI Headquarters wanted the Miami Office of the FBI to interview the family, and was also aware that the interview was to be conducted immediately.

*b7c* Concerning protection for the family, ASAC TORRENCE stated that originally, ALAT [REDACTED] and the DOS official he later learned to be RICHARD CHIDESTER, were with the couple at the hotel. ASAC TORRENCE stated that the family did not appear to be in any great danger. He advised that during the course of the first day, he had discussions with DOS officials, and initially, the Agent in Charge of the DOS at Miami agreed to participate in the protection detail; however, the DOS subsequently withdrew their offer. ASAC TORRENCE stated the DOS advised their commitment of DOS employee CHIDESTER was viewed as adequate.

Investigation on 1/18/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA [REDACTED] *b7c* [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/18/90

Continuation of FD-302 of ASAC LARRY E. TORRENCE, On 1/18/90, Page 2

b7c  
ASAC TORRENCE advised that during the next few days, he was aware that ALAT [REDACTED] was dealing with FBI Headquarters, and in particular with Inspector MARTY HALE. He stated he was briefed on a regular basis by both SA [REDACTED] and ALAT [REDACTED]. It was his understanding through a conference call in which he was involved, that the FBI's role was to provide protection and conduct interviews.

ASAC TORRENCE stated he recalled the first detailed interview of the Salvadorians occurred on Monday following the Thanksgiving Day weekend. He advised the decision to delay the detailed interview until Monday was principally made by the Agents assigned to the investigation. He stated he recalled a lot of discussion as to the type of individuals that they would be interviewing. The topic of how to treat these witnesses was recognized as a sensitive area due to the unusual circumstances the witnesses found themselves in.

ASAC TORRENCE advised that he recalled being told that the female witness provided a statement, which in the view of the investigating Agents, was illogical. He stated fairly early in the interviewing process, she admitted that she had heard shots but did not see soldiers, and further that she was coached by a female attorney to make a statement to the effect that she had seen soldiers.

b7c  
ASAC TORRENCE advised that it was the view of the investigators that it may be necessary at sometime in the future to polygraph the witnesses. He stated that he advised the Agents to make sure that SA [REDACTED] was available since SA [REDACTED] services are frequently requested by other FBI Offices.

ASAC TORRENCE advised he was introduced to Colonel RIVAS, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), however, this introduction was very brief. He stated he did not meet any of the witnesses. He advised there was a conscious decision made by the investigators and himself that it would be inappropriate to advise Colonel RIVAS of the location of the witnesses. He advised the primary consideration was security for the witnesses and it was decided that the witnesses would be brought to the FBI Office for interview. He stated he instructed the Agents that they were to be present at all times that the witnesses were interviewed by Colonel RIVAS.

ASAC TORRENCE advised that he was told generally of the results of the polygraph. He stated that it was his recollection that the witnesses showed deception, changed their story and showed deception again. He advised the bottom line assessment was that no one knew for sure as to what was the correct and accurate statement.

Continuation of FD-302 of ASAC LARRY E. TORRENCEOn 1/18/90Page 3

The Agents involved in the interview expressed to ASAC TORRENCE that they felt the female Salvadorian's value as a witness diminished tremendously by the conflicting statements she had provided.

ASAC TORRENCE stated that through his discussions with the Agents, he believed that these people were well treated despite the fact that they may have been in a foreign country. He stated he believed they were in comfortable surroundings in comparison to their previous experiences.

One issue that ASAC TORRENCE mentioned concerned the need to provide protection for the Salvadorians in light of the fact that they may be of no value as witnesses. He stated he was aware that the Agents involved in the investigation had several discussions with Headquarters and were advised that the Department of State was working with the Jesuits in the United States to arrange for the relocation of the family.

With regard to the letter sent to the Ambassador, ASAC TORRENCE said that he did not recall seeing the letter or discussing the letter with anyone prior to it being sent. He stated he later became aware of some controversy surrounding the handling of the witnesses at Miami through a newspaper article. He stated he recalled reading some comments about torturing the witnesses and viewed it as completely opposite of the way those individuals were treated.

ASAC TORRENCE stated he was also aware of a request by the Jesuits to interview the Agents assigned to the protection detail. He stated that Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED] mentioned the request to him and advised him that this request was denied.

ASAC TORRENCE commented that there were discussions concerning the awkwardness of releasing the witnesses to the Jesuits, given the fact that the witnesses had recanted statements previously given and had provided conflicting statements. He advised in his view, there were very few options that the FBI had and in fact, that the Department of State had control over the relocation of the witnesses.

ASAC TORRENCE reiterated that the role of the FBI was to conduct the interviews, determine the truthfulness of the witnesses and validity of their statements, as well as to provide protection during the interview process.



Continuation of FD-302 of ASAC LARRY E. TORRENCEOn 1/18/90Page 4

In response to the negative press accounts, ASAC TORRENCE stated that he called Headquarters a number of times to suggest that the FBI make a statement. He stated that his opinion was that we categorically deny mistreating these individuals. He stated that in fact the matter was elevated to the highest levels of government and a statement was made by the President concerning this matter. He said Miami had not been given the authority to make any comments on this matter locally.

ASAC TORRENCE advised that with regard to specific questioning of the witnesses that he had no knowledge of the details of the questioning. He stated he did not recall every seeing the specific questions asked during the polygraph examination.



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reverted as processed*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/18/90

b7c  
 [redacted] Supervisory Special Agent (SSA), was contacted. SSA [redacted] was advised that an inquiry into the allegations of mistreatment by two Salvadorian witnesses, LUCIA BARRERA and JORGE CERNA RAMIREZ, was being conducted at the request of Assistant Director WILLIAM BAKER, Criminal Investigative Division. SSA [redacted] provided the following information:

b7c  
 He stated that he is the Supervisor of the Major Case Squad designated C-3. This squad's responsibility includes, in addition to the Foreign Police Cooperation classification, all Terrorism matters and Extortion matters which occur within the Miami Division. He stated that his initial involvement with the debriefing of witnesses occurred on 11/27/89. At that time, he was briefed by Special Agent [redacted] SSA [redacted] stated that SA [redacted] was assigned the investigation because SA [redacted] was acting in a Relief Supervisory capacity during the preceding week when the case began to develop. He said SA [redacted] is a Senior Agent (GS-13) and is a mature and very competent investigator. He said that it was his understanding that the FBI would be responsible for the protection of the witness and her family. Further that his agents would be responsible for liaison with foreign police officials during the course of this investigation. He stated that he and SA [redacted] decided that all contact with the witnesses would be through the FBI and that in order to maintain the security of the witnesses, no one, including representatives from the El Salvadorian Government, would know the location of the family. He said that he advised SA [redacted] to either change the hotel or change rooms because he learned through the briefing that the witnesses may have been registered under their own name. He said he later learned the witnesses did in fact change rooms.

b7c  
 He stated that the DEPARTMENT OF STATE had a representative from El Salvador who was staying in the same hotel. This individual's name was CHIDESTER. In addition, the security arrangements included the placement of an FBI Special Agent in a connecting room with the witness and her family. Another FBI Special Agent, Assistant Legal Attache [redacted] Mexico City, was staying in the same hotel. He said that the DEPARTMENT OF STATE paid for those expenses relating to the rental of the rooms and evening meals.

Investigation on 1/16/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055  
 by SSA [redacted] SA [redacted] Date dictated 1/17/90

*b7c* SSA [REDACTED] stated that on the morning of 11/27/89, the witnesses came into the FBI office space in Miami. He said he met them briefly in the Reception Room. Later during that morning, he met with a Colonel from the Special Investigative Unit (SIU), Salvadorian Army. This individual was Colonel RIVAS.

*b7c* He stated that later that evening, he met with SA [REDACTED] and was briefed on the progress of the interviews. He said that he was advised during the interview of the female Salvadorian, she alleged that she had seen soldiers; however, this statement was in conflict with the physical locations of the windows and the areas that she said she viewed. Further, Colonel RIVAS who was very familiar with the forensic evidence, was to formulate some questions for a subsequent interview.

*b7c* SSA [REDACTED] stated that the interview was recorded and the original tape was provided to Colonel RIVAS. He said he instructed both SA [REDACTED] and ALAT [REDACTED] to make sure that the tabs at the back of the cassette tapes were punched out in order to prevent overrecording of the tape.

*b7c* SSA [REDACTED] said that based on his experience with SA [REDACTED] he is certain that if there was a problem with any of the witnesses he would have been advised promptly. He stated that although Colonel RIVAS took a lead role in the initial interview, he was told by SA [REDACTED] that in [REDACTED] opinion the witness was being untruthful. SSA [REDACTED] stated that this initial interview and all others were conducted during the normal course of business hours within FBI space at Miami. He said that although the family of LUCIA BARRERA was initially left in the FBI Reception Room, he advised SA [REDACTED] that during subsequent interviews the family members should stay in an interview room which adjoins the interview room where the witness was to be questioned. He said he told SA [REDACTED] to make the witnesses who were not being interviewed comfortable. He said he was particularly concerned about the well-being of the young daughter. He said he was aware of the fact that a number of Agents, during the course of the witnesses' debriefing at Miami, had furnished soda and candy to the witnesses' daughter. He said that he personally brought the little girl a stuffed toy. He said throughout the witnesses' debriefing he had received no complaints, either directly or indirectly, from the witnesses.

*b7c* SSA [REDACTED] noted that there was a brief interview on Friday, 11/24/89. He said this interview was not recorded. SSA [REDACTED] stated that the Colonel indicated during their initial discussions that recorded witness statements are preferred by

b7c

magistrates in El Salvador and that the Colonel made a specific request for the statements to be recorded. He said the recording equipment was placed on a table and in plain view of the witnesses being interviewed.

Throughout the interviews, he kept both his immediate Supervisor, Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) LARRY E. TORRENCE, and Special Agent in Charge (SAC) WILLIAM M. GAVIN apprised of the progress of the interviews.

b7c

SSA [REDACTED] said that he had no direct involvement in questioning of any witnesses. During the polygraph of JORGE CERNA RAMIREZ, SSA [REDACTED] stated that he stopped in the adjoining interview room and viewed the questions of JORGE CERNA RAMIREZ. He said in his opinion the polygraph examination was low-key.

b7c

SSA [REDACTED] stated that during the questioning he was aware that Mr. CHIDESTER had traveled to Washington, D.C., to brief the DEPARTMENT OF STATE. He said that an issue concerning the future housing of the Salvadorian family was one that needed to be resolved. He said that there was no connection drawn to the Salvadorians' cooperation in the investigation being a precondition to them staying in the United States. He said it was his understanding that INS had already given the witnesses political asylum.

b7c

SSA [REDACTED] stated that he was aware of the request from the Jesuits to interview FBI Agents involved with the Salvadorian family. He said that Special Agent [REDACTED] had the protection detail and that upon releasing the witnesses on 12/1/89 to the Jesuits, the Jesuits signed a release form. The release form was witnessed by an agent and maintained by the Department of State. At that time, they had requested to talk to the Agents. SSA [REDACTED] stated that he denied this request.

b7c

Concerning other contacts with the Jesuits in Miami, he said that Special Agent [REDACTED] in fact took the witnesses to meet with the Jesuits in Miami over the weekend of 11/25 and 11/26/89. He said that he believed SA [REDACTED] did a memorandum detailing these contacts. He said he believed that the purpose of the visit was to obtain some clothing for the family.



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mounted as processed*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/17/90

The attached transcript reflects the contents of a recorded interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA on November 27, 1989. The unidentified male conducting the interview is Colonel MANUEL RIVAS, Director of the El Salvador Special Investigative Unit (SIU). The second unidentified male is [redacted] Assistant Legal Attache, Mexico City. Also present during the interview were U.S. Department of State Official RICHARD CHIDESTER and Special Agent [redacted]

*b7c*

Investigation on 11/27/89 at Miami, Florida

MM 163A-HQ-61055-24

by SA [redacted] ALAT [redacted]

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| JAN 16 1990          |                 |

Date dictated

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SEARCHED *ML*

*c-3 # b7c*

TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

Translator's Note: A dash (-) is used to indicate an incomplete sentence and a series of dots (...) areas where the tape is unintelligible. Portions in English are indicated between asterisks.

Lucia Barrera: L  
Unidentified Man: UM

Tape #1

11/27/89

Lucia Barrera: L  
Unidentified Man: UM

UM Well, Miss Lucia -

L Yes ...

UM Eh - you know that, eh, the President of the Republic, eh, is the one, perhaps the person who has the greatest interest in our country now in resolving the horrible crime against the priests. And so this morning we are going to, to chat a bit. I want you to calm down, to trust me, to recall everything which you saw and heard there. And that, well, for us to talk little by little -

L Each time I recall those things I, I get very depressed.

UM Yes. I, I - eh -

L Very, very great.

UM Yes, I understand that, but since -

L I, I now feel as if I'm getting sick now from being in that room so much.

UM Yes. But I think that now in a short while you will be calm now.  
You ...

L Yes - What I would like is for you to take what I



- what I have seen and what I have have heard, and give me a place now where, where I could do something so that they won't keep me in the room so much now.

UM Yes, no, yes, I understand it. I understand that.

L Yes.

UM But that will be little by little. Well - The problem is that if you had, if you had, if you had been in that ... would have been calm here. Right? Because many more things had to be, had to be done.

L Uh-huh.

UM That - well to, to really realize and understand what it was that you really saw. Right?

L Yes, I -

UM But -

L I say in my (own) words what I saw and what I heard.

UM Yes. Uh-huh.

L Because I am not educated to - I am not well educated the way you are - I can't (?) read and write. And with a certain degree of ... You can imagine what my education was. I'm not like you who are well educated, and so how can I compare myself with you - with the way you talk?

UM Yes.

L And so there are some things which - you can't understand what I'm saying.

UM No, but, but - eh -

L You see?

UM I'm Salvadoran, and you're Salvadoran.

L Yes.

UM So here - If you talk to me -

L Yes.

UM The way we talk I will understand you.

L Yes.

UM Because I also am - I - I'm not even from the capital.  
I'm from some canton around there, but -

L Me too - from a little town.

UM And so don't, don't -

L Yes - The bad thing is that I was raised speaking  
poorly. I was never taught what Spanish really is, but  
rather I have been learning and talking the way people  
do -

UM Uh-huh.

L But not well the way you talk.

UM But don't worry. Here, here we have two, two  
Salvadorans, and as Salvadorans we  
are going to understand each other very well.

L And that is what makes me feel a great deal, a great  
deal of trust. And the \*Mister\* (?), because it's  
as if he were Salvadoran: he has knowledge of  
Salvadorans and understands Salvadorans.

UM Yes.

L And so -

UM Well, as I was saying to you -

L Well - Thank you.

UM I want you to feel, to feel calm, and, eh, I don't  
want you to think that I've come to, to force you to  
say something -

L No, no, I ... force.

UM Well, as I was saying to you, the president is the one  
who is the most interested in clarifying this event.

L Yes.

UM To such a degree that we are going to do everything  
possible to, to attain it.

L Yes, they should do it.

UM To whatever extent is within our power.

L ... should do it.

UM And so I wanted - eh, initially to see if you could

recall - from the, from the time you were in Soyapan  
(ph.) and make -

L Look -

UM You might need -

L Look, I remember that we went out at 6 in the morning on  
Wednesday, because the war was - they were shooting  
on one side, and shooting on another.

UM Where do you live in Soyapan? I'm from over there.

L Eh - in the ... neighborhood.

UM Uh.

L There, outside of Soyapan.

UM Yes, yes. Yes, I -

L Yes? Ah, well - ... The people who came to buy bread  
from us said - they said - since they came to get  
bread, they were aware of what they were saying  
outside. I wasn't, because we were making bread.

UM Yes.

L That is to say, my husband is a baker.

UM Yes.

L And since I wasn't going to work at the UCA<sup>2</sup>, then I  
was helping there, making bread.

Translator's Note: Central American University.

UM Since when hadn't you gone - hadn't, hadn't shown up  
at work?

L Eh - since Saturday - I don't even know when ... When  
did that begin there?

UM Saturday.

L Oh, well, Saturday. I was off Sunday. Not on Monday  
because there was already a war on.

UM Ah-hah.

L There weren't any buses, there weren't any microbuses,  
or anything.

UM You worked on Saturday - until Saturday and the

weekend -

L Yes, we worked three hours on Saturday.

UM And you were off on Sunday?

L No, I was off Sunday.

UM Uh.

L And so I didn't go Monday then, because the first thing was -

UM But that - you still went to work that Saturday at the UCA?

L Yes, yes, I worked three hours still. And I worked in the curia too. I even asked the brother for permission to wash the curtains for him. And I told him that I would put them up the next Tuesday. But I didn't put them up now, because I didn't go work then because of the war. Well, there have been so many strikes, that I would even go if there was a strike in, in a small \*pickup\*.

UM Yes.

L But since there weren't any of those - then what could I have done? - even ... I would have gone in a small \*pickup\*. But since there weren't even any of those, the only thing I did was to help my husband take care of the bread business there.

UM Uh-huh.

L And, and I was very frightened. I was very frightened with that - they would explode bombs on one side and bombs on the other - And ... I am suffering from high blood pressure again. It was last year - I don't even remember when -

UM Uh-huh.

L Eh - and since then I am being watched for high blood pressure and nerves. And today I am shut up there - that seems to like - oh - do this to me - like this. And so I say to at least give me something to do, but not keep me there doing nothing.

UM Yes - look, eh, you said at what time you went out on -

L At six.

UM On, on Saturday.

L Yes, yes, six.

UM Thursday from Zoyapan.

L No, no, Thursday - Not Thursday. Wednesday.

UM Wednesday, yes, sorry.

L Wednesday, Wednesday. They said that there was a ceasefire for twenty-four hours, but I couldn't stand those, those, those bombings, that shooting.

UM How did you get out of Zoyapango (ph.)? On foot or -

L Yes, on foot, on foot. We walked and walked and walked. And I came with a white flag.

UM To where?

L That's how we got out.

UM To where did you go?

L That's how we got out. Look, I remember that ... eh, I went like - I was very frightened. I don't even know how. We asked permission from a lieutenant - ... know who (he) was. He didn't, didn't, didn't want us to leave the colony. All that scared me even more. And when I heard the bombs on one side and the other and they wouldn't allow us to go out it was worse.

UM Uh-huh.

L And so I was scared, and ... who was with us was crying with a child in her arms too. And then there near the ... hospital.

UM Uh-huh.

L There was a large group of, of some soldiers, and since people were coming like that ... wanted to pass. And since the men didn't pay any attention to him he would fire in the air. And so I was begging him there, and he ... was shooting, and that bothered me even more.

UM Yes.

L That bothered me even more. And a while later he told us to go over there and that he was, that he was controlling things to see if they were going to give permission to pass, or they weren't going to give

permission. And a while later they did give permission. And so I was shaking and very frightened, and we passed with the luggage (?) that we were carrying. We had some luggage (?). You see the suitcases I am carrying there? And then that's what I was carrying then. And the girl, which was so heavy like, like ...

UM She's pretty chubby, right?

L Yes, but she's lost a lot of weight now.

UM And, and, and the three of you went together?

L Yes, yes, yes.

UM Your husband, she and you.

L And so they gave us passage there, to pass over there. As I was recalling things, how, how they were and talking to my husband - and so there was a truck there which said - "To downtown, to downtown" - they said. And so, eh, I ran over there, and the men said to me, "Don't run, lady. Don't run." But I ... I ran and so there - that left us downtown.

UM And so you got on, you got on the \*pickup.\*

L Yes, yes, yes.

UM In the small \*pickup.\*

L Yes. But that I've, I've recalled that and recalled that and recalled that. And we owed for the flour, and then we went to pay for it. I told my husband that that we go pay for the flour, already downtown.

UM Downtown where the, the \*pickup\* left you? You don't remember where?

L Downtown - over there where, where they get - near the lottery -

UM Yes.

L The lottery.

UM Yes.

L I didn't remember the time then. I didn't remember anything. I didn't think of the time. I said to him, "Look, look, Peludo " - because that's what I call him - "Look, Peludo, now that we're carrying the money," I

said to him, "We owe for the flour." "It's better to pay for it," I said. "Because who knows how long the war will last? And then imagine that we use up our money, and since they don't give credit - So when the war ends and, and, and we go back to the house." I said. "Then we'll have the doors open for credit," I said to my husband.

UM Uh-huh.

L And so he said, "Fine" - He said to me. And so look, I said to him, "There are a lot of people here." "There are thieves around when it's like this," I said. "And so, don't worry, man," he said to me, "We're going to go pay for it now." And so when went to the, to the, the flour market and paid up.

UM Where?

L Over there, near the Apollo, down from there, was where we went to pay up.

UM So from the place where the little "pickup" left you you went -

L Yes, we went on foot.

UM You went on foot to -

L Yes, yes.

UM To the -

L Yes, we sat there for a while, because the luggage (?) weighed a lot, a lot. And Geraldina weighed a lot for me.

UM You don't, don't remember around what time it was when you arrived there by the Apollo?

L Look, no, I don't remember. I frankly don't remember about the time, because I wasn't, I wasn't thinking about the clock. I was only thinking about reaching the, the stand which he knew about, because I didn't know the place where they sold the flour to him on credit.

UM After you reached the Apollo, what, what did you do?

L We went down to, to, to, to -

UM To, to pay for -

L Where they sold the flour, yes, where they sold the

flour. And so after that, eh, we went out to eat, we went out for breakfast, because the girl said she was hungry. And I also felt some need to, so we went to eat something over there. And so we stayed sitting there, and I told my husband, "Look, I said to him ... go over there. How are we going to do it? ... go on foot." I said, "In any case, how are we going to do it?" He said, "Don't worry, We'll see where - or we'll pay for a taxi," he said to me, "or anything." But he wanted to make me feel better, but I - my nerves were bothering me too much. And so from there - eh, by a turn there is, there by some, by some buildings there are - if I'm not too -

UM ...

L Yes, yes ... if I'm not very mistaken, it would be that corner where we crossed, where there's some - two or three public phones -

UM Uh-huh.

L And so I said to him, "Look, the only hope " - because he knows that I with my mother - she doesn't like the noise children make, and I was bringing noise with the girl. And so I did not, I did not have the courage to arrive there, at my mother's house, and with this girl making so much noise. And so I felt better about calling the priest's place over the phone, because I felt - Or how could I put it? I decided to put my case in front of the priest.

UM Yes.

L And so I have the priests' direct telephone numbers here in my mind. And, and I said ... can help you. "I, yes, I will tell him," I said to him. And so I talked to the priest over the phone - to the priest's direct one.

UM That's fine. What's the priest's direct number?

L Eh - 24-09-33 - It's the office one. Because ... didn't communicate, but ... the priest even if people weren't working at the UCA, but they were always working at their office. We are not, because we were out, out on Sundays, and out (because) of this war, but I supposed that he might be working in his office. And so I called him under this assumption.

UM How long had you been working with this priest?

L I had been (working) about nine, now ten years.



UM And, and, and did you work there specifically, in, in, in their dormitories?

L No.

UM No.

L No, no.

UM Where did you work?

L Look, I worked in the rectory, in their offices.

UM Uh-huh.

L Since they assigned me there, they had left me there.

UM How, how did you know the, the, the priest's direct phone number?

L Because when I cleaned the telephones the ... was there, the number was there.

UM Ah-hah. And the -

L That's what I did.

UM And the rectory is inside the, the, the university?

L Yes, it's behind the administration (building).

UM And you then decided to call the priest?

L Yes, I called him, and I told him that I came from there, fleeing from the bullets, and that I was worried - that where was I to go? And then - I told him if he would give me shelter. And for me to talk about shelter - it made me feel I don't know what - because really I felt very bad about asking for shelter, but in the situation I was in, I told the priest with trust -

UM Yes.

L About, about, how, how we were coming. And I told him how I had gotten out then. "And you know what, father?" I said, "I'm worried that they might open the UCA, and I'll be over here." I told him, "Because there are no small pickups, there's nothing." I told him, "And so I would rather be near there in case you open the UCA." "Oh," he said to me, "it will be a long time before they open the UCA." He told me, he told me over the phone, "You come here." He said to

me, "Here to the house, to our house, to the house on 15th, you come." And so that's, that's how he said it to me, "You come. And we'll see what ... don't worry, woman," he said to me. "Don't get upset," he said to me. That's what the priest said to me.

UM Yes. And then what did you do then?

L So we looked, and looked like that up, and up and up, where there are stops and the little pickups are always transporting people. And then, eh, we got a truck around there, around the stops on 101.

UM Yes, there near the downtown, near the -

L Yes.

UM Around ...

L No, not there.

UM Higher up?

L Higher up, there around Bolivar.

UM By Bolivar park?

L Yes, up there. And so, eh, we got on a truck that was going to Antigo (ph.). And they were shouting, "for Antingo, for Antigo." And so we went over there. We went over there.

UM What did the priest tell you - at what, at what time you going to arrive - or did the priest tell you -

L No, I told him, I told him during the same phone call I made that since I knew that he is of a nature that - the first thing is that when you talk to him is that I had to say, eh, if I was going to be late that I had to tell him -

UM Uh-huh.

L Because if I was talking about the downtown, I could say that I would be at his place in a little while. And so it was not so. I told him that I was going to be several hours - or how long I was going to be - I told him, that I was going to be - because I was looking for transportation. "That's fine," he said to me, "that's fine. But you come to where I tell you."

UM Try to go, go, go - more or less recalling step by step -

L Yes, yes.

UM Everything which you were -

L Yes, I have already talked to my husband.  
We have, we have talked (about this) well - I -  
today already, when they had me there, he said to me,  
"Look, Lucia, eh, let's try to recall things well,  
to recall things well." "Eh, don't, don't, don't lock  
yourself up," he said, "the way you have been, and only  
you, and you lock yourself up in you, so that no one  
knows about you and only you." And that is what my  
husband was telling me, to tell them how things  
had happened - about, about the departure to there and  
to here. "And so don't, don't lock yourself up ...  
like this and that's how you are going to do it and,  
and it was like this then ... things the way they are.  
Don't be afraid of them." That's what, that's what my  
husband was saying to me. But even though he is my  
husband, eh, I feel, I don't, don't -

UM You don't feel trust ...

L Yes, yes, it's that that was the way I was raised.

UM Um.

L And then I, only I, and all my life it has been me, me  
alone.

UM How long have you been married?

L Eh - now - in '84. We got married in '84. But  
I always - then to trust people now, eh, I don't let  
people ... so that I can -

UM Talk.

L Yes, to talk, eh, talk. And, and what can I say to  
you? If they have me, if they have me sweep, or sew  
alone I just do that - that is to say, I don't start to  
chat the way they do, about this, about that - no, I  
can't do that.

UM So you stick to your work.

L Yes. Well, yes. I don't have that - I don't even  
have any close female friends, as they say that all  
women do. So to tell you that I don't keep track of  
soap operas. I - like that, like that.

UM Do you want to have something? Some water?

L A bit, yes, of water, if you would give me some.

UM

...

L

In any case as much as my husband has begged me to say - "Look," he says to me, "Trust me, I'm your husband." Even when my stomach hurts I tell him, "I have a pain in my side." "Oh, what's wrong with you?" "Nothing."

UM

So you are very reserved with him?

L

Yes. I am reserved. Eh - And I am that way with everyone. They set me to work and I ... work. But he told me today, "Tell them," he said, "how you got out of there. How - Everything - Tell them everything."

UM

Yes, that's why I was telling you at the beginning -

L

Yes.

UM

To, to trust us.

L

Yes.

UM

Not to think that, that - eh - that we will make you say something you didn't want to say.

L

No, that no - I know you don't do that.

UM

Exactly.

L

But my own nerves - under my isolation - the way I am. Eh - I was raised badly. I didn't have - it didn't, didn't give me trust.

UM2

If you will allow me - the problem is that we have to have you at the hotel because of security reasons. Because that way we can be more certain that you won't, that you won't have any problems. That's the exact reason why we have you at the hotel. Eh - And if we had an opportunity to hold you somewhere else -

UM

Yes, yes.

L

Even if you would have me in your house.

UM2

But, but -

L

I could help with the laundry, the ironing -

UM2

But I don't have a house. I live in Mexico.

L

At least to wash, to iron, to sweep -

UM2 I'm just, I'm just, I'm just like you. I ...  
hotel too.

UM Look, eh - But look, in fact - as, as Eduardo (ph.) was  
saying to you -

L Uh-huh.

UM It's, it's for your own security. I know that you're  
not accustomed to being in a hotel and your  
husband isn't -

L Or ...

UM Eh - Yes, you're accustomed to working -

L Yes.

UM From your house to work -

L Yes.

UM From work to your house.

L Yes, yes, I don't, I don't even go to the movies.  
I don't, I don't have any amusements. Because I feel  
that ... hour ... those that are there ... the two ...  
that I don't - Look, there's so much work. I have to  
sew buttons, I have to mend things. There are so many  
things that have to be done. I, as a woman - looking  
for work - just in your own home, seeing ...

UM But now, with the situation which you are experiencing  
and, and, well, you know the, the importance of what  
you can say to us and, and how you could help us most  
of all to clarify this situation.

L Yes.

UM And so that is, that is, that is important, and that  
is why they are keeping you at a hotel like this now.

L Yes.

UM But after this ends, and I don't think it will take  
very much.

L Let this, let this be soon, let this be soon, because  
I think that this will depress me. This will  
depress me.

UM But, now -

L I'm depressed aside from that now.

UM Yes, but imagine, imagine that this could last, well, two weeks. Let's suppose (that), that is to say, so that you could prepare yourself mentally, and prepare your husband -

L Uh.

UM Don Jorge and, and the girl.

L Yes.

UM And look, we're going to be here two weeks. Two weeks go by, can go by quickly.

L We've already been here a week.

UM A week, right?

L Today.

UM Today.

L As of today it was a week since I arrived at the curia, since I worked there too.

UM Uh-huh

L Eh, eh, that was where the provincial father told me - since I had talked to him about the matter when I came to inform him -

UM Yes, and it's that we were at - yes, eh, we were where?

L That we had arrived in Antigua.

UM That - no, that you had left there, there, there, there, downtown, from 101, there around by -

L Yes, in a little \*pickup.\*

UM In a -

L In a, in a truck.

UM In a truck which said it was going to Antigua.

L Yes, we arrived at Antigua, and then from there - thank you.

UM Thank you. And in Antigua, where did you go there?

L To my mother's. But I had already spoken to the priest, and I knew that she - even though she might

be annoyed, because the girl makes a lot of noise - She is very naughty. Then I was going to go talk to the priest. And we arrived at my mother's house. - And the people there, the woman who ... sister, eh, it's a type of ...

UM ...

L Oh, yes, there where my mother lives.

UM Ah-hah.

L Because she has one of those rooms ... brother. And everyone went up to me, and then, "Oh, I said to them, I, I am destroyed. The, the country is incredible now." "Here - It's calm here," I told them, "There's nothing here." Because the truth was that there it was as if nothing were happening. "And so really?" they said to me. And then I began to tell them how things were there, what had happened to us, what I had done to cover the girl - in the house itself we had placed the two beds, and we placed the mattresses so that the bullets wouldn't pass through, and the girl hunched over under that, under that, on the ground, under the mattresses.

UM Yes.

L And my mother - ... saw, and she doesn't say "Daughter, don't worry." She doesn't say anything like that. And so, well, I told her I already talked to Father Nachito (ph.). "I am going to spend some time (here), I said, so that they could eat," I said to her, "and I'm going to go down." I told my mother (this). "Go then. Then it's fine." And when she ... "No, I don't want to eat. I don't want to eat," I said to her, "I don't want to." And so when I believed that he had already finished with lunch over there, in his house - when I know that they eat at 12:30, because it is the time - it is the time they eat for certain - 12:30 - eh, I went down. But I already - that was maybe around, around two in the afternoon, more or less - when I went down -

UM Yes.

L To house number 15. I went down and, and then I was very happy because the priest came out the first time I rang the bell. I was very happy about that.

UM Yes.

L Eh - Well - The first time I rang the bell at house number 15, eh - and, and, and the priest opened it now.

And he was very happy. And he said to me, "Lucia, how have you been?" "Oh, look, Father, notice that there is - " I told him about the matter of the war and how we were coming. "Oh," he said to me. And oh, before I did that I asked him for his forgiveness, because I was going there to bother him. You know? Because of my personal problems I was now saying to him to help me. And so I asked the priest to pardon me for coming to bother him, and for him to give me shelter. And so when we opened that door - one, how would you say? - Ah - eh - how could I put it? - Some doors which are like this with ... with drawings to pass over there -

UM A sliding door?

L No, it's not a sliding door - you just pass and it closes.

UM Ah-hah.

L Ah, fine, it's one of those. There's a door which opens and another one which is of wood, of ... like that, with figures. Eh - And we passed through. "And this is empty, father," I said to him. "Yes," he said to me, "We live inside. And then this is empty." And at that moment I saw that house number 15 was empty.

UM Uh-huh.

L And so the priest said to me, "Don't worry" - he said to me when I asked him to excuse me, that I was going to bother him with my problems. "Don't worry. That's why we are here. I'll help you today, and you help me tomorrow," the priest told, told me. And so I told him about, about how things were there, how we had come on foot, and that we were now with my mother - I told him, the priest. "Ah-hah," he said to me, "oh, don't worry." And since he, he was like this, spontaneous, he said to me, "Go, go see what, what room you like, what room you like." And so I told him, "No, here, here ... all this, because Father Gondra (ph.) lived upstairs before ... here I haven't - " "Well, come, we'll go look at the other house." And we passed, eh, through a door - that is to say, the two doors are almost touching - that, that connect with house number 16.

UM Uh-huh.

L It's two houses in one - it seems like that.

UM Yes.



L And so "Look, here's the wire. Eh - Here on this side is the sink. I, I, just ask," he said to me, "if you like these two rooms here." And he showed me where the wires were, and then going in like this, still in that same house number 16, eh, there's two rooms, and - "Then if you want this one or you want this one?" "I like this one," I told him, "because it was Father Herrandez (?) - he was a provincial - " "Eh, then take it," he said. "But look, I only have one coverlet for the floor," I said to him. "Then - don't worry about that," he said "Come." And then I, I went with the priest to bring - he gave me only one mattress, and at that moment I told him, "Father, but I want to excuse myself too, because my husband and my daughter are with me. Will you give my husband permission to come in the house?" I said. "Oh, then take the other one," he said. And he then gave me another mattress. From, from, from the, from the two beds which were in that room.

UM Yes.

L But already from their residence there inside. And until that moment I ... there - until the moment when I went to take the mattresses - when I went with the priest - I went to take the two mattresses. And so we went out talking that the UCA was empty, that, that we would have to see when we would resume activities - well, with all that we arrived again through a door which is behind the chapel and which goes in house number 15. Do you understand me?

UM Yes, yes, yes, yes.

L ...

UM Yes, yes.

L And then and, and I came, and he said to me, "Look, Lucia, eh, at what time are you going to come by?" "Well," I said to him, "eh, what I can say to you is - there is still some time -" "If that is all you're bringing, how are you going to cook? And so I'm going to bring you a little stove which is over there" - he said it to me like that. "And, and, and here you have water, you have light, you have water, here - everything is calm. Don't worry. Are your nerves bothering you? Well - " He said to me. Eh - I can't remember any more of what he said to me. And so, I said to him, "Look, father, do you think - ," I said to him, "I'm going to be here sitting and lying down and that's the only thing I will be doing?" I said to him. "Why don't you give me

a little place to help the women who you have in the house?" And then, "Look," he said, "notice that as a matter of fact they have not been able to get through." And then - theirs - hadn't been able to get through - "The women," he said "who work here." "Oh, then, why don't I make you dinner?" I said. "We'll see," said the priest, "We'll see." That was when I was speaking to him about the mattresses, and we went to bring the mattresses.

UM Yes.

L Well - From there - eh - "We'll see," he said to me. "Fine, father." I said to him. Oh, and he gave me the key to house number 16, because that key was placed, was placed on, on the plate. Because he had thought about bothering Father Ibit (ph.) so that he would give me the one for house number 15, but as he was looking and looking he noticed that it was on plate 16. And so he said to me, "Take it." - He said to me, "Oh, here is the key." "There's no problem now," he said to me. Take the key." - which I handed over to Father Simes (ph.) at the airport.

UM Uh-huh.

L Today, when I came over here, when I came over here - I handed that key over to Father Simes. I told him that Father Nacho (ph.) had handed it over to me, and that it was for house number 16. Eh, eh, yes, and I handed him all the keys to the rectory -

UM So the key was placed -

L Yes, yes, yes.

UM Inside the plate of the 16th.

L Yes. The 16th.

UM But where? Outside, or inside?

L No, inside, inside, yes. And since we were inside - looking where I was going to stay, and where I was going to cook - that he was going to get me a little round stove - and, and at what time I was going to pass by. I said to him, "In a little while more or less." - I said to him. "Go then." And so when I arrived there was a little round electric stove there already and with a, with a pot and then I told Jorge, "Look," I told him, "look, see the priest" - I told him, "The poor man, he already brought me the stove and a pot, I said, "to cook something." "Yes, look," he said to me. And so all - Now that was

around four. At around 4:20 the priest came again to see if, to see if we had passed by now. And he arrived with a little radio.

UM At around what time did the priest arrive?

L At around 4:20 - more or less - but I wasn't looking at the clock.

UM Yes.

L More or less, more or less - you know? It was that time.

UM So the priest arrived around -

L Yes, he returned.

UM And so when you arrived -

L When I - After he had given me the mattresses.

UM Yes.

L After he knew which room I had chosen - after - then I went to the house with the key he had given me. From there I returned around four, and I told my husband, "This is the house." - I told him. And I opened the door with the key which the priest had given me. And then look. And so there, in what had been their \*pantry\* when they had lived there - there was the little hotplate there. "Look," I said, "the priest, poor man, he has brought me a stove." I said. "Oh, yes, that's true, and a pot. Look. We can prepare some milk if we want," I said to him, "or coffee, or anything." There in a little while, a little while after I arrived, there ... the priest arrived again with his radio, playing it. Eh - I introduced my husband to him - eh, and, and he said to me, "Look, Lucia." And, and he was walking around like this around here - and so I introduced him to my husband. "And, and, do you have money?" he said to me. "Eh, yes, I brought some small savings over there to ... That's why - no, I don't want to bother you any more," I said. "Really, Lucia? You have something to buy (things) with?" he said to me. But like that, the way he was, that is to say, the way he talked to me, then. "Really?" he said to me. Eh - "Yes, father, you now what? When I finish what I have, I will borrow some, and when I start working I'll pay it back, father," I said to him.

UM Uh-huh.

L And then, "No, don't worry about that. If you need ... if you run out of food, come to the house."  
"Yes? I said to him .... go to the other house to ask for food." "Go then," he said to me. And then - "And covers?" he said to me. "I just have one," I told him, "because it was too much ... I said to him, What's most important is to cover the girl."  
"Well, look," he said to me, I'm going to bring you a blanket. Wait. That's no problem." A while - he left and a little while later he came with a blanket. And so when I heard his radio coming - which I had just seen - he had come with the little radio to see if we had passed by already - he came with some blankets which he offered to me - a little while after that - but something like that.

UM Yes.

L And so I ran and crossed house number 15, and I went to meet him with the, with the blankets. And then I said, "How pretty these blankets are!" "Yes, use them."

UM You went from, from -

L Yes, from sixteen -

UM To the fifteenth.

L Yes, to the fifteenth. Since the ... door ...

UM So you went out - but the priest was coming from the door -

L Yes, from the door, yes, from the door which goes, eh, from the UCA garden to the - to get in the house - in the house on this side - in house fifteen.

UM Uh-huh, \*yeah\*.

L You understand me?

UM Yes, yes.

L Oh, fine.

UM Yes, yes.

L And so I was still felt bad because he was running around a lot for me. And, and I ran - eh, I knew he was bringing me the blankets which he had promised me. And, and then I, I stressed at that moment - I said to him - "Father," I said to him. "And what do you think?" I said to him. "Are you going to

give me a little place - to go make dinner, or to help the women," I said to him, "tomorrow?" So "Look," he said to me, "About that -" "They already sent us, he said to me, the guard's wife." "The guard's wife already arrived," he said to me. "And so, "Oh, fine." I said to him. Just that. I didn't ask who she was or - because that was something which did not, did not concern me. And then well - "Fine, then." I said to him then. "What am I going to do?" I said to him. Then - "Sleep, rest," he said to me. "In any case you have walked a lot, and you need to rest," he said to me. And then "We'll see each other then, tomorrow." "Fine, father, I said to him. "That's fine, father," I said to him. So he went to his house, and so I was very happy because he had given me a house, he had given me the mattresses, and he had brought me this stove, not a big one, but a small one.

UM Yes.

L And so I was happy about everything, because of this, of the priest, and because he had brought me the, the blankets, those blankets too. And he left with his little radio. He closed the door and left for his house with his little radio. That I didn't see.

UM What door did he close?

L The one which goes from the UCA to the inside of (house number) fifteen.

UM Uh-huh.

L And I, and I was very happy, because the priest had given me shelter.

UM Uh-huh, yes.

L And so after that, well, we were there, getting things arranged, I would say, taking care of the girl, and there in Antiguo my nephew's wife had lent me a little radio, because I wanted to hear the news, and then - to hear how things were over there, when we were going to return - and whatever.

UM Yes.

L And so, but the radio would fail us, because it was shrill, and you couldn't hear very much. And so it was very boring there. Around six in the afternoon, eh - and I had some things to make there - eggs, coffee and coffee with bread. And that's what I prepared for dinner. There was nothing else

to do. And then - ah, a soda, one soda - with a soda - I remember that I didn't make, I didn't make coffee, but rather a soda. We had it with some bread I had bought at a store when I came from, from there in Antigua - (came) down with the luggage (?).

UM Yes, eh, eh, you cooked those things on the stove the priest gave you?

L No, no, no, no. I didn't, I didn't use it. I didn't use it. I didn't - I thought the next day I would - because I had brought noodles too. But there - for dinner I gave them what I had: cheese, bread, and soda. That's what I gave them: the, the, the girl and my husband. The girl ... but my husband resigned himself to what I gave him.

UM You didn't use the stove?

L No, I didn't use it. And there - now when it started to get dark - I wanted to turn the light on. There wasn't any light. Well, I said to him, "Look, 'Peludo,' now we're really messed up." I told him, "And what are we going to do?" Oh, I - look. Oh, he said to me, "There will be a curfew soon," he said. "It's almost six." he said to me, my husband said to me. And then, look, I told him, "I'm going to go run to the house where my aunt works." I told him - because she works with the, with the priests on 50th Street.

UM Uh-huh.

L And so, "Hon, I told him, "I'm going to go there." "But ... it's very late." "I'm going to go. I'm going to ask her for some candles" ... I told him. And I went - the ... himself gave me two, three candles. And I was running like this because it was almost six o' clock. And it was already, it was already a matter of looking for someplace to sleep. There wasn't any light. There wasn't anything. Everything was very dark and ... doing. And so we stayed like that, going around and around in circles there, around and around in circles - after I went to bring the candles. And since there wasn't any light and I had to prepare the girl's milk - then with some papers which we burned, my husband and I, we heated a bit of water, the girl's bottle, and then I prepared the bottle and the water wasn't very, very hot, but I made it like that - the bottle. And we lay down. We lay down. And I had already slept - because I slept soundly. I was very comfortable there with, with, with covers and with

the mattress we had.

UM How many mattresses did the priest give you?

L Two, two mattresses. And then my husband stayed next to the wall, Geraldina here in the middle, and I on the other side. We left her in the middle. We had already slept (some) - Eh - I felt that I had slept some, when I was awakened by firing. And eh, I am such a sound sleeper. And so I heard - and I said, "It's started now. Because that, that firing - " I tell you, that when I arrived, eh, at two in the afternoon to get the priest -

UM Uh-huh.

L When, when I rang the bell and I was happy because ... opened up for me - and then I told him how things were over there, that it was very dangerous, that this and that - And then he told me, "They already came here to ... one day ... the priest said to me.

UM Uh-huh.

L "But look," he said to me, "Don't worry." He said, "Eh - They were very well mannered boys." "Oh, fine, Father, then it's all right," I said to him. And then we continued to talk about what I told you about there.

UM Uh.

L And then, eh, and, and, and when I woke up there - because of the, of the, the shooting I heard there - eh, eh, I wanted to - I, I, I got a bit upset (?). "How strange," I said. "I come to get away from the firing there, and there's more firing here," I said. "And then we're ruined," I said. Right? But I was just saying it to myself there.

UM Yes.

L Yes, oh, well, "Oh, my God," I said, more firing here." Eh, I said, "This is unbearable now." And then - and the firing came from - I could hear it from the woods. I could hear it from the woods.

UM Well, we were practically when -

L Yes, when I was already - after I heated up the -

UM After you heated up the, the -

L Yes, and I saw that there wasn't any light, there wasn't any light - and we stared to heat that way - with the -

UM2 ...

UM \*No, I did.\*

L With the old papers which were there -

UM ...

L Old papers, newspapers which were there - I told them. With my husband ... down there. And then we lay down. Fine. Eh - and, we had already, already, already gone to sleep. I had already gone to sleep a bit when I heard the firing. I just said to myself -

UM Yes.

L "How strange! What has happened? They've gotten inside the UCA. I heard ... and, and, and a little while after that, like that, during the same shooting that was, that there was - the fighting, the shooting that was already taking place in the, in the woods of the UCA - that I felt and heard that they had gotten inside the UCA. "How strange! They are ... inside here? Eh, my God! They're going to ruin the UCA," I said. Well, and a little while after that I heard that a noise - the opening, the opening and closing ... of the priests' house - of the house in the front.

UM Uh-huh.

L Of the house in the front - the residence which is next to the chapel where I had arrived to take out -

(end of tape 1)



Tape #2

11/27/89

UM And so you were telling me that you prepared the bottle and all -

L Yes, yes. Well, we lay down - when we saw now that we were, eh, we were going to be there in the dark. We couldn't be at one place or another - the best thing was to go lay down. And then we went to lie down at the ... I said, "And to be careful, because, because if we are next to the wall - Geraldina - you see how it is," I said, "She's going to get hit." And I don't have pillows here to place against the wall, I said. "I now am - " "I am staying here," he said to me. "Fine then." And he stayed there - Geraldina was in the middle, and I was on this side, next to this other wall. And I fell asleep ... and I had already slept some, some, when I heard the firing. And I - when I heard the shooting I woke up, but I didn't when it started, because the firing had already been going on - I don't know if it had just started, or if the firing was already going on. But they were shooting - "Good God! They've gotten ... That's around the woods." That's what I was saying -

UM Yes.

L Just to myself, in my head. "My God! They've gotten inside here, in the UCA. Oh, and, and, and how can this be? And this is around the woods." And then a little while after that, I hear ... in front of the woods and a little while latter - it was a matter of seconds - like that, eh - I was still lying down when I heard that they were opening and closing doors over there, inside, inside there - where I was - in the house rather, in the house, in those gentlemen's residence. Eh - and I worried, and I worried and, eh, I got up. Without ... yes, I went to the room. I went barefoot. And I went - and I got up - And, and at a window - which was open - Why close the window if there wasn't any danger? And so it was open. Eh, eh, eh, next to the room where I was sleeping - But I was frightened that I might be seen. And I covered myself with a piece of the curtain which were at those, at those windows - And when I went near, I looked out there, I saw five men. Then two of them with uniforms of the kind I have seen

on the streets - I have seen them on the streets - those two men were firing upwards, towards the priests' place, like this, upwards, upwards towards the priests's place.

UM Upwards - towards the sky, or, or towards the priests' place?

L Yes, upwards - like - the residence - eh, there below, it looks like it is all flat, but from where I was it doesn't look as if it is all flat, because there is a large ...

UM Yes.

L And then, eh, I saw those two men shooting over there. "My God. They are soldiers," I said. But I was just saying it to myself. "My God, they are soldiers." They were in the moonlight, and it was like the daytime. And I saw them with uniforms on, of that kind, which they call camouflage, camouflage. And they were firing in that direction, with some ... the moonlight lit them up for me ... close to them there were three more, but they were wearing dark uniforms, not black, but dark, because the black ones - in the, in the dark they look blacker - and there - I saw that the moonlight lit two up. They weren't, they weren't black. There were three of them, three of them who were there, close to them whom the moonlight lit up - They were lit up ... "My God! And then - But I - when I saw there what I was seeing, I saw that the window where the women were dead - that window was already open.

UM From where you were -

L Yes, from where I was looking, from where I - that window was already open. And then - Oh, God! But it was - the, the, the shooting at the house had already taken place. That shooting inside the house had already taken place. I am talking about what I saw. And what I heard there. There - Inside you heard some low voices - they reached us. We were able to grasp them - they were soft - inside the house. And Father Ignacio (ph.), whom I, eh, would affectionately call Father Ignacito (ph.), eh, he spoke loudly - some things I heard, and some things I couldn't hear. He said that it was an injustice - "You are carrion!" he said. And those men, those, those who were inside - which the moonlight did not, did not light up - they went inside, and then these followed - behind those which the moonlight did not light up, those two

went in. They went in quickly. They went in quickly, and Father Ignacio did not speak, and, and it got worse, the shooting got worse. It got worse - and that was left like - as if nothing had happened. A second later as if (L begins to whisper) ... what ... and then I said, "My God! And then they don't answer now, they don't answer now" ... because this here ... like stone ... and I went, I went to sit on the, on the mattress. ... all this - feeling what was happening inside. And though I wanted to shout, help, or anything, ask for help or anything - but the danger itself instinctively made me not - made me stop, made me stop, and I went to the mattress. And I was crying, I cried, when I began to think about the misfortune which had taken place. I was thinking about that by myself, when I saw that I didn't hear any conversations, or, or, or voices, or anything. And that silence was a matter of seconds. Just a little while later I jumped up ... burst inside - I don't know where - a little while after that - the other bomb. And (then) it was as if nothing had happened: a great peace ... well, I fell asleep. I fell fast asleep after that. I was fast asleep until morning - And then I got sleepy and lay down, and I woke up ... saw the priest standing up at the door where I was, laughing. I saw him, the way he laughed, but it's that he would bring his upper and lower teeth together to laugh ... and that is how I saw it. And, and that woke me up - the nightmare ... I went to go to the bathroom ... I got up at six. I brushed my teeth - it was going to be six. And I said to my husband, "I'm going to see what has, what has happened to the priest," I said, "But I'm going to wait until six, because the ceasefire - it's six, and it's until six." And, and I went out that little door which connects the UCA to the inside of number 15 -

UM Yes.

L To house number 15, I went out slowly towards that place. And that door, where they went in - I saw that Father opened it when he went to bring the mattresses - was wide open. The, the door was open. I went walking that way - the door was open, and I saw the two women: one was like this and the other one was like this, but nearby, near each other, and the bed of the lady who was like this, the woman who was like this, was ... with, with shots. I got scared. Eh - I then saw - I walked further on. Another door was open, and I saw there was ... and I figured out that it was the dining room. And I

continued to walk. And I was already in a living room - in the third room which I saw - I was in a living room, and I continued to walk this way, step by step, slowly, and I was almost at the edge of, already to go up ... to go inside the residence.

UM

Yes.

L

And I saw a blue bundle with that bloody face, and I saw that it was the priest's hair. "My God! My God!" And, and like that - as if - like that, slowly, another step. Uh! And I got scared. There was a white head. And then, "My God!" And I went back. I went over there, and I arrived at the room ... because I call him "Peludo,".... they've done away with the priests." I, I, look ... I'm going to go talk to Father ... I'm going to go tell him. They must know," I told him. Then I arrived there - I went running from there, number 16, and I went to tell the house ... the house of the other priests. And when I arrived there - it was a, a, a ... opened it when I knocked ... opened ... and Father Pedroso (ph.) appeared. And he opened (the door). "Hello, Lucia." "Good morning, Father." "Good morning," he said to me. "Eh - How are you?" "Very poorly," I said to him, "Look, Father. This and this and this and this." Then I could no longer hold in what I had kept back, and I was crying and crying and crying. And, and, and I told him, "Look, Father, this and that and that. I saw this - "... And the priest said to me ... what you saw ... "Control yourself, so people won't see you," he said to me. - Crying - "Control yourself." And then a little while after that I saw that Father Cheno (ph.) came with Father Nuñez (ph.) putting on their shirts like this, tucking them in, and he grabbed I don't what around there from a cupboard there was - Ah - I left out. I left out - where, when - They left - when I heard the firing - when these men went inside quickly, eh, and the priest no longer, no longer spoke and, and I heard that, that burst of bullets - eh, a little after that, they ... the furniture, they hauled something, eh, as if they were dragging something, as if they were throwing out papers. And after that - eh, in, in that same, in that same moment - to say like that - you could hear furniture breaking, as if there were pieces of glass - when I heard - ... do like this with your feet like this and like that - ah, that's how it was and later - that was when I withdrew from the window, and I went to sit down on the, on the mattress. And the next day - I already explained to you what I did and what I went to see over there - inside the house, the residence, to see - but I thought I could be of some service - if they were wounded and needed my help - I

could help them, or inform the priests of such things - at that point I could not imagine the worst - what happened. And then that was when I went to house number 50 to inform them of the matter - when Father Cheno already - when I told him about this and that, he told me to, to control myself and not to be like that - not to cry, because people ... and then - and, and, I, controlled myself as I could, then, but I really wanted to cry. I wanted to cry because of this misfortune. And, eh, when I saw a man like that, who was standing there by the door like that and he said ... eh, I wasn't, I wasn't interested in the man, because I didn't even note everything he said to me then. "It was purely God's miracle that I was saved! Eh - What I feel is that ... because I was in a room on the floor - below, below, he said, where there is a ...." I just that - I didn't answer him yes or no, or how it was, or who are you, or anything like that. Instead I went after the priests. And in any - And Father ... then told me that they could no longer help me, because they were running a risk. And so I - ... and what I did was ... which the priest had given me, and with the things which I had brought too, and I went back to Anti, and I returned to Anti and I said to my mother .... "Oh, God!"

UM You told your mother?

L I told my mother, my mother. My mother is quite old. ... "And she said to me, "And you left so happily, because, because the priest had helped you." She said, "And you were going to be so happy." "Well, yes," I said to her, that's what I thought." But they said to me, "Do you want to eat?" Then "No," I said, "I'm not hungry." "Not hungry at all!" I said. And since then I was left like this, like this, like this. I don't eat the way I used, I used to - the way people should - and I don't sleep calmly, because of the impact of having heard, and ... that is what I've ...

UM And how - And how long were you with your mother?

L Thursday passed by - which was when I returned - Friday, Saturday - I only went to the little store - eh, Sunday.

UM Eh - from the priests' place - when you went to inform them - you returned to inform them -

L Yes, I went behind them. No, for me, it's, it's like that. When I came from, from, I came from the house, the residence that was the priests' to see what, what

had happened, if I could help them with anything - eh, I came to my room where I had the mattresses to get my documents out, and inform him, and I said to him, "Pelo," they did in the priests. I'm going to go inform Father ... " I grabbed my documents, and I went to house number 50. And, and I told them, I explained what I had seen. And then one of the priests, I don't remember which one, said to me, "And Segundo (ph.)?" "I don't know. I haven't seen him," I told him. Segundo is Father Montes (ph.). Then - "And Segundo?" "I don't know," I told them, "I haven't seen him." And so when they came - priests - that was the only thing I heard, that the man was talking by the door inside - that that man was already talking with the priests.

UM Yes.

L When I arrived. And then he only said that he felt that it was a miracle from God that he had been saved, because he was in a room below - eh, and that, that he was covered by some boards. I wasn't interested in what he was saying, and I went after the priests. And then I told Jorge, "Let's go, because they can't even give us a room in the curia." I said, "Let's go. Let's go." ... my mother's place," I said, "because she can't stand Geraldina - she's too naughty." And we went over there. I was there Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday - we were all there more or less. The matter seemed calm. And since things were calm now, I told Jorge, my husband, "Look, I'm going to go work today." I told him, "I'm going to take a look to see if they have opened the UCA now, and if it's not, I'm going to go to the curia," I said to him, because the brother is very strict and if I don't clean he's going to scold me." Then it was Monday, and I went to the curia - those are the offices of the provincial - the curia.

UM Where is it?

L It's at about, about a block and a half from house number 50, from the house of Father ... which is house number 50.

UM ...

L Yes, after that, on the, on the - the sidewalk of the Santa (ph.) Clara (ph.) super(market?) - then house number 9.

UM And who received you there?

L I had a key.

UM For the -

L Yes, yes, yes, I - that is to say - I had a key. I had a key for all the, for all the offices of the re - of the, of the rectory, because I did the cleaning early in the morning, before the priests and the secretary arrived. When they arrived their offices were already clean. I would just do the area around that.

UM Uh-huh. But you didn't clean in the curia then?

L Of course!

UM Oh, yes?

L Yes, I cleaned - and so Father Cardenal (ph.) gave me those two keys six years ago - one for the main door, and one which will open all the doors. And I gave those keys to Father Simes (ph.) at the airport - Or there at the house! I remember now. At the house of, of, of the French ambassador. I remember right now.

UM And who did the cleaning in house number 50?

L Oh, eh, that - my aunt is there and a cook, but my aunt is the one who does the cleaning and the one who ...

UM And in, and in number 9?

L Just me.

UM Just -

L Yes. It's that no one lives there.

UM Near the rectory. No one lives at number 9?

L No, there's only offices there. They go there to work.

UM And when, when they arrived there at their, at their, at their house - the curia - who received you?

L I opened the door, and Brother Francisco (ph.) was talking on the phone. And he said to me, "The curtains are all wrinkled." "Yes, Brother, I'm going to hang them up for you now. Listen -" Because that last Saturday that I worked - the same day, the same day the war broke out -

UM Uh-huh.

L That Saturday, that Saturday was the last day at the curia. So I brought down Brother Francisco Surce's (ph.) curtains, which were dirty.

UM What do they call Brother Francisco?

L Francisco Surce.

UM Surce?

L Yes ...

UM ...

L Yes. And I took them down. My idea was to put them up on Tuesday, when I went to work. But I arrived at one - until about four in the afternoon. And then all this course - if no one arrived, I would close the, the curtains again - I locked the house again - a double lock - I would even push against it to be more certain that it was locked. And I have cared for those keys until now when I handed them over. And so there - When Father Cheno (ph), Father Tojeya (ph.), that I had arrived at the curia -

UM The priest was there? The priest was there?

L Yes, Father Tojeda was there.

UM Uh-huh.

L Father Tojeda was there. He opened his office, and said to me, "Lucia, you've come already?" "Yes, Father," I told him, "I'm going to start to pick up the trash now." "Come." And he called me inside. "Look," he said to me, "What - could you tell us," he said, "about what you started to tell us?" "Could you talk," he said to me, "like this, about what you saw or what you heard?" "Tell her something," he said to me, there. "And she is," he said to me, "Maria Julia Fernandez (ph.)." "Look, Father," I said to him, "I have seen her on television. Eh - she is involved with human rights." "Well, talk to her." So I spoke with her like this, the way I am telling you now, about - But I saw that she was not interested in how I came from Soyapango, or how this or that, but that she was more interested in what I had seen and what I had heard. I realized that that was what she was listening (for) - because she was not writing anything down, she was just listening. She listened to me. She listened to me. And so a little while after that - it was a great



surprise to me that I could no longer go to the house, because I, I thought when I came into the office, eh, when I spoke there with the priest or with that lady - eh, I was going to continue to do my work, as, as, I usually do and then return to my home. But I didn't do anything now. But rather they told me that I was in danger. "I? Why am I in danger?" I said, "Why am I in danger?" "It's that what you have heard and what you have seen - they have to talk to you." And then she told the, the brother there, and she told Father Pedraso (ph.), who is the one who deals with the printing, who were around there - Ah, eh, that, that I in danger.

UM Who said that?

L Eh - the lady.

UM Ah-hah.

L And, and that they were going to take me to the, the Spanish embassy. And so - but I was upset, because I said, "What is all this? To put me in the embassy! Because I didn't owe anything. What was I going to do in such place?" I said. They wouldn't let me work now. And then they told me, "It's to take care of you." "Eh, you're in a lot of danger," he said to me. But I was talking like this about (those) things, normally - I wasn't, I wasn't thinking about this, or about that or, or about the danger which, which I could face.

UM Who told you that you had to go to the embassy?  
Maria Julia?

L The lady. Yes. "You are in danger, Lucia," she said to me. I said to her, "And - But why? I am telling what I saw." "Exactly." And now then when I saw the ambassador there, when we arrived at the house - since I heard, "Call the ambassador like that, very quickly - "

UM Uh-huh.

L And then that, that - Look, understand what it is - because I am speaking very quickly. And then we went over there, first to a room, and Geraldina - Ah, then when they told me that they were going to move me to the embassy, eh, I felt that something was ugly here, because why weren't they going to let me go back to my house? They wouldn't let me go to my house.

UM Yes.

L "Look," I said to them. "But my husband is waiting for me," I said, and my daughter." "And, and - What am I going to do with them?" I said. "We'll send for them now, we'll send - " "No, let me go and get them," I said to them, "I'm going to go." But the gentleman who was driving said then - he was one of the men - in one of those cars from the embassy - eh, that they were going to return for them, and Father Pedrazo (ph.) went with me to the embassy. We left there - eh - excuse me, excuse me. From the curia where I was talking we went to house number 16. I remember now. And Maria Julia went with me there. And Brother Francisco Surce was there too. He told me to show him. And so I showed them what I was telling them. A little while after that there was a knock on the door, and they told me to hide. And, and then I was afraid, because why was I hiding?

UM Who went from the curia to house number 16?

L Eh, Maria Julia and Brother Francisco Surce. And I went to show them from where I had seen things - partly -

UM Uh-huh.

L And then (he?) left, and they knocked on the door there ... Hide! And then when ... like this I was very frightened, because I didn't owe anything to be hiding. And they said to me to hide. Eh, and, and the brother talked. Eh - And do you know what they said to him at the door? Eh - They said that they were looking for Maria Julia Hernandez. And then he first said -

UM But who -

L That she wasn't there.

UM Who was looking for her?

L Eh - two gentlemen - I noticed (one) later because I have ... and I talked to him. He was the lawyer he said. He was a lawyer he said.

UM ...

L The guardian. Then Maria Julia said to me when she - "Oh," she said, "it's you." And then she let them come in. "Come," she said to me, "I'm not afraid now." And then I sat on a ... in house number 15. And she said to me, "With him you can talk well about

the things which, which you have seen." Then I explained things the way I am explaining to you now. And, eh, then there was nothing else to say. Then "Oh," he said, to the embassy." And then I got upset and said what was I going to go do there? And he said - "And my husband is waiting for me and my daughter. I have to go home." "It's that you have - you have to be - no, eh, you have to be - " he said - How can I put it? For people not to see me then -

UM Concealed?

L Yes.

UM Hidden.

L Ah, well, then I was very upset, because I don't owe anything, and because why was I going to be concealed, hidden? But I didn't see the magnitude of the very great, the great danger - what you are explaining as why I am in the room - in that room in the hotel.

UM Yes.

L And then I told him that, "My daughter is ... and my husband too." "We will bring them to you now," he said. And then a while after that I - Father Pedrazo, who accompanied me to the embassy, left with a slip of paper which I sent Jorge to come without fear with those gentlemen who were going to bring them. Father Simes (ph.) was the one who brought them with my aunt, because the priest did not know my mother's house, my mother's room.

UM Uh-huh.

L But since my aunt works with Father Initz (ph.) and Father Simes, then they told her to show Father Simes where my mother was ...

UM Why did you go to the embassy from house number 16?

L I went with Father Pedrazo, but then I got upset, because that about being shut up - I who have never been shut up - that's ugly.

UM And what did they say to you when you reached the embassy?

L There were some gentlemen ... there. Eh - the, the, the ambassador - I don't remember if I saw him, but there were two gentlemen ... who later said they were secretaries, secretaries. And then they passed

me inside, first into a room where there was a bed - a room. A while later - and, and, and - a while later gentlemen arrived from the door where they were, and the ambassador arrived, and Father Pedrazo was still with me, and they talked about those matters, that, that - what did they talk about? About, about those matters. I didn't, because I had nothing to say about that. I was only there, on the side. I even felt bad about being in the, in the meeting itself, but I didn't know what they were talking about. And then the priest told me, "I'm going to Juana's," he said to me, "Juana is your aunt?" "Yes, Father, I said to him, "take him this slip of paper and tell him to accompany you without fear and to come with, with, with whoever is bringing them. My aunt knows them."

these two

UM Who did you say it to?

L To Father Pedrazo.

UM Uh-huh.

L Then, eh, so he would go with a little slip of paper to tell Jorge to come to where I was. And so a little while after that, eh, that, that the ambassador told me that, that I could go around there. The room was pretty big like this - for me not to worry. A little while later, eh, I said, "I'm going to go down " need something, to do something." And then - because I had already told the, the, the ambassador that to be like that, doing nothing - how can I ... what I have always said. And then - "Well - If you want you can go help the servants," he said to me, "the servants." And then I went down and looked to see if I could grab something - a broom, or something, there, when the priest arrived a little while after that to inform me in the kitchen that Jorge had already arrived with the girl and that they were already in the room where they had left me. And then - "And what is this?," Jorge said to me. "Oh, I said ... what I know is that ... to protect us." I said to him, "But imagine little while after that, since we were now three, they gave us a room downstairs near the garden, where there were two beds. And we remained there until -

I said, "I

it." A

UM Who brought your husband there?

L Eh - Father Simes and my aunt, with a little paper which I gave to Father Pedrazo so that he would come.

UM Yes. Yes. And when your husband arrived, what did you say to him?

L "Hello," he said to me. "Oh," I said to him, "notice ... don't like it. He didn't answer me.

UM But, but didn't you explain to him why you were - didn't he ask you why you were there?

L Then a little while after that - notice, I told him that that lady we had seen on television - her name is Maria Julia, " I said to him. "That, and that and that," I said to him ... what has happened," I said to him. And then she says that I should be here. " "Well, he said to me, "be patient." That's what he - And then from there, eh, they then took us down to another room where they had two beds, because the ambassador said that - so that Geraldina would go around there in the garden, but when visitors arrived we had to go in, so that the people would not see me.

UM The visitors?

L Yes, the visitors, because there was a -

UM Did people arrive there at, at, at the embassy?

L You could hear people talking. You could hear people talking - since the ambassador speaks rather loudly. Then we could hear clearly that he was there, on the little terrace, close to the room where we were.

UM Who else was at the embassy there that you knew?

L To that moment it was - to know, know - none. The men ... were at the entrance when I arrived. I did not see any other people there whom I knew, just - and, and, and the ambassador even frightened me that day, because Geraldina would go out on me, then from there - that I had to go in, that I had to lock the door, eh, that I had to turn the light off too, that there wasn't any - The visitors who came in, eh, were not to see, because they would begin to ask questions. Then all of this frightened me, eh, and, and it was dark there - that they hadn't met with me yet. And I said ... And are we going to eat here in the dark, Jorge?" I said. ... have to be patient." That's what he would say to me, right?

UM But Maria Julia was not there when ...

L No, no, no. She came to take some photographs. I don't remember even ... Eh - from there - that she was going to talk to the judge. But I repeat that I was afraid of the judge, and I wouldn't, wouldn't say - just me ... me and only me. He

didn't win my trust.

UM And when - what day was it that the judge arrived at the house?

L ...

UM But the judge, the judge told me ... everything which you remember.

L Look, eh, since I didn't want - I'm not much for confessing what I have done, what I will do, what - even everything about me. So I didn't tell him about things very well, because I believed that there wasn't any need to go over it, point by point, in black and white, in black and white. But what I am telling you is exactly the way things were. I think that there's no, there's no - there's nothing for anyone to beat me about, right?

UM No, no, but it might be ... trust us and try to remember everything which you -

L Yes, because that's how things really were. That's how they were. I did tell the judge that well, well. And then - but when I came - because I didn't even remember there that I had gotten in a truck there near Matepec (ph.). I didn't remember that there. I didn't say it to him.

UM ...

L And I didn't tell him either that we had gone to pay for the flour. I also didn't tell him about everything. And so I am recalling, recalling so many things, and my husband tells me, "Look, that these gentlemen - open your heart up a bit and tell them things as they are. It doesn't matter that it has been from your house to over there, that you have gone over here, over there - Tell about things as they are." And then I told him, "But look, if this slows things - " "You tell them. Tell Mr. Richards," he says. But since one can see that you are a good person, that, that you understand - I'm not afraid - these are simple things - because this that I came from Soyapango, or that, that I took the, the truck, and that I arrived at the house - I don't consider that to be important, because they were my things.

UM But it's, but it's important.

L But yes!

UM Everything which you could do -

L But yes! But the judge there: I was afraid of him. And I felt as if I was very much hemmed in, when I saw that bunch of men around me.

UM Yes ...

L Yes.

UM Yes ... the judge was there, the secretary -

L A whole bunch - and that red (haired) man, I've seen him on television. And the gentleman was there, and he was looking at me a lot. And then I - I just remembered, eh, the man who did registration at the UCA - registration, academic registration. He looks a lot like him. That man is very angry. And then he reminded me of that red (haired) man. I have seen him on television, but he didn't speak to me. But he was in front of me. And then I said - should I say everything the way it is, or should I keep my things in reserve here? In any case, I went to talk to the priest, but, but those are my things. But I - to you - the way I told it to you, like this ...

UM Fine.

L And, and I want you to tell me whether there is any danger because of that, if they are going to say, "This woman is a big liar," "This woman is crazy," or anything.

UM No, no, none of that, because everything, everything which - that is to say, this is why we are over here, and they are present.

L Yes.

UM Listening to what you are saying. But the only thing is that, that - that is to say, let's continue to talk.

L Uh.

UM Because as one speaks one can remember something, something which is missing, and which you don't remember. So - but I have to, to - after I - I have to talk to your husband too.

L Yes.

UM And I'm going to talk to him, and perhaps tomorrow.

or later, I don't know, it depends - we are going to continue to talk, because I am going to be asking you some questions and - to see if you can remember why this and why that. And, and perhaps - because actually what we want to do is to really clarify this. This is what - as I told you in the beginning, what the president wants.

L Uh-huh.

UM And you are not in danger. Here they are guaranteeing that for you.

L No, but yes, but yes, but yes, fine, fine. But I have to be shut up?

UM Yes, but wait a little while. I think that in a little while - Later you're going to say ... be over there watching television ... work.

L Then my husband's advice, there at the hotel now, was to tell about things as they are, to tell - because the more ... "even if they are personal things, that you came from Soyapango - since you say that you don't matter to people," he said to me, "that you ... things. That's what you have in your mind. That you do not matter to these people. Even if they are personal things, he said, explain it to those gentlemen there."

UM No, but ... all of us are important in life ... all of us. Imagine it, if you were not important, the priest wouldn't have ...

L Yes.

UM That is to say - Depending on your work - you can win people over with your work.

L Yes.

UM I imagine that you had won him over with your work.

L Oh, yes, oh, yes, all of them, all of them. I felt that they felt warmly towards me, they felt warmly towards me. To tell you something - I felt greater trust towards the priests - to talk to them about my things, than towards my husband, because sometimes he didn't listen to me, sometimes he doesn't hear what I say to him. Sometimes when I ... something with another he doesn't say yes or no. And then it's as if I was getting more frightened. As if I were inside a tomb ...

UM Now, I, eh, I am going to make certain -



L Yes.

UM Quite a few questions.

L Yes.

UM Right? With regards to all which you have said.

L Yes, yes.

UM And, well, I would like you to answer them seriously.

L Yes, of course.

UM If you remember -

L Yes, yes, yes.

UM If you don't remember, why this, why that. And that you not get upset, because as I was saying to you, what we really want to do is clarify this. Right?

L The things I have seen, the things I have heard and what I remember I agree to, to, to, to relate them.

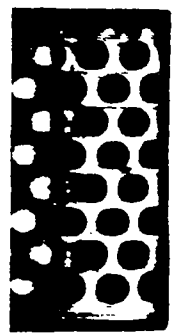
UM Yes.

L To relate them. Because this about, about, about, about, about my nerves - look, how ugly it is! It's the worst thing. It's better to suffer from headaches, than from nerves.

UM ... Well, it's noon, right? Are you hungry?

UM2 Very hungry, brother.

(End of tape #2)

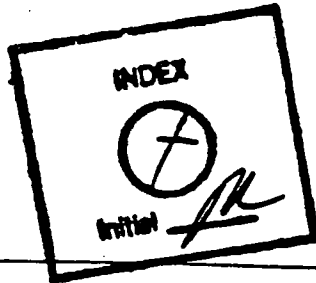


*this page was not  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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The attached transcript reflects the contents of a recorded interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA on November 28, 1989. The unidentified interviewer conducting the interview is Colonel MANUEL RIVAS, Director of the El Salvador Special Investigative Unit (SIU). The second unidentified interviewer is Special Agent [redacted] Present during portions of the interview was [redacted] Assistant Legal Attache, Mexico City.



Investigation on 11/28/89 at Miami, Florida File # 163A-HQ-61055-25  
by ALAT [redacted] SA [redacted] Date dictated 1/16/90

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Interview of LUCIA BARRERA

Done on 11/28/89

Transcribed by:

LS

WMFO

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The following is a verbatim translation of an interview of Lucia Barrera, conducted on 11/28/89.

[Equipment test]

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Lucia, like I was telling you yesterday, after what you recounted...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ... and all that, we would have another interview today.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And now I am going to be asking you the questions.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And I want you to answer me as they come out.

BARRERA: Yes. And I have told you from the beginning, frankly, as if you were my confessor,...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: ... I have told you...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: ... from when I left Soyapango. Rather, since I left my house....

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: ...everything, point by point, point by point.

INTERVIEWER: Now I am going to ask you certain questions.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Uh, like I am telling you, the only reason they are present...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ... well, the people who have you under their protection here.

BARRERA: Yes. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: In order to clarify certain doubts and certain

contradictions, ...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ...so we can see what results from them.

BARRERA: Of course.

INTERVIEWER: So you, as I go about asking you, will feel that what I am doing, and those who are also present here, is in order to really clarify the truth.

BARRERA: Yes. Clearly.

INTERVIEWER: To determine if, let us say, directly, if it was the army or if it was the guerrillas, or if it was other [unintelligible].

BARRERA: To know who.

INTERVIEWER: But what specifically brings us here is to really determine who was the author of this [unintelligible].

BARRERA: That's it. Uh, I still say that I am going to tell you things as if you were my father.

INTERVIEWER: Of course.

BARRERA: And so then, don't be... don't look at me with disapproval, or with those sweet eyes of you have, or anything.

INTERVIEWER: No. I... As I've been telling you, I am going to ask you questions.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And I want you to... like that, with... with that...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ... sincerity you are telling me, and trust that I...

BARRERA: Yes. That you inspire in me.

INTERVIEWER: ... inspire in you; well, you answer likewise, because, as I said earlier today to your husband, what we want is to really know.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And to figure out where this investigation is going.

BARRERA: Yes. That's it.

INTERVIEWER: So I am going to be asking you certain questions, and I want you to answer them for me and clarify these doubts. One of the doubts I have is... uh, could you tell me? You gave your statement before the judge, because, practically, when [unintelligible], you stated before the judge there.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Yesterday, you spoke with me here.

BARRERA: Uh huh.

INTERVIEWER: I would like to know, uh, in your statement before the judge, you said you had left your husband at the Big Boy...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ...while you had gone to speak to the priests.

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: But your husband says he didn't stay at the Big Boy...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ...but rather he stayed at his mother's.

BARRERA: And then I explained, when I began to recount to him my situ... my things, when we came from... from Soyapango...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: ... that I... I, to the judge there, to say [unintelligible], I found uphill. [?]

INTERVIEWER: Um hum.

BARRERA: So I didn't tell him. So the matter could be solved and to keep my talk short, I told him I had stayed in the truck, uh, and that I left him there

at the Big Boy. That's true. But what I told him there yesterday was what I told you there. I am speaking the truth.

INTERVIEWER: Um hum.

BARRERA: Do you remember?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: Okay.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: Because the truth is that I am thinking this, that and that, and I feel that I don't even know what I am doing in this matter.

INTERVIEWER: But didn't you tell me yesterday that your husband had remained at the Big Boy?

BARRERA: I explained it. I explained it. That I didn't tell it to the judge there the way I was telling it to.... I didn't tell it to the judge there the way I told it to you.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BARRERA: And what I told you was the pure truth.

INTERVIEWER: Yea.

BARRERA: That. Because we arrived at my mother's, and from there, after lunch, I went down to house #15.

INTERVIEWER: Uh, I understand the house that the Father, when you called him on the phone, ...

BARRERA: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: ... the Father told you go come to house #15.

BARRERA: Yes. That's it. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Uh, house #15 has the same characteristics as house #16?

BARRERA: Identical.

INTERVIEWER: For what reason did you stay in 15, uh, in 16 instead of 15?



BARRERA: The first thing the Father told me was that those two rooms suited me well, and I could choose either of the two that I liked. So then... there was a clothes line there, he told me. I had some clothes, some wet clothes, and I hung them up. And furthermore, so I could take it easy there, so we could take it easy, I grabbed one of those rooms. Because [unintelligible] was there with me. And house #15, where those little rooms are, of the one I chose, in stead of having a room, it has a chapel, a big room.

INTERVIEWER: Um hum.

BARRERA: So then... before it was a chapel. Today it isn't anymore. So that is why I chose one of those rooms.

INTERVIEWER: From #16?

BARRERA: From #16.

INTERVIEWER: Um hum.

BARRERA: You understand well. Right?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

BARRERA: Because I want to be at peace.

INTERVIEWER: No. That is why I don't want you to become agitated, so you can think well. And so you don't...

BARRERA: Yes. And [unintelligible]. Because I move my hands like this. I can't talk without moving my hands.

INTERVIEWER: Not that. No. Those are...

BARRERA: Forgive me.

INTERVIEWER: ...those are characteristics of ours. So don't worry. That's the way we Latins talk. We are more expressive, and many times with our hands we want to say everything we want to express.

BARRERA: That's it. Right.

INTERVIEWER: You can do what you want. No problem. Uh, yesterday in your statement, you said you had given sodas... you had served sodas at the dinner you

were giving.

BARRERA: Yes. There was no way to heat water. There was no electricity.

INTERVIEWER: But your husband says he is the one who went to buy a soda for the [girl] child. How is that?

BARRERA: Yes. Uh, thing is, we arrived at 4:00. But because we needed to buy the soda that the child was asking me for, so he went, and in that [unintelligible] he was going there, the Father arrived to ask me, to see if I had already come by. So then when I was seated there in the doorway of #16, there at house #16, when I saw that the Father was coming in with his radio... uh, "Father, here I am." I told him. "Oh, good," he told me. And we were chatting, "Do you like the room?", this, that and the other. Insignificant things that are no big deal. Uh, when a little after that, when GERALDINA came with my husband, uh, "Look," I said. Uh, ah, and seeing all this, we were already in house #15, me with the Father. Uh, or, that is, it is something that JORGE was... I went into house #16 when the Father arrived to see if I had come by yet. And JORGE was at the store, at the supermarket.

INTERVIEWER: Um hum.

BARRERA: Uh, getting candles and getting the soda GERALDINA was asking for. Uh, and I spent all that time chatting, chatting with the Father. Then I went again to #15. When JORGE knocked on the door, I went to open it, which was #16, and I told him, "Father, Father. My husband is here. Come meet him." And that is where I introduced him. I haven't told that to my husband.

INTERVIEWER: Why not?

BARRERA: talked to him... That is where I introduced him to him. And then he told him to forgive him that the house was dirty. That is what he spoke to him about. So then, in that moment that my husband was at the supermarket buying the soda, he told me he didn't have any blanket, I told him that just one...so then he came back...he told me, well then I'll be right back... after I introduced to him my husband he told me...I'll be going back...a moment later I heard him coming back with his radio...then I went out running to meet him with the cover...and

once again I offered myself to him to see if I could be of any help in anything...per example cooking since he had told me that his maid hadn't shown up...

INTERVIEWER: But the specific question I need to ask you is... you had said that you had served soda...

BARRERA: Yes I served sodas...

INTERVIEWER: But your husband had said that he had gone to buy only one soda...

BARRERA: Yes...no, one big one...that was a big one...a large one...

INTERVIEWER: Litter size...

BARRERA: Yes a large one...that comes in a plastic bottle...

INTERVIEWER: So then that was enough for you to serve...

BARRERA: It wasn't even plastic...just a big one...because that bottle was left there...and he had told me that he had left a deposit...or I don't know what he said to me the morning we took out the "tanate".

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BARRERA: Anyway...it was an orange soda...but a big one...

INTERVIEWER: You've also said in your declaration that when the priest arrived...you had introduced your husband...and you had discussed the situation in the country...

BARRERA: Yea...yea.

INTERVIEWER: But your husband told me that he had only greeted him...

BARRERA: Yea he greeted him...but it could be he doesn't remember...the father only told him, he excused himself for the house being dirty and asked to be forgiven...that's all...

INTERVIEWER: Because he says that he didn't...the only thing he did was to greet the priest, hello how are you and then...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: And then the father excused himself...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: But you then mentioned that the father stayed a certain amount of time talking to your husband about matters in the country...

BARRERA: Yea...I couldn't remember very well...

INTERVIEWER: You don't remember that...

BARRERA: No, no I didn't remember it too well...but I've told and retold and retold you what I'm saying...and it happened like I said...

INTERVIEWER: All ready... eh... another question... when you made reference to... the window... where you saw the events take place...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: Practically all of what took place in the #16 house... was the window open or closed?...

BARRERA: Look due to the heat there I kept them open... in one room and another...the other room where we were at they were half closed but they were still open... the ones on the other side were wide open...

INTERVIEWER: You didn't touch the windows for anything...

BARRERA: The day before...that afternoon we arrived yes...I opened them to ventilate the place since the only windows there are face the garden...

INTERVIEWER: What type of lock do they...have to open the windows...

BARRERA: The same..they're....

INTERVIEWER: Butterfly style?...

BARRERA: The "Solaire" (ph) kind..

INTERVIEWER: The "solaire" (ph) type...

BARRERA: Yea the "Solaire" (ph) kind...but that was open..

INTERVIEWER: But you opened them...

BARRERA: No, I remember that...frankly that...that one was already opened...frankly, that one was already open...the ones I half closed were the ones in the bedroom...

INTERVIEWER: You also said that...that when you returned...from seeing what was happening inside the university, that your husband told you to come to bed because that for being nosy they could be capable of shooting him...but he says that he never said absolutely nothing to you...

BARRERA: But I did hear him... it could of been my nerves...because to be truthful he is touchy about those things...and he yells at me for being involved in things like this...therefore I am scared of him...[unintelligible] to know what he said but I did hear it...

INTERVIEWER: But he says that the only thing you did was sit down all nervous...you laid down without saying anything at all... and all both of you did was laid down to go to sleep...

BARRERA: Well, I half heard it... but perhaps he didn't say that to me...but I did hear him say something like...

INTERVIEWER: but...and...according to the situation and as nervous as you were, having him in front of you not hearing him...with all your nerves how could have heard the voice of the priest...when you were...according to you...he said this is an injustice, this is disgusting...

BARRERA: Yes, yes I did hear that...but I was lying down...

INTERVIEWER: When you heard that...

BARRERA: Yes...yes...

INTERVIEWER: You weren't in front of the window...

BARRERA: No...no

INTERVIEWER: But, in your statement you said...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: ...that you were in front of the window...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: Another words in your statement before the judge...

BARRERA: Since you ....

INTERVIEWER: You said that you were

BARRERA: You...

INTERVIEWER: You said you were in front of the window... when you heard that things were being moved...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: books were being thrown,...and that things were being dragged...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: And that you heard the priest's voice...

BARRERA: Yea you could hear it...

INTERVIEWER: That you heard the priest's voice saying this is an injustice you are vultures (?)...

BARRERA: Yes that... look frankly I heard that but I did not see it....

INTERVIEWER: But then... if you were nervous...like you allege...how could you of heard that, and not hear the words of your husband when he told you... for being nosy they could shoot you...

BARRERA: But its that I heard that too...maybe in my head...

INTERVIEWER: Now, according to what your husband said and to what you've said... both of you did not have a direct access to inside area to the rooms of the priests...because that's a special wing... and you had a view of the rectory and...

BARRERA: No, the house I never...

INTERVIEWER: The administration...

BARRERA: I only went to pick up the mattresses...

INTERVIEWER: So then how can you place...that the noises...if you weren't familiar with the house...how can you place the noises and the priests voice in his rooms...

BARRERA: Because the way it sounded and by imagination... because I could hear the father saying that... because the father was speaking very loud...

INTERVIEWER: You mean yelling or what...

BARRERA: Yelling yes...yes...

INTERVIEWER: And the shooting at that moment when he was yelling was...

BARRERA: It was not as much as before... you could hear it but half as before...

INTERVIEWER: [After a long pause]... When you got up in the morning...you went to the sanitary facility...

BARRERA: I went to the bathroom... and...

INTERVIEWER: You took care of your needs...

BARRERA: Look I went to the bathroom to brush my teeth... but I don't remember if I did my necessities or not...that I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: Because usually when we get up...

BARRERA: Yea, but I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: We go to the bathroom, since we have a full bladder...

BARRERA: Yea, but I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: You can say...

BARRERA: No, look...I did go to brush my teeth and to comb my hair...that I did do...

INTERVIEWER: But you were in the bathroom right?...

BARRERA: In the bathroom...the same bathroom...

INTERVIEWER: Yea...but did you go there?...tell me if you went...

BARRERA: No... that I don't remember...I don't remember that...its just that the sink is right next to the bowl...

INTERVIEWER: Yea...

BARRERA: Both are considered the bathroom...

INTERVIEWER: But...

BARRERA: But I don't remember if I did anything else...

INTERVIEWER: Yea, yea...the necessities...

BARRERA: That, I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: The necessities could be major or minor...

BARRERA: That I don't remember at all...

INTERVIEWER: Why did you get up from your room at 11...why did you decide to get up from your room to move to the other room...because, as in your room where you sleep with your daughter and your spouse JORGE...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: The room had a window facing the interior...why did you get up...and what made you decide to move to the other room...

BARRERA: What do you mean, I don't understand...

INTERVIEWER: Another words...this is the room where you were sleeping with your daughter...

BARRERA: Yea....

INTERVIEWER: That room has a window...

BARRERA: Yea, it has two... it has two of them...

INTERVIEWER: Two right?...two windows which give access toward the church..

BARRERA: Yea,yea...

INTERVIEWER: Another words you can see into the University...so then, what made you...eh...go look out this window instead of staying in this room...since it already had a window in front of where you were sleeping...



why did you go to the other room...

BARRERA: Look, I've told you that I'm going to help you by telling you the truth...

INTERVIEWER: yea, yea its just that...

BARRERA: Alright...

INTERVIEWER: What I'm saying is...

BARRERA: O'right...

INTERVIEWER: What we're trying to do...

BARRERA: I want to contribute in everything good...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: So then...the good things as my husband advises me...are better to be told...to see if one can contribute in something... so then, me without doing all the running around and I don't know what else, with my head...I did not get up from the bed...so then... I could hear for sure...I could hear since it woke me up...and I could tell where the shooting was taking place...and I did hear the father yelling and saying those things...

INTERVIEWER: In other words you never moved from the bed...

BARRERA: No, no...to be honest with you and to help you...help you to clear things up, I'm being honest with you...

INTERVIEWER: That, that...I thank you for, and its shown...its shown here...

BARRERA: I don't know what this is going to expose me to....

INTERVIEWER: No, don't worry...I...

BARRERA: But, I want to help you in any way I can...by being honest...

INTERVIEWER 2: Why then...why the situation yesterday...where are we heading...why was this said...all this things...

BARRERA: Because...eh...I may of had been feeling still...the courage of what I told the judge over there...so then, what I want is for this thing to be over, to find out who did it...(Phone rings in

background)...whoever...not known...

INTERVIEWER: One moment hold on....ok....

BARRERA: So then like I've told you, I'm going to tell you the truth...openly with an open heart...I started telling you about the matter yesterday... how [unintelligible]...this and that... so then in this case which is so delicate and dangerous, then...so that we don't go around...you breaking your heads...I'm going to tell you the events...

INTERVIEWER: Lucia...

BARRERA: Yea,... don't think I'm not going to be put in jail or that they're going to send someone to kill me...

INTERVIEWER: Don't you worry about that... first of all...

INTERVIEWER2: Listen to what he is going to tell you...

INTERVIEWER: You are under our protection...

BARRERA: And I'm very thankful to you for that...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...I represent the american government...ok?...

BARRERA: Yea

INTERVIEWER: And while the american government is involved, you, your husband, your daughter and any other family member you may have who needs protection... we are willing to provide it for them ok?... I want first of all to make it clear for some of the things you have just told us are completely different and it takes us from there to here...

BARRERA: Doing one thing...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, ok but first one thing...

BARRERA: But what bothers me is that....that they are going to get me and put me in jail...that they are...

INTERVIEWER: Madam, listen to me....

BARRERA: Going to kill me...

INTERVIEWER: Listen, you don't have anything to worry about....ok?... You don't have anything to worry about...we're trying to...conduct this the best way it can be conducted...

BARRERA: Yes, yes

INTERVIEWER2: Only one.... so you can see that when I promise something... is because I gave you my word...

BARRERA: Yea... well yea...

INTERVIEWER: If I'm running this is because I believe in something...

BARRERA: That's it...that's how it is...

INTERVIEWER: so then I have to travel that path and so do you... so then don't worry...what he is going to tell you, feel at ease and listen to what he is saying...

BARRERA: Yea, I'm going to tell you the truth because if I've seen something or not...I would tell you so you won't break your heads...and you'll have to excuse me for I'm going to explain the events...

INTERVIEWER: That's what we want...what I need now...

BARRERA: But I already know that they are going to try and put me in jail or that they're going to try to kill me...

INTERVIEWER2: Don't you worry about that...well...I'm not the US government, I'm the Salvadorian government..

BARRERA: Yea, sure...

INTERVIEWER2: I in other words don't know or have seen you...or know where you live...or will ever know where you'll live because even now I don't even know what hotel you are in at...

BARRERA: I left the address to my house there...

INTERVIEWER: But for security purposes is better...we're going to have it this way...listen to me but don't...

BARRERA: Yea, sure...

INTERVIEWER: We've arrived here...and what apparently you said at first...another words...

BARRERA: Yea, supporting...supporting what I had said...

INTERVIEWER: this same story....the other

BARRERA: Yea what I had said before...

INTERVIEWER: The way I understand is that you kept to this story...when you went to the house #50 that morning...this is what you told us the other night, so you did tell the priests the truth...

BARRERA: Well its just that I never arrived anywhere at night...

INTERVIEWER: The other night when I went there with my work partner, when we sat down with you...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: That night you basically told me what you just told us today...

BARRERA: Yea the same...the same...

INTERVIEWER: And...when you started telling us this version...and excuse me if my spanish is not like yours...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: [unintelligible]

BARRERA: I can try to decipher it here...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: Because I can't understand all of what you tell me...

INTERVIEWER: If you don't understand me, please stop me and then we'll use this gentleman to...

BARRERA: No the last part, the words I do understand but some like with the "r" I can't understand it that well...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: But I'll try to study it more now...

INTERVIEWER2: Let me tell you....

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time that you said...that you had seen the people shooting on the other side of the street?... to whom did you say that to?...

BARRERA: The other...oh you mean the first time when the skirmish took place and we left with "STANATE" to go home?...

INTERVIEWER: Do me a favor...look at me...

BARRERA: Yea...yea...when we left from "vaya"...at night, at sunrise...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: That's when the shooting took place...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: So then... at sunrise I went...

INTERVIEWER: Around 6...

BARRERA: To see... inside the residence...to see if I could be of some help...for perhaps there were some wounded...but since there wasn't any... I went and told JORGE that I was going to go report it... and that such things had happened to the priests... and that...

INTERVIEWER: Hold on...wait a moment...

BARRERA: Yea..

INTERVIEWER: You told me that when you went to the residence, what you saw inside the residence is correct...

BARRERA: I was the one...yea...that's it...

INTERVIEWER: That was right...

BARRERA: That was the truth...

INTERVIEWER: So then when you returned... you told JORGE that...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: that you were going to the house #50...

BARRERA: Yea, to that one...to Father's IVIS (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, when you went to the house of Father IVIS, did you tell him what you told us...or did you explain the truth to Father IVIS...

BARRERA: I told him that... I had seen Father NACHO (ph) dead...and he said to me and SEGUNDO? (ph)...I answered I don't know...I haven't seen him...

INTERVIEWER: Ok

BARRERA: So then...but I had seen a white head but... I didn't know to whom it belonged...but I did recognize NACHO...

INTERVIEWER: And what did you tell the Father IVIS...

BARRERA: I told Father IVIS...that...that, permit me...

INTERVIEWER: Did you tell him that you had seen the soldiers shooting at the house...

BARRERA: Permit me (ph)... No I did not tell him that...

INTERVIEWER: Father IVIS was the one who told you to say that...

BARRERA: Yea, yea... excuse me?

INTERVIEWER: It was Father IVIS that told you to say that to the authorities...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Who was it...

BARRERA: MARIA JULIA...

INTERVIEWER: Really...

BARRERA: The lady who was in the [unintelligible] when I went over monday looking for work... the Fathers never told me anything about that...

INTERVIEWER: But was MARIA JULIA in front of the priests?...

BARRERA: Father TOJEIDA (ph) left...so that I could talk to MARIA JULIA... you understand me?... when I arrived at the rectory... house #9... the one by the Supermarket Santa Clara...the one up the road...

INTERVIEWER: Yea the one that's close by up the road...yea...

BARRERA: Its just that I've mentioned so many houses...

INTERVIEWER: Yes, yes...listen...

BARRERA: Let me ask you that you explain to me clearly...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: We won't be leaving here until we clear things, until you can understand my bad spanish...

BARRERA: Yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: and I'll try to understand yours...

BARRERA: But what I mean is about the houses...

INTERVIEWER: Ok but lets... so that I can...

BARRERA: Yea...so that you can

INTERVIEWER: I'm a little stubborn about how we are doing things here... You go in the morning to the house #50 and...

BARRERA: In the morning...

INTERVIEWER: You explain to the Priest what you saw...

BARRERA: Yes, yes around...

INTERVIEWER: You don't tell him at any moment...

BARRERA: No, I told him that Father...that I had seen Father NACHO...and also a head but I didn't know to whom it belonged...so then he asked me and SEGUNDO?...I said I don't know for I haven't seen him... so then Father ESTRADA... they were livid..livid...white



right?

INTERVIEWER: Yea...

BARRERA: well they were white (pale)...but, I was scared by what I had seen... but all they did was paced from here to there... because over there was that man...who had already arrived to tell them... a man that I had...

INTERVIEWER: He had already given them the news...

BARRERA: I supposed for I found him in there...

INTERVIEWER: Another words you weren't...

BARRERA: Not inside...

INTERVIEWER: You weren't the first one...they already knew what had happened long before you got there...

BARRERA: That's what I'm supposing...because that man was already there... a short fat man...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: Who told me that...that

INTERVIEWER: Ok...You went back to the house...why did you go back to the house and then left if you hadn't seen anything...

BARRERA: Because Father ESTRADA told me that, they couldn't continue giving me shelter...because...they were also in danger...not even in the rectory could they give me any...lets say... any shelter...so then feeling bad I left to go over to my mom's house to bother her because she won't watch my little girl... GERALDINA is very mischievous... and then I... since I know how my mother is I didn't stay there...I would of rather go and bother some other people...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...so then you all left there...the matter, the story you gave us before...and I'm not sure that story is the right word to use here...but what you said there...

BARRERA: Story makes me feel like I'm a bad woman...

INTERVIEWER: Please...that is what I'm trying to avoid meaning...you tell me the right word for me to

use...

BARRERA: Yea, sure...

INTERVIEWER2: Say account instead...

INTERVIEWER: the account...

BARRERA: Yes the account...

INTERVIEWER: Alright then the account you gave...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: The way that we've treated each other since we met last thursday night...

BARRERA: Yea, yea

INTERVIEWER: I would like at least, even if we don't understand each other...we should have a certain amount of trust between the two of us...

BARRERA: Yea...what I'm telling you is [unintelligible] understand...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: Because from what I see, there's a need...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...alright lets get back to this... You leave to go home...you leave and Father...is it EDUARDO?... Which priest is the one who says they cannot give you shelter anymore?...

BARRERA: ESTRADA... the one who say they couldn't give me...anymore shelter...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh..that's...because they were in danger...

BARRERA: That's it... he said they were in danger also...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...from there you go to you mothers house...

BARRERA: Yea, I left there...I heard the man said to me that thanks to a miracle from god I was spared by being in a room downstairs...where some boards were stored...but always when it comes to my daughter and my wife what I saw was... that it was the woman's husband who was dead in the room...

INTERVIEWER: So then you left...

BARRERA: Yes I left to go to 16th, following Father TROJELLA (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: And he even said...lets go, lets go...then...

INTERVIEWER: He then takes your husband...

BARRERA: We have packed even the two mattresses that the Father lent us...

INTERVIEWER: You took them from there

BARRERA: I took them...

INTERVIEWER: So then you took them and left them at your mother's house...

BARRERA: I...we arrived there...I was still scared about the event, and I didn't know what else to do... because..

INTERVIEWER: Why

BARRERA: Because there was when I really got scared...

INTERVIEWER: When you... and what else did you do in the following...what day was that...a wednesday?...

BARRERA: No, that was on thursday...

INTERVIEWER2: On thursday...

INTERVIEWER: So that was on thursday, friday, saturday and sunday...

BARRERA: Yes, yes I stayed there over at my mom's... I was there at my mothers...

INTERVIEWER: Who else did you tell what you had seen...

BARRERA: I told my mother and I told my brother when [unintelligible] came... I don't know if saturday was when he arrived...

INTERVIEWER: Who the brother?...

BARRERA: Yea

INTERVIEWER: What's you brothers name?...

BARRERA: That's OSCAR BARRERA... but I think he arrived either sunday or saturday...but he suddenly arrived...

INTERVIEWER: But you told OSCAR that you heard what happened...

BARRERA: Yea...so then

INTERVIEWER: That you never got up from...

BARRERA: That I heard...I heard...

INTERVIEWER: What happened...

BARRERA: yea, I heard... so then...

INTERVIEWER: So then...excuse me... you don't tell Oscar...that you looked out the window...

BARRERA: No, no... I didn't tell him...

INTERVIEWER: Up to this point you hadn't seen anything...

BARRERA: No, no... I only told him I went to see the priests... they killed them, I told them... because he started to tell me...He said, look and you how can you [unintelligible] to work...and I said, yea I went to see them in the morning... I said since I was sleeping in one of their rooms... I heard the shooting and then in the morning... I went over to see if they had left any wounded....

INTERVIEWER: At no time did you tell him that you had seen...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: the person doing the shooting...

BARRERA: No, no I didn't tell him...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: We were just talking...

INTERVIEWER: Who else did you tell?...

BARRERA: Only to them...because my sister in law who was married to my brother and who is still living there scares me since anything she hears she twists and tells other people, and I was scared that the town would of known that I had gone over there in the

morning to see them...

INTERVIEWER: What did your husband tell you..

BARRERA: My husband?...

INTERVIEWER: He knows that you didn't look out of the window... right?...

BARRERA: I told him that... I told him

INTERVIEWER: When...

BARRERA: I told him...

INTERVIEWER: When?...

BARRERA: Last night...I told him last night... because I started to tell him the truth early yesterday... I told him everything [unintelligible] and what are we going to do... so then, I told him...how are we going to get out of this...but since he is very quiet just like me... so then today when he left from here he motioned me like this and... (makes couple of [unintelligible] sounds)... so I told him that I was going to keep on telling the truth like I said it yesterday... excuse me...

INTERVIEWER2: Alright...

INTERVIEWER: What did he say...

BARRERA: like this...

INTERVIEWER: Not like that, in words...what did he say to you...

BARRERA: I don't understand what you are trying to say...

INTERVIEWER: He didn't say anything, he just went like that..what did you understand by it...

BARRERA: So then I told him...no, I told him...I don't understand you at all... there are some things that have to be told like they are... He told me today when he arrived...

INTERVIEWER: (softly)... Ok...

BARRERA: I'm backed by what he says...he said he wont yell or fight with me... he won't...Yell at me...or saying any nasty things... so then that gives me courage to tell you the truth...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, so then who else besides your mother and brother know about this... and your husband...

BARRERA: No one...[unintelligible]...no one else...

INTERVIEWER: Someone else has to know right?...

BARRERA: Yea...no one...

INTERVIEWER: For sure...

BARRERA: They...they...

INTERVIEWER: someone else knows about it...

BARRERA: they... because...OSCAR, another words my brother...arrived I don't know if on saturday or sunday, from the town...and he commented...

INTERVIEWER: Yea, but someone else knows about it right?..think about it... obviously the priests right?

BARRERA: You...you...yea..

INTERVIEWER: You told then on 50th street...the first day when you told him the story...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: They know you didn't see anything...

BARRERA: Yes, yes... I told them that I had heard the shooting...

INTERVIEWER: And that you hadn't seen anything...

BARRERA: And that I had gone over in the morning to see them...I went to let them know...

INTERVIEWER: The priests with whom you spoke that day, know that you didn't see anything...

BARRERA: No, no I didn't talk to them... about what I saw or didn't see...

INTERVIEWER: When they called you over... when you were cleaning there...

BARRERA: When I was on my way there...since they didn't let me clean...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, exactly... but when they told you about the curtain... that the curtain was stuck there...

BARRERA: Oh yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: You, at first you spoke to a priest...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: Are you religious?...

BARRERA: I'm not of any faith (?)... to tell you the truth...

INTERVIEWER: You know something...I'm... I don't have nothing against... I'm a catholic ok?... I am religious...

BARRERA: Look I like God's word, but it costs too much...

INTERVIEWER: But I'm also trying to do something here...which will help us arrive at the truth...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: The truth is what got wants to see disclosed here... right?

BARRERA: Yea...yea

INTERVIEWER: So then we are...

BARRERA: That I understand, and that's why I...

INTERVIEWER: Exactly... so then... You talked because MARIA JULIA was not there...

BARRERA: Sure, she was there...

INTERVIEWER: You talked to a priest right?....

BARRERA: She was there... look...

INTERVIEWER: You told this story to the priest...

BARRERA: Look...

INTERVIEWER: Before MARIA JULIA arrived...

BARRERA: Listen...listen let me...When I opened the door with my key...even though they were there I was used to opening the door with my key...I opened it without knocking...I greeted the brother who was

talking on the phone at the entrance...which is on a table...or a phone...so then he said to me...Aha! the curtains are all wrinkled... I said yes brother...because my idea was to go to work... but since the [unintelligible] was closed... then I was going to work in the rectory, because I worked there and over here...but I worked in the [unintelligible] until 12 o'clock... and at 1 I worked in the rectory...

INTERVIEWER: But LUCIA listen to me...excuse me...You're telling me that you're arriving here... to now tell the truth...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Another words we're going into here...and nothing is going to happen to you...

BARRERA: Nooo...

INTERVIEWER: Nothing at all...

BARRERA: No, its just that I'm getting...getting confused, since I don't understand...

INTERVIEWER: Wait... lets see if maybe I can help you a bit... you arrived there that morning...

BARRERA: Yes I arrived there...

INTERVIEWER: And obviously they knew something...that you had been, or had heard...you were the one who went to see the dead after they had been... the priests had to have known that...

BARRERA: They...they...yes...they...

INTERVIEWER: To me is a little hard to understand...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: That you did not talk to them about this... before you had...this...this conversation with the lawyer...

BARRERA: I had told them that I had heard the shooting...the skirmish to say the better word...so then...and that I did not get up...

INTERVIEWER: Exactly...



INTERVIEWER: Here...that's what I want to clear up...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: So then Father ESTRADA knows about it...

BARRERA: Then...yes Father ESTRADA...

INTERVIEWER: And who...

BARRERA: But I wasn't precise in saying what I saw or what I didn't go see...

INTERVIEWER: Who else, what other priest was there in the morning...that specific morning...

BARRERA: Father Pedrosa... who opened the door for me...

INTERVIEWER: PEDROSA.... no...PEDROSA wasn't there...We're not on the day you were on 50th street...We're on the day you went to the rectory...

BARRERA: Ahhh then excuse me...no... no Father ESTRADA wasn't there... no, Father ESTRADA was not there...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...(rasping sound in background) ...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, lets go to the Rectory... who was there that morning...

BARRERA: On the phone was the brother FRANCISCO SOUZA (ph)...and he told me...

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me ... FRANCISCO...

BARRERA: ASOUZE (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: AZURCE (ph)...

BARRERA: Yes, he is a brother...

INTERVIEWER: And you..

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: He knows...that you... and did you tell him that you had seen what you had seen...

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER: To him you didn't tell....

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...fine... who then was the second person that you talked to?...

BARRERA: When...they heard that I was talking, since I talk so loud...then Father CHEMA (ph) opened the door... and called me...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...who was with Father CHEMA...

BARRERA: With a woman whom he introduced to me...for me to tell her that I had seen her on TV...

INTERVIEWER: This was the attorney (?)...

BARRERA: The attorney (?)...

INTERVIEWER: then you...so then you started to tell the story to Father CHEMA...

BARRERA: Yes, yes... No excuse me... then... he said look, say something like you told us about that...the other day when you saw the dead... you can tell her something about that...talk to her as if she was one of us...he said...

INTERVIEWER: Another words the priest... Father CHEMA...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Knows that you didn't see anything...

BARRERA: not from the window...I didn't say anything about the window... all I heard was the shooting...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: I told him...the same thing I told you...

INTERVIEWER: After you tell the attorney about this...when is it that you both have this conversation...

BARRERA: Oh well...ehhh...well, the father told me she is MARIA JULIA, he said... She is MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ...you can talk to her as if... you can trust her...just as you do with us...

INTERVIEWER: Yes I understand... the father had total trust in her... I understand that...

BARRERA: Right... so then... she opened the door and came

out...from his office...then...then she said you're LUCIA?...that's what she said... but to me she was a strange person...and for someone like that who tries to be as if she was an old friend...ehhh...that makes me...

INTERVIEWER: Nervous...

BARRERA: Not nervous... its just that...surprised...well not even so surprised...its just that... it makes her look [unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes...exactly...

BARRERA: Bah...she didn't even scare me...because...I get scare... its just that something... I can't tell you what...since it was the first time I saw her...so then when Father CHEMA presented her to me...I told him only that I had seen her on the TV...so then she told me I'm JULIA HERNANDEZ and you are LUCIA...I said to her Yes madam that's me...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: I'm LUCIA...

INTERVIEWER: Please continue (ph)...

BARRERA: So then... I remember, I remember...because I saw her and I'm going to say...

INTERVIEWER: Don't worry...

BARRERA: Yes... so now that you guarantee me... that they're not going to kill me or take me prisoner...because the thing is that...

INTERVIEWER: LUCIA... what we're trying to do...simply what we've been doing since thursday...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: what we've been trying to do is...trying to get to the truth...

BARRERA: That's it...that's it... and I...am saying this...because, I have to say it that's all...

INTERVIEWER: Yea...I understand...

BARRERA: I can see that within myself there's a need...to

bring things out in the open...

INTERVIEWER: Lets then...please lets get back to the conversation with the attorney MARIA JULIA...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...well with what I had seen... I told her just like that, that I until the time... had heard the shooting...in the woods... because that's where I heard it, I told her...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: uh huh...she asked what else I heard... but she has such a knowledge of the lingo that I couldn't decipher it... an amiability in other words... I can't read into it to see what it is... so then... after I had already told her that I had heard the shooting, and [unintelligible] of the shooting, and the slamming of doors there...because its true, I could hear the slamming of the doors...

INTERVIEWER: The noise of what was happening...

BARRERA: Yes of what had happened...

INTERVIEWER2: But the words were loud enough?...

BARRERA: The ones from the father were shouts...the father was screaming...

INTERVIEWER: That's for sure?...

BARRERA: Yes that is the true...so then...

INTERVIEWER: But you couldn't hear what he was saying...

BARRERA: What I have already told you was distinguishable... so then MARIA told me...eh...MARIA JULIA?...

INTERVIEWER: Yes...

BARRERA: So then MARIA JULIA said to me...after I had told her...that I was able to distinguish both of the last things that the father was screaming... even if you don't believe me... She said look...she then didn't let me explain things like I wanted to do... for I hadn't seen anything... I didn't do this or that...she then said to me...Look LUCIA those had to have been soldiers... that's what MARIA JULIA told me...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: You think so?... That for sure she said...

INTERVIEWER: Ok... keep going...

BARRERA: Keep going?... so then it must of been soldiers she said...but I said but how could they be soldiers...so then... she said what did you see, tell me simply what did you see... so then... I just didn't tell her anything...nothing, not even no...I didn't even tell her of the dangers I was running... I didn't tell her anything in regards to that... I didn't, even tell her that...that if she said that they were soldiers, I didn't want to get involved in that, or the other... I just didn't say anything to her... so then with that "labia" (ph) that she has, she told me look those were soldiers... and if you heard them, you can say that you saw them...that was what she said... She said if you want we can go close by that house if you want... then we left on route to there... ]

INTERVIEWER: With whom did you go there...

BARRERA: we left with the brother, the Brother I just mentioned to you...

INTERVIEWER: FRANCISCO ASUZA (ph)?...

BARRERA: Yes... MARIA JULIA and I went... with MARIA JULIA... then she said if you want this to be investigated...she said... if you want for this to be brought to justice and be investigated...you say what I told you...and she went over to stand by the window...she said, from here you can see good...some, but not so good...some, but you can say that from here you saw...that it was soldiers...she said if you want to collaborate...

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me...where was the brother then?... was he listening to the conversation?...

BARRERA: No, no...MARIA JULIA was alone with me... perhaps the brother stayed outside...because I saw him there...

INTERVIEWER2: But the brother knew what you were doing?...

BARRERA: Yea, he knew...

INTERVIEWER: What do you mean he knew...

BARRERA: Because he came along with us...

INTERVIEWER: He knew that MARIA JULIA was going to...

BARRERA: That I was going to show her the house...

INTERVIEWER: But he didn't know...

BARRERA: That's what she said to me... because she knows those houses well... she said but from there you can see inside...

INTERVIEWER: Another words that's what you think...he was never present...during the conversation between you and JULIA?...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Are you sure?...

BARRERA: Look...

INTERVIEWER: Don't be afraid that the priests are going to say anything to you...

BARRERA: Yes its just that...I'm trying to remember...I'm trying to remember...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: I remember that he went toward the door...that he stood by the door... While MARIA JULIA was at 16th... with me...

INTERVIEWER: At the street door? or one inside?...

BARRERA: No, the one at the street... at the street, That I do remember... because MARIA JULIA...yes...she went over to stand by that window and she said...If you want justice done, you say that from here you saw... she said...the soldiers...she said if you want to collaborate... this you think... it was soldiers... and even now...eh...all I need is to tell you...still, when I was at the Spanish Embassy... that, it got to...

INTERVIEWER: We're going to get there...but lets still discuss

the house...

BARRERA: Before I forget...

INTERVIEWER: Don't forget it, for I'll remind you what happen at the Embassy...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: Where exactly did you go... take me inside as if you were going in through the street level door...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: There from the door to either the house 15th or 16th...

BARRERA: Yes, yes

INTERVIEWER: And take me through what you saw...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...I went in with the key that the Father had given me...

INTERVIEWER: With MAR...MARIA JULIA?... with the woman and the brother...

BARRERA: Yes with MARIA JULIA...yes...so then I arrived with the 16TH key which Father some time before...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: which was already in the lock when he gave it to me... so then the door didn't open... the brother then said he was going to see if the 15th house would open...with his own keys... it did open... and we went through the connecting door...to the 16th house...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: And there she told me...once again if you want to collaborate...she said look...this are soldiers...you have to help, you have to find out...she said we have to find out...if... come here...so then I told her that's not the room, it was this one...where we sleep...

INTERVIEWER: Say that again please...I didn't understand you... I didn't hear you please repeat...

SIDE TWO

INTERVIEWER: Ok...lets start from when...

BARRERA: When I arrived...

INTERVIEWER: You were...

BARRERA: Ahh..when I got there...with the key that the father had given me so that I could go in and out...

INTERVIEWER: You weren't able to go into the house...

BARRERA: No, we couldn't go in... we couldn't go inside...the brother SOUSA (ph) said let me see if I can go in through the house 15th... and he went through there since there's no rail or anything, all you have to do is go through the small garden...so using his keys he went in at 15th...meanwhile JULIA was going from here to there...and...

INTERVIEWER: Who went into the house first?

BARRERA: The brother...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, and you did you go...

BARRERA: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: You went in second...

BARRERA: I don't remember if it was MARIA JULIA or myself...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: You went into the house...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...so once there I told her look the room is not from this house...its over there...come over here where it is...so then when she arrived and went over to the window...she said to me...This has to be investigated for it was positively...she said while looking around...it was positively soldiers... from here on if you want to help...she said...if you want to clear this up, you say that



you saw the soldiers...

INTERVIEWER: At which window?

BARRERA: So then...from the window in the room which I had...do you understand?...understand?...

INTERVIEWER: Yes...yes, continue...

BARRERA: So then...if you want to help and find out who killed the priests...she said...you'll say that the soldiers, that you saw... she said...say that you saw five soldiers...

INTERVIEWER: Please continue...

BARRERA: I remember about that because afterwards, I was [unintelligible] to say the things she told me...then she...she went over to the room where I had...where I had...the mattresses...she also stopped there, but this time she didn't say anything to me... so then I sat down on a piece of "padra", (ph) that was there where I had placed a table... the night before...the afternoon before we had arrived...so then she said to me...she said look...look...its late...I also told her it was late without glancing to see how late it was...but I arrived at the rectory around 8 o'clock...or 8:10, something like that...so therefore I can conclude...

INTERVIEWER: Listen...when MARIA JULIO...

BARRERA: A little later than 8...

INTERVIEWER: When MARIA JULIA was showing you...the room and everything else...where was the priest?...

BARRERA: We were by ourselves...

INTERVIEWER: Show me over here...(sound of paper being tore)..

BARRERA: We were alone looking around...

INTERVIEWER: The priest went in over here...

BARRERA: Yes...the brother?..

INTERVIEWER: Yes, the brother...where was the brother at?...this is the house at 15th...

BARRERA: Ahh well...then the brother stayed at...the

door...talking,...to see, I don't know who he was talking to...

INTERVIEWER: This is the door...this is the door that led to...

BARRERA: Yes, yes..

INTERVIEWER: The 16th house...

BARRERA: Yes to the 16th house...

INTERVIEWER: This one...

BARRERA: Ehhh..well, yea... and which one is the 15th...

INTERVIEWER: This is 15th and this one is 16th...

BARRERA: Ahh then, we went in through this one...

INTERVIEWER: This is were you were sleeping?...

BARRERA: Yes...we went in through this one with MARIA JULIA... and over here is where she went in..here to the...

INTERVIEWER: The rooms...

BARRERA: Yes, to the rooms... here, she didn't say anything to me...

INTERVIEWER: And the brother where did he stayed at...

BARRERA: He...and this...over here somewhere

INTERVIEWER: Over here at the entrance...

BARRERA: If I remember correctly...

INTERVIEWER: This is the entrance...[unintelligible]

BARRERA: I don't remember well, but he wasn't with us there...

INTERVIEWER: But she said...This conversation took place...

BARRERA: Yes, yes since... in seconds...

INTERVIEWER: No, no the one I'm about to give you now...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: You went to a window, and by coincidence did she

tell you that it couldn't be from that window, it had to had been from another since you couldn't see from that one...

BARRERA: Permit me...yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: She did tell you that right?

BARRERA: Yes, yes... She showed me the windows I had...

INTERVIEWER: She was the one who told you what window?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Because the windows you had...where the mattresses were at, did not overlook anything...

BARRERA: You could see little except for the chapel...so then she said...the place where you could of seen really good is right here...and she left for the other room... and speaking of all don't you thing I would be in danger?...

INTERVIEWER: Up to now you haven't ran any danger...we're giving you protection...

INTERVIEWER2: [unintelligible]

BARRERA: Oh yea, yea...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: Don't worry... I'm telling you from my heart not to worry...

BARRERA: Because she is going to say why didn't I go and tell...I'm not...I've never talked to her in any other way...

INTERVIEWER: Don't worry...ok.. I understand, I understand...

INTERVIEWER2: Don't you worry about that...take it easy...

INTERVIEWER: Now let's take it all over from here...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: That was monday morning...when you finished there...she has already decided from where...you already...when do you say ok I'll do what you're asking, I'll collaborate...

BARRERA: Yes... When she says, so you can help clear this up... that's when I said alright I'll say it...so then we left and quickly went over to the 15th house... and at that time the brother was at the door which at that moment he was closing up... the next moment someone was knocking at that door...and she said to me...move over there..then I didn't see anything, so then it was a matter of...what do you mean for me to move over there...they couldn't see who it was... that was there...

INTERVIEWER: Do you know why?...

BARRERA: She said that to me...

INTERVIEWER: But do you know why she said that...

BARRERA: She told me move over there...

INTERVIEWER: But why do you think she said that to you?...

BARRERA: I don't know...so then...they came back and [unintelligible] the brother ...ahhh the men told him...

INTERVIEWER: The brother, was he inside?... in the house...

BARRERA: Yes, he was the one who opened the door...the brother opened the door...

INTERVIEWER: Then lets conclude that...if that's the case...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: That the brother wants you to be seen there... lets conclude that...

BARRERA: Let me... what I'm telling you is what I remember about the events...so then when we were on the way here...the brother right then was closing the door...and also at that moment someone knocked on the 15th house...so then the brother re-opened the door...

INTERVIEWER: After MARIA JULIA tell you to...

BARRERA: Let me... so then they asked the brother if MARIA JULIA was there...and he stammered...and said...

INTERVIEWER: What's "tituliar"?....

INTERVIEWER2: He doubted ...

BARRERA: Yes, he doubted...and then he closed the door, asking MARIA JULIA...are they looking for you?  
...and he also motioned like this, for where the mail box for the priests were located...

INTERVIEWER: "casillero" (ph) is where...where...its like a... (phone rings)... like something on the wall like... (recorder is turned off/on)...

INTERVIEWER2: What is a "cancillero" (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: The "cancillero" (ph) is something like a piece of furniture where you put documents, letters, books...

BARRERA: Yea, but that was before when the priest lived there...

INTERVIEWER: Yea, but who knocked on the door...

BARRERA: Ehhh...they once again insisted...when the brother told her...

INTERVIEWER: the brother told them the first time that she wasn't there...

BARRERA: Yes, sure... he said something like they're asking for MARIA JULIA...that's the way he is...so then...she had hidden herself over by the "cancillero"...when once again they insisted, they asked for MARIA JULIA...so then...the brother told her..look someone here is looking for you...then the attorney went over and looked out and said...ahhh come in, come in...

INTERVIEWER: Who were those persons...

BARRERA: ehh.. it was a small dark man..who said he was a lawyer...and a thin young guy...

INTERVIEWER: A what?...

BARRERA: A "sipoton" (ph)

INTERVIEWER2: A guy...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: A young man...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: In what does he work for the black guy?

BARRERA: Yes [unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER: ok...do you know the dark skin person too?...

INTERVIEWER2: I have met them...

INTERVIEWER: ok...alright,... you'll give us names later...(english)

INTERVIEWER2: Yea... I know that I've met them... (english)

INTERVIEWER: Ok, so then they came in...

BARRERA: Yes, then they entered... and MARIA JULIA said to me... she said ANA LUCIA... she said the way I told You...tell me... she said...

INTERVIEWER: Tell me...

BARRERA: No, say...say

INTERVIEWER2: another words for you to say it...

INTERVIEWER: Ohhh...

BARRERA: Yes...the way I told it you, say it... she said ehhh...don't be afraid of them... so with some reservation, I... started to say the things...like...

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me...who were you telling this things to...

INTERVIEWER2: To this two guys...

BARRERA: Yes to the two guys... then I sat down on the steps of the 15th house...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: And from there you proceeded to tell them...

BARRERA: Yes...so then, tell them just like I told you she said...tell them...tell the man...she didn't tell me his name, or his title or anything like that... tell the man the events like I told you...

INTERVIEWER: To this two guys...that had came in...the thin

one...

BARRERA: Yes...what you have heard and what I told you...that's what she said...

INTERVIEWER: What I told you...

BARRERA: Yes... what you heard and what I have told you...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: That's what MARIA JULIA said...

BARRERA: Yes what MARIA JULIA said... and what worries me is that if she is so bad...

INTERVIEWER2: Don't worry about that...

INTERVIEWER: Let me, say this... You're under the protection of the American government, RICHARD (ph) is also a representative of the government...

BARRERA: Yes, yes that's the way it is...

INTERVIEWER: Since you've arrived here...

BARRERA: That's the way it is...

INTERVIEWER: you know that...

BARRERA: I don't have any complains...yes

INTERVIEWER: You don't have any complains, since you've been under the protection of the FBI...

BARRERA: That's right...

INTERVIEWER: That there hasn't been any problems...Now since you're telling the truth...

BARRERA: Yea

INTERVIEWER: The situation doesn't have to change...ok?...

BARRERA: Alright... with all my trust I'll...

INTERVIEWER: Lets continue talking with all the trust...

BARRERA: So, that you know...

INTERVIEWER: At what time of the morning did this take place...

BARRERA: Look, the time I cannot say...but it was after 8 o'clock...

INTERVIEWER: Later...but when nine...ten...

BARRERA: Closer to noon...

INTERVIEWER2: Yea, later like when...nine or ten... another words after 8...

BARRERA: Because then when they arrived...ahhh...she herself then told... told the brother to take me to the Embassy... that's when I got scared that they were going to take me over there... because I didn't see anything...and JORGE and my daughter were at the house, knowing that I was working at the rectory...

INTERVIEWER: Ok... You went to work that morning at 8 o'clock...

BARRERA: A little after 8...

INTERVIEWER: A little after 8...lets say 8:30...

BARRERA: Something like that...

INTERVIEWER: You arrived there around 8:30... in the time that you had the conversation with the brother...

BARRERA: I spoke very little with him...

INTERVIEWER: Yes..with the brother...you then spoke to the father...with father CHEMA...

BARRERA: Yes with father CHEMA...

INTERVIEWER: Then you spoke with father...with MARIA JULIA... then you went over to the house...then you passed over to the house...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: Ahhh...

BARRERA: Yes that's why I'm saying it was after 8... after the time that I had arrived...

INTERVIEWER: Nine thirty or ten...or later...

BARRERA: Later...maybe something like that because when... I arrived...when they took me over to the Spanish Embassy...they were having lunch...



INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: Where did father TOJEIDA (ph) stay at...

BARRERA: In the rectory...

INTERVIEWER2: In the rectory... so only MARIA JULIA and the brother went along...

BARRERA: yes

INTERVIEWER2: They went on foot... or in a vehicle...

BARRERA: In a vehicle... in a small white one...

INTERVIEWER2: Who was driving it...

BARRERA: MARIA JULIA...

INTERVIEWER: LUCIA... do you in your mind have any doubt ... that the brother FRANCISCO ASURDA (ph)...knew what was happening?...

BARRERA: Well, I can't tell you about that since I haven't thought of it if...he knows...or other...I don't...

INTERVIEWER: You don't know...

BARRERA: No, to be frank I haven't thought about if he knew or not...

INTERVIEWER: After he was trying to protect MARIA JULIA...so that the people in the street wouldn't know that she was there...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: After she tells you in front of him... for you to tell the guys what you saw...or what you saw and what I told you...

BARRERA: The second time...since they persisted in knocking..he said hey MARIA JULIA...they're looking for you...and after she got a glance of them like this... she said come in...

INTERVIEWER: Alright... ok...lets leave that...then...what happens when you leave there...

BARRERA: When I got scared...after they said they were going to take me to the Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: Yes to the Embassy...

BARRERA: Well for me that was strange...because I had never discussed an Embassy... I hadn't even discussed that with the attorney...not even with her I had discussed that...but after I had spoken with this man, like...what I had heard and what she had told me to...

INTERVIEWER: Say...

BARRERA: To say...so then for me that was a shock, since they had never said that they were going to hide me in an Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: So then I told them...that...without me, my husband couldn't function...and that I had to go home...I made sure that they let me go to the house to tell him this and that...and that we should return to some house...I meant to go back to the rectory, maybe the rectory...but those were my ideas...so that they would let me go over to the place where JORGE and my little girl were at...

INTERVIEWER: And did you at any moment think of telling them no, I,m not going to cooperate with you...

BARRERA: Since it was for good cause...it was for a good cause...to find out...therefore she gave me courage... and told me to say such things... since she had told me that it was for an investigation...

INTERVIEWER: From there they took you to the Embassy?...

BARRERA: Yes, they took me to the Embassy from there... [unintelligible]... and at the Embassy you give the new version to the Spanish Ambassador.... to who is the next person that you tell the story to...

BARRERA: No, with him I did not speak...he came in later to talk about his business...

INTERVIEWER: Who is he...

BARRERA: The Ambassador...but the one...

INTERVIEWER: Who is the one who took you to the Embassy ..

BARRERA: Father PEDRAZA... because he arrived at the moment

when those people were there... those men who were talking with me... when MARIA JULIA told me that besides what I had heard, I should say it...

INTERVIEWER: So then father PEDRAZA takes you to...

BARRERA: Yes... he arrived...

INTERVIEWER: MARIA JULIA... how did he arrive...

BARRERA: Yes, yes

INTERVIEWER: Did he arrive on foot or in a car?...

BARRERA: I didn't see how the father arrived...

INTERVIEWER: So then how did you...

BARRERA: I only saw him come into the house on foot...

INTERVIEWER: Did you...did you walk over to the rectory?...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Or did you go [unintelligible]...

BARRERA: Let me... Father PEDRAZA arrived at the 15th house...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh..

BARRERA: He arrived at the 15th house...so then ANA JULIA told the brother, we definitively will have to take her to the Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: Who says that?...

BARRERA: MARIA JULIA...

INTERVIEWER: To father PEDRAZA...

BARRERA: No... to the brother...

INTERVIEWER: To the brother...ok...

BARRERA: So then... he said with whom is she going to go...so the Father PEDRAZA went with me to go to the Embassy...along with a guy wearing glasses...

INTERVIEWER: How... how...

BARRERA: In a small car...

INTERVIEWER: The car was already in front of the 15th house?...

BARRERA: Yes, it was already there...

INTERVIEWER: It was already there...

BARRERA: Yes, because [unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER: The car was...who drove the car to the Embassy...

BARRERA: A man...he looked upper class... he is always with the Ambassador... a man that was wearing glasses... and Father PEDRAZA went with him...

INTERVIEWER: What time...what time frame are we talking about from the time you had the conversation with the dark skinned man...

BARRERA: Uh huh...

INTERVIEWER: And with the younger guy... how long after you talked did Father PEDRAZA arrive?...from there until you're taken to the Embassy... lets estimate...around a half hour?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: An hour?...

BARRERA: No, its just that at the moment the Father arrived there, they decided to take me over there...

INTERVIEWER: But how long...when did they take you...

BARRERA: At that precise moment...

INTERVIEWER: Another words there was someone from the Spanish Embassy was already waiting to take you away...

BARRERA: I saw the car outside...for I hadn't had to wait...

INTERVIEWER: And you are sure that, that man was form the Embassy, You saw him at the Spanish Embassy...

BARRERA: Yes, I saw him...I saw him...

INTERVIEWER: You saw him at the Embassy later on?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, fine...then they take her...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes...yes...so then...then...when MARIA JULIA...was with brother Francisco...inside...

BARRERA: And...

INTERVIEWER2: Wait a moment... with you right?

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: At that time was when the man and the young one arrived...with the youngster...

BARRERA: [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER2: With the other one...and that's when MARIA JULIA...told you to explain to them...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: Explain to then what you heard and what I told you...

BARRERA: Yes...yes

INTERVIEWER: Inside was where brother FRANCISCO was at that time...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: At that moment...was the arrival of Father...

BARRERA: PEDRAZA...

INTERVIEWER2: PEDRAZ (ph)...

BARRERA: That's the way...that's it...it was him...

INTERVIEWER2: and he himself Father PEDRAZ...escorted you to the vehicle where the guy with the glasses was waiting, and both of them took you to...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...We've arrived at the Embassy... What happens in the Embassy...

BARRERA: There's another man wearing glasses...maybe two...yes, two other men wearing glasses...at the

entrance... and I greeted them... and...ehhh...one of them came with the Father and me...to the second floor...and they took me to a room where there was a bed...and a living room at one corner... since I had never been in one of those houses that are so expensive...

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I understand...

BARRERA: So, therefore I hesitated...I hesitated...so then since...the...since the...Embassador was speaking at a table somewhere...because I did see him when I came in...the Ambassador was in a meeting...with some other people I didn't see...I didn't see their faces, only their clothes...I was on my way up the stairs...ehhh...and Father PEDRAZA kept going in and out of the room...I don't have any trust in Father PEDRAZA because he is very bad tempered...

INTERVIEWER: Yes...but...did MARIA JULIA see you in the Embassy that day?

BARRERA: No,...

INTERVIEWER: Only Father PEDRAZA...

BARRERA: Only Father PEDRAZA...the Father never left me alone there...he kept going in and out...

INTERVIEWER: He didn't leave you alone...

BARRERA: He would leave and a moment later he came back... he would come back a moment later... so then a moment after that he knocked on the door...ehhh...

INTERVIEWER: Which one...

BARRERA: He knocked on the door... the Ambassador...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: And he started speaking...he came in with a thin man... a thin man...

INTERVIEWER: What's that...(pechito)...

BARRERA: Who was the secretary...

INTERVIEWER2: A skinny person...

INTERVIEWER: Ahhh...

INTERVIEWER2: He was skinny... skinny?

BARRERA: Yes, who was the secretary...he said he was a secretary... and I heard him when they were speaking with the Father...that he was the Secretary of the Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: So then you gave that man...

BARRERA: No, because they were talking about some of their business there... I couldn't even understand what they were talking about... I even felt bad about being there for I felt out of place since I couldn't participate in that... but they did talk...

INTERVIEWER: But we're not talking about what happened...

INTERVIEWER2: [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER: The theme of the conversation...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes the theme of the conversation when they were speaking and you were feeling bad...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: It wasn't in reference to what had happened...

BARRERA: No, no...only what...ehhh...I don't even remember what they spoke of...but they did...

INTERVIEWER2: But there's nothing that you remember of?...

BARRERA: The only thing I remember is that... of what the Father told him...that they would have to continue the investigations...ehhh...a moment later Father CHEMA arrived...and he sat by Father PEDRAZA and that of...the Ambassador...and he told them...

INTERVIEWER: Father CHEMA...

BARRERA: Yes...the Ambassador told him... that well...they could send me to France or to the United States...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: So then...I've always had this thing of listening what I don't understand...

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I understand...

BARRERA: Because I was satisfied with my work...it was enough to take care of my necessities...

INTERVIEWER: Alright, another question LUCIA... its very important...since the day you arrived at the Embassy...from the day you arrived, did anyone asked you if you still remembered the story...

BARRERA: That's what left for me to tell you...then... a moment after that...I asked...Look, what about my family?...they don't know where I am... he said well...who knows about your family, who knows your family...I told him my aunt...I told him she worked at the house... at the house of [unintelligible]... I told him that...but...my husband doesn't walk...if you don't do him the favor of going and telling him that I'm over here...I said...go over to my aunts...go over there but I don't know if she is serving lunch or what...that's what I told him...

INTERVIEWER: You didn't give him anything in writing then...

BARRERA: I gave him a little piece of paper telling JORGE to come with the men who are going to pick you up...I sent it to him... (kid in background)... with Father PEDRAZA...and Father PEDRAZA said he was going to give it to Father SAENZ (ph) to take it over to my aunt, so they could go to my mother's for she knew where...

INTERVIEWER: Alright...let me go back to...up to this moment...I don't want to get ahead...wait a moment...there hasn't been a person...or has there been a person who has told you...don't forget to say what we have told you...

BARRERA: From there...

INTERVIEWER: No, up to this moment...

BARRERA: Well, its just that MARIA JULIA came to see me in the room downstairs...for I was taken out of the other room...

INTERVIEWER: But until now...noo... up to this time...Father PEDRAZA...Father....

INTERVIEWER2: Brother FRANCISCO...



BARRERA: Its just that I...No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Father CHEMA...none of them...none of this people...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Came up to you and said...don't forget...

BARRERA: No, no they didn't say that...no, no...

INTERVIEWER: It hasn't happened... until now that hasn't happen...

BARRERA: No, they haven't said such things... So then they took me down stairs and told me...since we were three...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: We couldn't fit into that bed...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

BARRERA: And they also said that for the benefit of the little girl...the little girl that I was carrying...they were going to give the room facing the garden...so that the little girl could go out... so then, they took us downstairs...and they moved us into the room downstairs... where there are two [unintelligible] beds...

INTERVIEWER: That same day...

BARRERA: Yes, that same day...

INTERVIEWER: Who moved you down...

BARRERA: Ehhh...seems to me...I don't remember...

INTERVIEWER: Someone from the Embassy?...

BARRERA: Yes, someone form the Embassy... but I don't remember... but it wasn't the Ambassador...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: But didn't you say that MARIA JULIA...or not

BARRERA: No...is that MARIA JULIA...

INTERVIEWER: No, MARIA JULIA just goes to visit her...

INTERVIEWER2: Ok...

BARRERA: No, MARIA JULIA didn't even take to the Embassy,... she just ordered that I be taken to the Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, then... what happens when you are downstairs...

BARRERA: Well, I felt better since there was lots more room... for GERALDINA to run around...ehhh... but what I didn't like, was that the Ambassador who was there said that only when I was being watched...because, I don't know if it was the first or second day...they told me that a judge would be arriving...to speak to me...so therefore I thought that it was going to be the next day...but no, it wasn't that day because close by there was a big shootout ...You ought to remember that...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes...when they attacked the...

BARRERA: That same day...the next one...I was waiting for the man they were going to bring...so then...from that day until the next day I was very calm...after I had returned from the kitchen, where I was helping peel the vegetables or whatever... since there was things that needed help doing...then suddenly the curtain was opened, which scared me...and the attorney (?) came in...

INTERVIEWER: OK...excuse me...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Help me out with the day...that was not the day they took you to the Embassy, or the next day...

BARRERA: Yes...yea another day...the day that I testified...the day that I testified...

INTERVIEWER: What day was it...Thursday?...

INTERVIEWER2: Wednesday...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: Wednesday... wednesday

INTERVIEWER: On wednesday...

INTERVIEWER2: She was called on Monday... did you sleep there that monday?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Wednesday...(whisper)...

INTERVIEWER2: Where you slept the night before?...

in \*(Another voice is heard in background that speaks English LS is not sure how many people are present at this time in the room with LUCIA)\*

INTERVIEWER2: And the next day?...

BARRERA: The next day was when MARIA JULIA arrived...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...then she appeared there...ok...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, fine...so then she comes there to see you...

BARRERA: She arrived...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: She arrived there that day...she says how are you...but since I was a bit sleepy...since I had spent some time not being able to sleep and at that moment I had been [unintelligible]...I had tried to sleep to cope with the bad [unintelligible] and the woman that had just arrived... She asked me how I was...I said fine, I'm fine here...the only thing I don't like is the enclosing since I can't go out there, I said...because the little girl is so full of mischief...that's what I said to her...so then today..we're going to take your picture, she says...comb your hair and make yourself pretty...that's what the attorney (?) told me... then a moment later a man with a thing to take pictures with came in...today...the judge will be coming now she says...then she took out from her briefcase a copy of what I had told the man over at the house 15th...so then she took it out...it was already processed since it wasn't on scrap paper... it was already typed...

INTERVIEWER: It was already done in typing...

BARRERA: Yes typed... so then it said "Tutela Legal" (?)...

INTERVIEWER: "Tutela Legal" (ph) (?)...

BARRERA: Yes "Tutela Legal"...

INTERVIEWER2: ...Then it was MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ...

INTERVIEWER: "Tutela" what is that?...

INTERVIEWER2: "Tutela" is a...

INTERVIEWER3: An organization....

INTERVIEWER2: An organization belonging to the San Salvadorian Arch-diocese...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...

INTERVIEWER3: Of Human Rights...

INTERVIEWER2: Of Human Rights...this is the legal side of the Arch-diocese...

BARRERA: So therefore I felt... I sat up at the edge of the bed... and started to get fixed up...then I got up...

INTERVIEWER: Did you then read that?...

BARRERA: No, I didn't read it...she read it to me...

INTERVIEWER: She read it to you...

BARRERA: Yes, I didn't read it...

INTERVIEWER: And basically it corresponded to...

BARRERA: But..but...

INTERVIEWER: What you had told her at the house 15th...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Another words what... what you have told us until now...

BARRERA: The story I have told up until now... which I kept up under great pressure...but I have already decided that I want...to clear up this matter, so like my husband has advise me...to clear this up and to help you...

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much LUCIA... lets continue, but...let me impress upon you that with what we're getting, you'll be able to live in peace tonight... we're getting it from the chest as we say...I don't know if you also say that...another words you don't have to think about it...you don't have to...

BARRERA: Its just that is best to...like my husband says...We'll go back to El Salvador and what am I going to do, you know your job and I got my house even though I [unintelligible], because I got good money...so then we can buy in another place...and I can help...

INTERVIEWER: So then she shows you this legal document... this "tutela"...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: She takes it out of the...

BARRERA: Briefcase...

INTERVIEWER: And then she reads it to you...

BARRERA: She then read it to me... I,m going to read it to you so you won't forget she says...

INTERVIEWER: So you won't forget...

BARRERA: Yes that's what she said...

INTERVIEWER: And contained basically what you had said...

BARRERA: What I had heard...and what...

INTERVIEWER: On 15th street... at the house 15th...

BARRERA: And what she had told me... yes...Because when that woman finds out that I have told you the truth...

INTERVIEWER: Noo, lets...

INTERVIEWER2: Don't even worry about her...

INTERVIEWER: Don't worry...we're going to play some games with her... fine...what happens after that's read to you...

BARRERA: A moment later...I think someone calls...

[unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER: Did she stay with you?...

BARRERA: No, someone knocked and said that the judge was looking for me...after that... after she read it, that's when they took my picture...they said that it was for a passport...to...

INTERVIEWER: Let me ask you something?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Do you have a passport?...

BARRERA: No, no... I told them that I didn't have a passport...

INTERVIEWER: Exactly...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: So then you know that those photographs were not for a passport...

BARRERA: Yes...No...so then, when immigration came here today...I saw the three photos on a piece of paper...

INTERVIEWER: Ahhh, the three photos arrived here?...

BARRERA: Yes...on a piece of paper...

INTERVIEWER: Those photos most likely are ours and not from there...

INTERVIEWER2: No, I don't think...

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER2: We took any photos...

BARRERA: They are...

INTERVIEWER2: they're taken over there...

BARRERA: They're taken over there...

INTERVIEWER: You know they were taken there...

BARRERA: Yes, they're taken over there...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...fine... lets continue, after the man comes in and takes your picture... what happens...

BARRERA: Yes... then, well they took it the first time... and then he said that they were no good... eh...the second time, he said I look too distressed...so therefore they also were no good... not until the third time when he told them to tell me whisky... so that I could smile and not come out with such a face that I had on...so then...they were good...he said they had come out good...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: So that's when someone knocked at the door... saying that the judge was waiting for me downstairs... over there...since the mansion is large...that he was looking for me there...so I went where they were taking me...and she came along with me...

INTERVIEWER: Yes...

BARRERA: MARIA JULIA...

INTERVIEWER: You two by yourselves?...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Who else was there?...

BARRERA: The one that...

INTERVIEWER: You and her...

BARRERA: Yes, so then she went with me over to where the judge had summoned me...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh...

BARRERA: They gave me a chair which look like it was made of Persian hair (?)...and I told them that in that chair I did not feel right... and I asked for a chair which was more comfortable... more less fancy... so then... the Ambassador had just arrived at the door and said how about this one woman...but I went and got one of two chairs that were in a room not far...and MARIA JULIA went and got the other...that's why I remember that with me...

INTERVIEWER: She was there...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: So then you gave your...

BARRERA: So then... I brought the chair and told her...  
No, no madam I'll get the chair for you too... I was  
going to get mine and then hers...I was tense...  
attending her so that she wouldn't have to move  
chairs...

INTERVIEWER: Exactly...

BARRERA: So then, she... she sat here next to me and I sat  
here...and the judge over there...and then we  
started to talk...so then she kept giving me looks  
like this...when I hesitated in parts that I  
couldn't remember... She would give me some looks  
like this and...she wouldn't say anything...but she  
did look at me...

INTERVIEWER: She would give you dirty looks...

BARRERA: Yes... she would give me looks like this...then...I  
was so afraid of looking bad... telling it to him  
like I'm telling it to you... clearing how things  
were...I was embarrassed in front of her and  
everyone present there...to say look sir she told  
me to say this....

INTERVIEWER: Alright, so then after you finished with that...  
they took you to the plane and then...

BARRERA: So then when it was close to five they said...We're  
ready to take you, you'll be going with us...that's  
what one of the man said...

INTERVIEWER: Who was it?...

BARRERA: One of the same guys that wear a coat over there...

INTERVIEWER: In the Embassy...

BARRERA: Yes, from the Embassy... wearing glasses... the one  
who had driven the car...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: Because I saw him, for he was eating at the  
Embassy...that was the man who said that...for I  
turned around to look at him...he said it was time



to leave...that they were ready to take me... then  
ehhh... should I stop talking?...

INTERVIEWER: No, keep going...

BARRERA: So then...when they...they told me that I was  
leaving now...that they were ready to take me...  
that's when I became suspicious since they had me  
talking...

INTERVIEWER: Ok look... I only want to ehkh... ask you two or  
three more small questions... when you got up at  
six AM after reveille, to go advice the priests...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: About what had been seen...what you had seen for  
that...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Because they say you saw Father NACHITO... right?

BARRERA: Yes, for I knew him...

INTERVIEWER: Did you see the women?

BARRERA: Yes, I saw them...

INTERVIEWER: alright...that's the truth?

BARRERA: Yes, that's the truth...

INTERVIEWER: So, then when you arrived at the house #50...which  
priest became aware of your version of the  
events...of what you told them...

BARRERA: Of what I had seen?...

INTERVIEWER: Yes,yes...

BARRERA: Yes, of what I had seen...the women...

INTERVIEWER: Yea of what you had seen...what you

BARRERA: Well, father ESTRADA was there...

INTERVIEWER: Who else...

BARRERA: Ehkh...the one...I don't remember... if the father  
who opened the door for me was there...who was

Father PEDRAZA...I don't remember very well...I doubt it for I don't remember if I saw him... and Father Iris... and VISATE (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: Yes, they heard your version?...

BARRERA: Yes...yes..

INTERVIEWER: That you had told them that you had heard the noises...

BARRERA: Yes...no, not that I had heard the noises... only what I had seen when I went over...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...so then, you only told them that you had gone to house and had seen the dead...they heard that...

BARRERA: Yes, yes

INTERVIEWER: Aright...the other question...when you arrived at the house of the rectory...

INTERVIEWER2: Another words the house #9...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: What priest were there... and which ones heard what you had told Father TROJEIDA... who else...TROJEIDA and who else were there...

BARRERA: Ehhh...Father TROJEIDA was in his office...who was the one who open the door...

INTERVIEWER: The one who told you, you are going to speak with MARIA JULIA and...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: And to her tell her what you...

BARRERA: That's when she came out...

INTERVIEWER: Then she came out...that was Father CHEMA...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes, that's Father CHEMA...

INTERVIEWER: Oh is that the same person?...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes, its just that he is named JOSE MARIA TOJEIDA... he's called JOSE MARIA, that's why they call him CHEMA...

INTERVIEWER: Ok, I'm sorry...

INTERVIEWER2: Yea...

INTERVIEWER: And brother FRANCISCO SOCHA...

BARRERA: Yes, but he was on the phone... like you say [unintelligible]...

INTERVIEWER: That's the way it was... aright...

BARRERA: Do you understand what I'm saying by hull?...

INTERVIEWER: Yes, the hall...

BARRERA: the room...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes, the hall way...

BARRERA: You see I don't want to say it in a nasty way...in the chivonario(?)...and I wouldn't understand... but the truth is that I want to tell the truth like I'm telling it to you...

INTERVIEWER: No, don't worry...the other question is...from the heart...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: I want you to tell me without a doubt...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Another words...we've already said that you did not see the soldiers...that you didn't get up from your mattress...

BARRERA: That's right... yes...

INTERVIEWER: Now, the other thing...did you hear as if they were dragging something... breaking of windows...

BARRERA: Yes, that could be heard clearly...

INTERVIEWER: You heard that...

BARRERA: Yes, that could be clearly heard...

INTERVIEWER: And the voice... of Father..

BARRERA: Father NACHO...

INTERVIEWER: Also...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: But you did hear him say exactly that they were...

BARRERA: Yes, yes... that was the last thing he said during the skirmish...

INTERVIEWER: Its an injustice, an outrage...

BARRERA: Yes, yes

INTERVIEWER: That's a hundred per cent...

BARRERA: Oh yes...yes...

INTERVIEWER: Aright...

BARRERA: That's a hundred per cent... for I knew the Father's voice very well...and he always spoke loud...and at that moment he spoke loudly...

INTERVIEWER: Ok..

INTERVIEWER2: We've arrived... did you have anything since 5 o'clock, until you left El Salvador...the 23rd (ph)...did you have any contact with anyone who knew what you were saying...did you have any contact with MARIA JULIA...

BARRERA: She was there with me...

INTERVIEWER: After you talked...what do you mean she was with you...

BARRERA: At the hearing...

INTERVIEWER: After the hearing..

BARRERA: [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER: No, I understand... and she kept giving you strange looks...

BARRERA: Yes, yes...

INTERVIEWER: But afterwards, what happened... with who else did you have contact with that could of say to you...tell the US officials...or the French officials...or the Spanish...

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER: Someone who kept...

BARRERA: They...they put me in a car where my husband was at...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: With the little girl... they put me in a car and told me to put my head down...so that the reporters couldn't see me...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh

BARRERA: So then they put my head down... I'll tell you when to lift it...said the guy who was in the back...

INTERVIEWER: But, there was no one...

BARRERA: No... I went out of...

INTERVIEWER: Ok... that talked to you...

BARRERA: No, no...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...when was the first time that you gave this story...here in the US... to whom here... to me and my partner?... that you spoke of that [unintelligible]...

BARRERA: Yes, that night...at night...

INTERVIEWER: No one else has asked you...You haven't told this story to no one else?...

BARRERA: Look...like I told you in the room...I don't remember what I told other people...

INTERVIEWER2: Not even when you were on the plane?...

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER: Not even...

BARRERA: Ehhh...A fat man wearing glasses...

INTERVIEWER: A reporter...

BARRERA: Yes, a fat man wearing glasses...ehhh...well they all came up to me...but, I felt...well, I didn't

know them...so then eh...from there...the man tried to get friendly with me...asking me some things...

INTERVIEWER2: "Apinar" means to get close to... to be nice to...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER2: with intentions...

BARRERA: Yes... and he was very mature (?)...it was a man that at the airport... said that he was a children's doctor (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: [unintelligible]

INTERVIEWER2: He was a doctor of...

BARRERA: A country doctor (ph)...

INTERVIEWER: [unintelligible]

BARRERA: Yes, a country doctor...he said...

INTERVIEWER2: Yes another words there arrived doctors who [unintelligible]..

INTERVIEWER3: The fat guy was the guy who was in the plane [unintelligible]...(english)

INTERVIEWER: Ours?... (english)

INTERVIEWER3: [unintelligible]...French, french...(english)

BARRERA: Ahh...then from there...are we speaking of the...

INTERVIEWER: Of the plane...yes...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: When you were on the plane... when you were in flight...

BARRERA: Yes, yes when I was in the flight here... Since they asked me about the Embassy... they took me to the French Embassy...

INTERVIEWER: Yes..

BARRERA: So then some men spoke there...

INTERVIEWER: At the French Embassy?...

BARRERA: Yes, so then I went up some stairs... when they said...well, most likely we'll have to send her to France...or lets stop in Miami, they said...that's when I stopped...I said...Look sir I'm sorry... but France is too far away...I don't even know where it is... so then I think the US where you mentioned... would be ideal for me to return from...I said... I want you to leave me there... so then well they started talking, which I didn't understand...

INTERVIEWER: Lets...ok... aright...then anyone else besides that reporter... you didn't speak to no one else...after you spoke to...before you spoke to them...

BARRERA: No, its just that...I told him... things but not of this...

INTERVIEWER: Ohhh, ok...

BARRERA: Only...yes... (noise in background)...

INTERVIEWER: What I want to do is...

BARRERA: No, not about this...

INTERVIEWER: To who did you speak about this...before...after the judge...

BARRERA: Uh huh

INTERVIEWER: And before me... to who did you tell that story... any other person?...

INTERVIEWER2: In that same way...

BARRERA: Yes... I'm trying to remember...yes... to you when you arrived that night...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...then yesterday...when you told it to him and me...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: Yesterday when we did it in...Obviously today when we started... why did you continue with that story... we have to justify it somehow...

BARRERA: Yes... yes, for I was afraid of looking bad in saying what I had said before, of being labeled a liar... that's why I kept it up... but that way,

with my conscience, and so that I wouldn't have to travel around...that's why I told you what they told me to say...

INTERVIEWER2: Ok...I have a question JULIA...

BARRERA: No, I'm not JULIA...

INTERVIEWER2: LUCIA, I'm sorry...

BARRERA: No, no

INTERVIEWER2: Yes, I'm sorry (laughs)...I'm sorry LUCIA...

BARRERA: (laughs)

INTERVIEWER2: Look... when you took your stuff and went over to the priests...ehhh...with your husband to go over to your mothers...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER: Which was thursday, friday...

BARRERA: Yes

INTERVIEWER2: Saturday and sunday... No one from your parents came over to see you...

BARRERA: No, no one...

INTERVIEWER2: Until monday after you had arrived...

BARRERA: Yes, you see...after the shootout...all was calm for every once in a while you could hear it...but it was calm...so I though I could at least go work at the rectory...and to see if the [unintelligible] was open, but it was closed...

INTERVIEWER2: I'm trying to assimilate all this for...

BARRERA: Yes, yes... that...

INTERVIEWER: The day is...

BARRERA: No...

INTERVIEWER: [unintelligible] why...

BARRERA: yes

INTERVIEWER: We're to go back to the day that you... went back



to work...monday...

BARRERA: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: When you went to the rectory... that you went in to the office of Father CHEMA...

BARRERA: No, I didn't go in...I only went in where they open and where the I saw the brother talking...

INTERVIEWER: When the Father CHEMA asked you to come in...

BARRERA: Yes...to go in...yes...

INTERVIEWER: MARIA JULIA was already there...

BARRERA: She was already there...

INTERVIEWER: Ok...ok...thank you very much for all this...we appreciate it and...

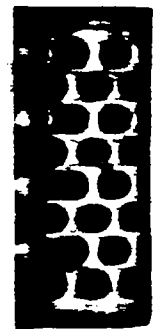
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counted as processed*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/17/90

The attached transcripts reflect the contents of a recorded interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA on November 29, 1989. The unidentified male referred to in the transcripts is MANUEL RIVAS, Director of the El Salvador Special Investigative Unit (SIU).

Investigation on 11/29/89 at Miami, Florida File # 163A-HQ-61055-28

by SA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/16/90

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SA [REDACTED]

*[Handwritten initials]*

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*C-3* *[Handwritten initials]*

DATE: 11/29/89

TAPE: # 1

PARTICIPANTS: LUCIA BARRERA (LB)

[REDACTED] (FR)

(side one)

FR: Good morning, Doña LUCIA...

LB: Good morning, sir.

FR: Here we are in the FBI office in Miami, and what we are going to...to [do] is that you should tell us what happened before...there in El Salvador, before you came to this country. We are present here with the Director of the Investigation Unit, the ...the...(ui) Technician, of the same Unit, our Technical Agent, FBI Agent, Mr. [REDACTED] and myself, another FBI Agent, [REDACTED] and what we are basically trying [to do] is that you should tell us, relate to us what happened before you came here to the United States. If we can start from the day when you left your house and went to San Salvador...

LC: Yes.

FR: ...to the time when you came to the United States...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...please.

LB: Well... I left, we left the house shortly after 6:00 because, because... like I told you, uh... people were ...when... at 6:00... right after 6:00...were knocking on the door, even under the bullets, to see if we had bread, but that day we got up and didn't have any bread.

FR: The bakery is there at home.

LB: Yes.

FR: OK.

LB: Uh...because the night before I told JORGE that...that we shouldn't work because we didn't have any water, the only water we had was for drinking, [I told him] that we didn't have any firewood, so that it was better to...to try to go downtown. I was going to ask for help. Then he told me...I kept thinking and thinking all night whether we were going to stay or go. But he told me that we were [leaving]. So that day I got up early to pack the suitcases and...because we were leaving on Wednesday. On Wednesday we left right after 6:00. But because all the people were there talking because they wanted bread, and I had to give them some explanations, so it was after 6:00 when we left the house. Because JORGE told me: "Wait until somebody goes by, so that we can go with them." But I was all frightened, I couldn't stand all the bullets on one side and bombs and...all those things. So we started coming down the street, to get to Soyapan, to arrive at Soyapan. From there

we got to the Boulevard, we got to the Lomatepec Hospital, uh... a detail of two soldiers was there who, when people wouldn't pay attention to them, especially the men, would go: Pam! and say dirty words...uh...to make people stop. So we begged them to let us get through, because we didn't owe [or had done] anything. Then ... because there was no permission for civilians to get through, because they were asking permission to the major there...the commander. There were some of those...some of those...how can I tell you? Something like those "champitas" [a small shelter made of palm leaves] they put at the entrance of factories, up there, where the detail was. So the soldier was placed there getting in touch... and I...uh... that's where I went to ask whether they were going to give us permission or we had to go back.

Shortly after he sent us there...uh...then...he said that yes, there was permission to get through, but that they would search...they would search our suitcases. I agreed to that and I opened everything for them to see, because I was carrying only diapers. From there we went...we went on for a short distance and there there was a bus [and the driver] was shouting: "Downtown! Downtown! Downtown!" So we got on the bus and got off at the place called the lottery. From there, from the lottery, I told JORGE: Look, since we owe the flour, the best thing to do is to cancel it. Then he told me: "Yes." Let's go, let's go, I told him, let's go cancel the flour, uh...and we went there. But, since there was a stoppage, the employees had not yet arrived. We waited a little while. Shortly afterwards it opened...uh...and we went inside to pay. I don't know how much he paid. I stayed outside sitting on the suitcases, taking care of the girl, He entered the office, to cancel [the flour].

When he came back I told him: Look, I need to ask for help, I told him, for example, some Father, I told him, because, what can we do, we can't go on anymore, and that's my illusion, my idea, I said, that somebody may help us. He told me: "You know, you have familiarity with the people, you ask them." So I told him that I was going to call from that phone across the street. Leave me some 25 coins, I told him. Then he said: "No, I don't think so." Well, why don't you ask here in the office? He said: "You think they'll let you use it?" Yes, man, they'll let me, I said. So we went back inside the office where he had cancelled the flour, and I dialed, I dialed Father ACURIA's, I dialed Father NACHO's and it was always busy, busy. So I figured and told him: Look, these lines are not working. We'd better go, let's go.

Uh...and...we ate there...after we left that place, we ate something, a little bit, a light breakfast. And from there we went up, trying...trying to get closer to downtown, closer to downtown. At the corner of a furniture store there are two pay phones. I was getting out the...the... a handful of...because the briefcase was heavy, a handful of coins...uh...and I told him: Here all the coins (ui)... "aren't they good?" He asked me, because I was dialing and it would swallow them. So how was it that I never...Look, I told him, this garbage is not working, because (ui) from inside, I said, but what happened is that I couldn't handle it. So it swallowed the first one but he answered [when I put in] the second one.

So, since I could hear...I couldn't hear the voice well, when he answered me in the direct, because I had called Father MACHO. I said...uh...good morning, I told him, but I didn't say "sir" or "Father" because I didn't know him. Then [I

said] is this Father NACHO's office? "Yes," he told me, "this is he." Ah, then I told him ...

FR: Hm...

LB: ...how I was coming from there, and that I was helpless, and that what I was asking him was to help me, at least to give me a place to stay. But my idea wasn't the way it came out, but my idea was, since CHAVELO's house, the one that is down there, beside...always down by the UCA, beside the highway, CHAVELO moved out in late October, so now only RAUL lives there, who is our maintenance supervisor.

My idea was to talk to the Father, with all honesty, when he told me: "Come to [house] # 15," that was because I was going to ask him to give me...that house down there, if RAUL was there alone, well, I was going to ask for a place to stay there, in the house below.

FR: Excuse me...

LB: Yes.

FR: What...you call him "Father NACHO," do you know Father NACHO's correct name?

LB: Yes.

FR: What's his name?

LB: IGNACIO MARTIN BARO.

FR: MARTIN...

LB: BARO.

FR: BARO.

LB: Yes.

FR: OK. Please continue.

LB: Then, well, that was what I figured in my mind, that when I spoke to him, because right there I was only asking him to help me, I wasn't telling him yet about the house below.

But he told me: "Come down." When I told him that I was in trouble, that I didn't have... that I was definitely helpless, because I do have a family there but the family, first of all, they live in very small rooms, and I with GERALDINA... she is too mischievous, and my mother can't stand her. I'm sorry to say that but my mother is like that.

So I felt more comfortable asking the Father to give me a place to stay. And he told me: "No problem, come to house # 15." So I said: All right, then, see you, Father, I said, and I hung up. Then I told the Father [I mean] I told JORGE: Look, the Father is going to help us, thank God. What we need to do

is start finding the way to get over there, let's go there, I told him, because we knew that, even if there were stoppages, there are the peaks up there...there by...by the Bolivar.

So we took...we took the road to go there. And there was a bus there. So...uh... I wasn't even paying attention to it, because I thought that it was going to Tecla. But, not so, it was going to Antigua. So we arrived at Antigua. Uh... and there at the corner, when we were going with the suitcases, we got off and went on the way to my mother's house. My mother was at the corner of the...of the...of the... when two streets intersect, how do you call it?

FR: Intersection...uh...

LB: That's it...ah, well...my mother was at this intersection, looking like that, maybe she was looking at the people, but my mother was like that on the street when she saw me, that we were coming with the luggage. I told her: Mom, look, things are a disaster there. So give me a little room to arrive there while I get organized and can go and see where [I can go], I told her. I talked to father NACHITO, and I'm going there in a little while, I told her. All right, and we went there slowly, slowly, because my mother was suffered from [some health] problems, and we went at her pace to her house.

So there all the people were talking alarmingly about the war and how the war was and that it was all quiet in Antigua, because it was quiet there [in Antigua], nothing like the way it was there. So they were saying that they felt for us. I told them: "Ah, if you felt the war in your own flesh, you wouldn't be happy," I told the people who approached us.

An hour later my mother said: "Look, come, let's eat something." I told her: "No, don't think so much about eating," I told her. "Don't think so much about eating because there is no water and we can't do the dishes," But I was coming to Sulapara. Then...

FR: That was happening there where you were living...

LB: Yes, that's right (ui). So I wasn't even hungry and didn't eat. So I gave something to eat to GERALDINA. So, of course after lunch, I went down, I went down with GERALDINA...uh...and when I knocked on the door of house # 15... because the Father told me to go to house # 15, when I called him on the phone. So I arrived at house # 15, and I was happy because the Father opened after the first time I rang.

FR: The Father was home...

LB: Yes, yes...

FR: Father NACHO.

LB: Yes. But I...since I knew that he was (ui), I told him that I didn't know what time they were going to pick me up, because I was looking for transportation.

FR: House # 15 is at the UCA, right?

LB: At the edge...at the edge...

FR: Please continue...

LB: ...at the edge...so...uh...well...from there... I...uh... then I was happy when the Father opened right away. I told him: Father, good afternoon, forgive me for bothering you. I feel bad [to come] with my personal problems, I told him. "Don't feel bad, that's what we are here for," he told me, "that's what we are here for, to help each other, today it's you, tomorrow it's me. And what's wrong, how are things there?"

Ay, Father, I told him, it's very bad, it's very bad...and...but...I asked him: Is this house all alone [empty]? "Yes," he told me, "we are not here, we don't live here," he told me. So, it was at that time that I saw that the house was all alone [empty]. Within myself I had...I thought that that was his house, but...even if they didn't live there, it was their property.

FR: Exactly.

LB: So, I, as I saw the house all alone [empty], told him: Well, Father, I come to ask you to give me a place to stay, but...and this is all alone [empty], I told him. "Well, here, woman," he told me, "here I'll give you a room. So, see where you like it" Well...I said. And during that time the Father was moving in that direction. [He asked me] if I liked what used to be the chapel of house # 15. It's a room like that...larger than this one. So I told him: No, because... that's a (ui), very cold. So, no, I told him. Then: "Well, come here," he said, and we went into house # 16, which is connected through a door.

And I asked him...well, also...is this all alone [empty] also? I asked him. "Yes, yes, LUCIA," he told me. Then he kept walking that way. Here there are some wires, "I think it's all right here," he told me. Yes, Father, I told him...uh... "If you like it, look, there are two rooms here. See if you like this one or if you like this one." So I said: I like this one, because it belonged to Father JEREZ, a Provincial who was there about eight years ago, just about, I'm not very sure, but he was a Provincial [priest], and he was very good. So his name was Father JEREZ, and that room was his.

So he told me: "Well, all right, woman." Then...but, I told him, I'm only bringing a bedspread, father. But my idea was the bedding... a mattress...

FR: Aha...

LB: Then, "all right," he told me, "there is no problem about that either, just come here. We'll go look for something there." So he already knew that there were one or two small mattresses in only one room, for two beds. So...uh... we got into that place, which only at that time I saw that it was the residence, because I had never been to that house before. Uh... we entered and he opened the door like that...uh... and... "pick that up," he told me, "and pick up the pillow also."

I'll ask you also, Father, I said, to give permission...because... permission to my husband to come in the house, I told him, because he is also coming with me. "Well, then, take the other one," he told me.



FR: Both mattresses...

LB: Yes. "Then... then take the other one," All right, I said. So from there we...well... since we already finished taking the small mattresses, we went back down. And GERALDINA said: "And is a (ui) going?" Ay...uh... you have never...ha...well, she says...says things that she watches on television, cartoons... and the Father...well, liked children very much, and he was talking there about Batman...things...with GERALDINA...well...

FR: Entertaining her...

LB: Yes. But we were already coming back...

FR: Exactly.

LB: ...to the house. So, when we came in again, here in the house, he told me: "And I'm going to get the small mattresses ready." And how can we get in, Father? I asked him. "Well, true," he told me, "we can get a key." And he was looking in this direction. So the [number] plate of house # 16 was on the inside.

FR: Aha.

LB: The key was there. "Look," he told me, "how lucky, take it," he told me. He took it out, "take it," he told me. "What time are you moving into it?" In a little while, Father, I told him, in a little while. But, during all that time, I wasn't worrying at all, because first of all I moved in there because he had given me a place to stay [there].

FR: Exactly, yes.

LB: And...uh... I was happy because he had given me the two small mattresses. So I felt more... more comforted, like...yes, I can say that. So I was feeling like that, very well. Then he asked me what time I was moving in. I told him that I didn't have a time because I was going up again to the village right away, I told him, because I had left some things there. I was talking about the suitcases.

"All right," he said. "Then I'm bringing you a stove," he told me, "a little stove," he said. Yes, father, I said, because I have nothing to cook with. "All right." Then he said: "Look,...uh...what about blankets?...what about blankets?" Ah, I said, I have one for GERALDINA (ui). "Ah," he told me, "then I'll bring you a sheet, then I'll bring you one."

But I noticed that the sheet was like...like...how can I tell you? Because we call sheets blankets...

FR: Aha...

LB: ...but it was...uh... kind of hairy...

FR: OK.

LB: ...what...what can you call it?

FR: Bedspread?

LB: That's it, that's it, not a blanket, not a blanket. So, "well, I'll bring you one." So, all right, I told the Father, but I...uh...I'm...I'm going back, I told him...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...I'm going back now. "All right," he said. So I took the key and I was very happy because I had already found ...I had already found lodgings. And I went to Antigua, and I arrived very happy at my mother's place. And I told my mother that Father NACHITO had given me a place to stay in a house that is all alone [empty]. And I didn't know that. I told my mother that it was there in CHAVEZ (ph) house. "Ah, thank God," she said, "because those are good people," she told me. Yes, I said, we are moving in right away.

So then I told JORGE also about the support I had found with the Father.

FR: Please...

LB: Then...uh... a little while later...a little while later, it must have been maybe a little after 4:00, we went down there with the luggage and opened house # 16. Look, I told him, this way is that room the Father gave me. "Ah, well," he said, "it's nice." Then he said: "Look..." he went to see how I had arranged the...

FR: The small mattresses...

LB: ...the small mattresses. And he was looking, well...like that, we way he has to do things... "(ui) what a big house this is..." Yes, man, very big, I told him...Then, since GERALDINA wanted a soda...uh..."I'm going," he told me, "look," he told me "I'm going to get some sodas around there." Get some candles, I told him, because some nights there was no power. But that's a...an old story with me, I keep getting candles ready, whether the power goes off or not, I keep taking care of that.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Then...uh..."all right," he told me, "what else can I bring?" Bring the candles and the sodas, because this kid keeps bothering. But, as we were on our way going to the house they had...uh... lent to us, I went into a small shop to get bread, instant coffee, eggs...I already had that. All I needed was the soda that the girl was asking me for, and the candles.

So he left, and I stayed sitting at the ...at the door of house # 16, waiting for them to come back. A little after that here was the Father coming with his little radio.

FR: With his what?

LB: A little radio, one bigger than that one. So...and I heard him coming with his noise...so,well, when I saw him, he was entering a room, which he was telling me that it was very cold because the washing sink is there. But I could see well from where I was sitting, because the door was open, the door that

communicates with house # 15. Uh...Father! I said, here I am... "Ah, you came already..." but he had already seen me, because I was sitting at...at...at...at the door.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Right. But that's what I told him...that's what I told him.

FR: And this was Father NACHITO, right?

LB: Yes, Father NACHITO. So...Father! I told him, I'm here. "Ah, you came already. I was bringing you the stove and this bowl, if you need it. If you need pans to cook, come over," he told me. "Or, if you need food, if you are short, come over." He was already bringing me the blanket...he was already bringing me the blanket.

Allow me... I'm trying to remember other things...because, ah, well...right at that time, when, yes...when I told him: Father, here I am, then I ran to him, and he was bringing me the blanket here, the one he was lending me. So, right at that time, just by chance, JORGE was coming that way. And so I told him: Father, here comes my husband. I'm going to introduce you. "Ah, all right." And they greeted each other... they greeted each other. The Father excused himself because the house was dirty because it had been empty for days. "Ah, no problem," said JORGE, "Thank you for the favor you are doing us." "Well, then, I'll see you," he told him, and they just shook hands...they just shook hands. And they greeted each other. [he told him] that he was my husband, and this and that, and so... and the Father left, he left. He left the door that opens to the UCA and I didn't see him again... I didn't see him again.

Then I went in. Well, I said, and... "Look, I didn't get you the candles," [he said]. Ah, I said, in a little while I'm going to the other house, I told him, because (ui). I'm going to see if my aunt is still there, because my aunt works in house # 50.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Yes. So...uh...I'm going to go...I know that my aunt will give me a couple of candles, I said. "All right, then," he said. So I'm going, I said. So, as I was spending some time serving sodas, or I don't know what I was doing there, but I served something. He told me: "If you are going, go later, because, look, it's going to be 6:00." Yes, I said, wait, I'm going, I said, in that mood, because, when I have no problems, I'm like a rabbit jumping and all that, very cheerful. So, wait, I said, I'm going. And so it was already like 5:00 when I knocked on the door, and no...I know a Father opened but I don't know who. Uh... and Father SAENZ was inside...uh...and I asked him: And my aunt isn't here? "Ah, JUANITA already left," he told me. Look, I'm in a pickle, I told him. I don't have any candles for the night, I told him. "Well, here we can give you some," he told me. And he ran to a drawer like this one, and he took three candles out of a roll. "Do you also want matches?" He asked me. Yes, Father, I said. And so... and I'm leaving, I told him, because it's going to be 6:00, I said. I'm leaving, I told him, because that Father is very taciturn.

And I also used to make jokes and talk with the two gentlemen in the Rectory, because they would give me a chance to talk to them.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Right? And so they...I felt like...like...like they were my daddies, like...I had great trust in them, because I would say...I would tell Father NACHO such and such, and I was sure that he would help me. If I told father ASTURILLA, I knew he would help me. I trusted them.

FR: Exactly.

LB: So from there I got to...I got to the point where I went to get the candles.

FR: Right.

LB: ...to the point where I went to get the candles. Then, I came with the candles. And, since it was time to fix something to eat. I wanted to plug the stove but there was no electricity...there was no electricity. So I told him: Look, "Peludo" ["hairy"], because sometimes I don't call him JORGE, I just call him "Peludo." Look, "Peludo", look, I said, we are going to eat all the same, I'll give you some soda with bread, or with the margarine I had brought....from there, what I brought, I said. "Whatever, don't worry," he told me. And so he helped himself. I wasn't hungry. He helped himself, and said: "Let's eat something, let's eat, dear," he told the girl.

So they ate something there. And we looked one way, and we looked the other way, and there was nothing to see. And so when the night was already falling, he told me: "Look, we'd better start getting ready because there is no light. We'd better get ready and go to bed." Yes, man, it's true, I said. Look, and...and with the girl's milk...and so...uh...he told me: "We'll manage somehow."

There were some old newspapers there, and ...we warmed up, in a mug I had borrowed there in Antigua. Not in the mug that the Father had lent me, but in a mug they lent me in Antigua because they saw I was without pans...uh...there with the newspapers...we measured the bottle of water and we warmed it up. The girl had her bottle and she went to sleep.

So we also got ready. I told him: Look, I don't have a pillow to put here against the wall, I said. You stay here, uh... and I'm going ...the girl can stay in the middle, and I'm going to lie down here, I said. The way I was thinking was so that GERALDINA, since she has trouble sleeping, wouldn't...

FR: Sure...

LB: ...wouldn't bump me. There...uh... we had... we had already slept...we had already slept, when we heard... I heard shooting that seemed to be coming from the wood...shooting...ah, my God, I thought, we come from the shooting, and they are in here at the UCA, I thought. And then, I thought...but, in my opinion, I heard it as if it were on the street, when I heard the shooting...and so...and I heard it as if it were inside, inside the UCA, there by the wood.

A little later it was like...like they were going inside ...as if the shooting was inside, but I...and a little later, in a matter of seconds, I could hear it at the house, the residence, their residence, where I had gone to get the small mattresses.

FR: Excuse me...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...what time was this, just about, did you have your watch on then?

LB: No, no...

FR: No, you never looked at the time?

LB: No, I didn't.

FR: OK.

LB: And we didn't light a candle either, because...for fear...

FR: Exactly, exactly. So you woke up with the shooting...

LB: Yes, yes, with the shooting...

FR: ...and then you heard...all right...

LB: And then... and...and then..I heard how, at the residence...at the residence, the residence is their home...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...they were pulling...uh...like when one opens that door, you open it...you close it...one door after the other: Slam! But the shooting wouldn't stop... and we were able to hear that the shooting was already in the house. And so I told JORGE: How strange, JORGE... uh...because the Father commented to me also about that, when I told him how the situation was there in my house, and the moment I...

(end of recording, rest of side one is blank)

DATE: 11/29/89

TAPE #1

PARTICIPANTS: LUCIA BARRERA (LB)

[REDACTED] (FR)

UNKNOWN MAN (UM)

*hrc*

(side two, continuation from side one, tape # 1, dated 11/29/89)

FR: OK, we were at the point where...

LB: Yes, that...

FR: ...the Father had commented to you...

LB: Yes, he commented to me, when I went to ask him for a place to stay. He commented to me...I told him that over there things were going very badly. "They already came here to search," he told me. And...and...and...but...look, Father, I told him, don't you have...any...fear, I told him, with the shooting everywhere? "No," he told me, "they already came here to search," he said, "and the guys were very polite," he told me.

But I asked him that not with double meaning, but out of the affection I felt for them, because I was concerned about them.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Not...not... because people who misinterpret things, could understand something else. But I... because...I was always...in my own way, trying...trying to take care so that nothing bad would happen to them.

FR: So you...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...heard the shots...

LB: The shots, yes...then...uh...

FR: (aside, in English)

*hrc*

FR: I made an interruption with Agent [REDACTED] now we are going to start again.

LB: Hm

FR: We were at the point where you [plural] heard the shooting coming from the wood...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...and, can you go on from there, please?

LB: All right. I woke up with the shooting. I'm like a stone to sleep, but I heard the shooting coming from the wood, they were there, there were just about inside, but I thought they were in the wood. And I said: How strange, they already got in here, too. I'm coming from the shooting and the Father tells me: "There is great peace here." What kind of peace is this here? Because he had told me, when he saw me, that everything was quiet, when I told him that...that it was very dangerous, because there were bursts of shooting everywhere when I went to house # 15.

Then he told me...when he heard...that...that they were knocking on the doors, during that shooting. They were knocking on the doors, they opened and closed the doors, and the shooting was inside the house. I was hearing soft voices ..and...and the Father's voice was quite loud, so I...and I told JORGE: How strange, how strange, JORGE, I told him...uh...the Father told me that they already came to search, and they may be searching right now [I told him].

Then he didn't answer me.

FR: Speak a little louder, please.

LB: Yes, louder? Yes. The thing is that when I'm trying to remember...

FR: I understand.

LB: Yes.

FR: I understand why you are doing it.

LB: Yes. So...so... I was making a comment with JORGE on the fact that the Father had already told me, during the talk we had when I went to ask for a place to stay, that I shouldn't worry, that they had come to search and that the guys had been very polite. So I was surprised that they were knocking on the doors, because...but, in my opinion...I thought, how strange that they are coming to search again the house...the residence, and then JORGE didn't answer me.

And we heard...we heard those soft voices, and we also heard the Father's voice. He was saying other things, but I was able to hear--because I was already wide awake...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...uh...I heard that he was saying other things that I couldn't understand, but he did say that it was an injustice, and that they were trash. I was able to understand that when he shouted I was able to understand whenever he shouted. That's what I was able to hear.

FR: Aha.

LB: From there I heard that they were pushing "chunchas" [stuff, things] around, and... they were moving glass here and there...some [broken] glass on the floor...

FR: What are "chunchas"?

LB: Uh...glass...like...

FR: Things...

LB: Yes...yes...like broken stuff...they were moving all that here and there. But I heard it, I heard that. And I was there all quiet, very frightened. After that, a little while afterwards, a bomb thundered that startled me, and a little after that, another bomb. And then everything was very quiet as if nothing had happened.

Well, all I was thinking was that I wanted to know what had happened.

FR: Where were you when these events were taking place?

LB: I was in bed.

FR: You were in bed.

LB: Yes, I was in bed. But I did hear.

FR: OK. Please continue.

LB: And, well, I imagined the worst...uh...well, then I...as everything was quiet, I went back to sleep...and at about 5:30 I woke up because I had a nightmare. I saw the Father standing at the door, laughing. That startled me...the fact that...that I saw him standing at the door. So I woke up.

FR: Excuse me...

LB: Yes.

FR: Uh...for interrupting. After the two...the two bombs exploded...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...like you said...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...you didn't hear anything else?

LB: It was [all] quiet.

FR: Quiet. You didn't hear the persons leave the place?

LB: No, quiet, quiet



FR: You didn't hear any vehicle?

LB: Nothing, nothing.

FR: Or a person, maybe, getting in...

LB: Nothing, nothing. What I was...wondering...that...I thought...when I heard the shooting coming from the wood, I heard only one kind of noise, they were shooting and making only one kind of noise. I thought: How strange, this isn't an encounter.

FR: Aha.

LB: Because I had already heard in Soyapan, by my house, how it is when they encounter each other.

FR: Exactly. But there you only heard one shot.

LB: Yes, one shot. Well...as it were one kind...no, not just one, no...

FR: Yes, no, but...

LB: One kind of shooting, that is.

FR: Exactly, very well. When...when you heard the shooting in the house, were you still hearing the shooting from afar, as if they were still shooting in the wood?

LB: Allow me. Frankly I don't remember.

FR: OK.

LB: But the shooting was in the house.

FR: You heard she shots in the woods, and then gradually...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...you started to hear the shots in the house...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...in the rooms...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...of the priests.

LB: That they were shooting and knocking on the doors.

FR: You didn't hear, before that shooting started, because you were already awake, you woke up...

LB: Yes, yes, yes.

FR: ...with the shooting in the wood.

LB: Yes.

FR: You didn't hear any vehicle arriving...

LB: No, no, nothing like that...

FR: ~ It was that, all of a sudden, you started to hear...

LB: Yes, yes.

FR: ...doors opening and closing...

LB: Yes...uh...no...

FR: ...and shooting in the house.

LB: Yes. So when I heard the loud noise I told JORGE: Listen, I said, and this is up there at the fathers' place, ahhh, but...but...the Father already told me that they came to search the place...

FR: OK, very well. Let's then...you woke up at about 5:30 a.m....

LB: Yes, because of the nightmare I had.

FR: Exactly. Please continue.

LB: Then, at that point, I didn't get up alone but JORGE got up with me...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...that's something that I want to rectify, because I took your advice to remember and to remember and to remember minor things that I might think are not important, but in reality they are important.

FR: Continue.

LB: So...uh...well... I told JORGE, or I didn't tell him anything. So we went to the room next to ours, which was open, and I told him: Look, that...that door is open, and yesterday it was locked, because the Father opened...opened with a key, so that that door was kept closed, and today it's wide open.

"That's true," he said. So, well...that's the way I am, right? So I left him there in the room and, well, went to do my...to do my...uh...this and that, well, then...and wash up, well, since you say I shouldn't lie, right? So...

FR: Yes.

LB: Yes...

FR: All right.

LB: So then, well, I went to the bathroom. So when I came out of the bathroom, I heard some voices coming from the other side of the...of the window, and JORGE was standing by the window [in the room] where we had slept and I asked him: Who are those? Who's that? He said: The "cheros"...

FR: The what?

LB: The "cheros"...the...the night watchmen...

FR: Security people...

LB: Yes. But so...then I approached them there. Hello, I said, hello, how are you? Because they are friends of mine. They are fellow workers. I know them...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...they are policemen. So, hello, how are things? I told them. "They are bad," he told me, "this is," speaking with your permission, "this is screwed up. It's only by a miracle that we were saved." And I saw the blond one looking even more nervous...yes...the one (ui) I saw him looking even more nervous. So he said...no, well...those men didn't say anything else. "Are you going to let us in?" He said. Well, all right, come in, I told him. But, I told them that, and then I said to JORGE: Let's go see, I told him, let's go see, let's go to the house. "Yes, man, wait," he told me, "let's go."

So we went with GERALDINA and all that and went to the house.

FR: What house?

LB: To the residence, where the shooting took place.

FR: Aha.

LB: Where the shooting took place. So I saw two women standing at the first door. I saw two women, one at one side and the other in front of it, and I saw that there was a small bed with bullet holes in it [this portion is very unclear].

FR: Aha, continue please.

LB: And in the other...the other room, which is also nearby, uh...there was a table with some dishes on it. So I understood that that was the dining room...and...and from there...well...already with some suspicion, I walked in that direction, and I saw a room with some furniture. Some furniture...some furniture, I couldn't tell you the color, but some furniture. And so I saw... I saw the bundle there...I saw the blue bundle, with the head, and I recognized the ...the...the...the Father's head, ahhhh...

FR: What Father?

LB: Father NACHO. Then JORGE told me: "Go back," he told me, "I don't want the girl to see these things." So and...and... and I went still a little further that way, and I saw a white head, but I didn't see whose it was. And I went

back there, like JORGE told me, to the door that was wide open. I stayed there waiting for him.

A moment later came one of the policemen who had been talking with JORGE at the window and he went inside with JORGE to see all the way up the steps. And so I was still... come, I told him, come...I told him. I was...uh... because I was quite restless, if I wasn't seeing anything, and I was scared, so...come, man, I said. So he came.

FR: What's the name of the man who went inside with JORGE?

LB: Uh... his name is ADAN...

FR: ADAN...

LB: Yes, ADAN PEREIRA.

FR: PEREIRA...

LB: They went inside to see the dead.

FR: OK, at the beginning you told me that there were several of them.

LB: Yes.

FR: Who was the other one?

LB: The other one...but they didn't go inside, but they were at the window.

FR: Exactly, who was the other one?

LB: One of them is RAMON BASAN.

FR: Aha.

LB: Shall I tell you the other one?

FR: Please.

LB: Uh...the other one's name is INDALECIO. I don't know his last name. But he is INDALECIO, one of the policemen.

FR: OK.

LB: Uh...uh...the other one...ah! The one who calls my husband "Chelon" [blond], but his name is BALMORIS.

FR: What?

LB: BALMORIS.

FR: BALMORIS...

LB: Yes, BALMORIS.

FR: That's his last name or...

LB: No, BALMORIS is his first name. That's the one some people call MORIS.

FR: MORIS.

LB: And those who don't know [his name] call him MAURICIO.

FR: BALMORIS...

LB: Yes, BALMORIS, but I don't know his last name. Those were the four policemen who came to the window in the morning.

FR: They are ADAN PEREIRA, RAMON BASAN, INDALECIO, you don't know his last name...

LB: No.

FR: ...BALMORIS, you don't know his last name either.

LB: Yes, only his first name.

FR: OK. Uh...

LB: And...and...and ADAN was the one who went inside with JORGE, because we were already there, but I came back halfway because JORGE told me that GERALDINA shouldn't see those things.

FR: Aha.

LB: So I tried to cover her, as I was walking, with my dress, like that, covering her, covering her, so that the girl wouldn't see. That's why she was saying: "At the Fathers' house there were some buffaloes," she said. But she was lying on the ground and couldn't see very well.

FR: That's good. All right, when you left...you didn't go inside anymore...

LB: Yes, then I said: Come...come...so when we came to my place--he listened to me and came--when he came I told him: I'm going to notify right away, I told him, to house # 50 where the (ui) is.

FR: Was there any light when you [plural] went there?

LB: No, because...no...no...

FR: At 10:00 p.m.?

LB: No, it was 6:00 a.m.

FR: It was about 6:00 when you went by.

LB: Yes, yes.

FR: All right.

LB: Yes. So there wasn't...it was already daylight.

FR: How do you know it was 6:00?

LB: Because I got up at 5:30. We were waiting for the curfew to end.

FR: So then you looked at your watch to...

LB: At...at...yes, just about...

FR: OK.

LB: ...sure...just about...

FR: All right.

LB: So...uh... and...when I told JORGE: I'm going to notify, I'm going to tell Father IBIS (ph). I didn't say "house # 50," but: I'm going to Father IBIS' place to notify .

FR: Aha.

LB: "Go, then," he told me, "go." So I went running...running to notify...I went to notify. That was when, as I said, Father PEDROSA was there, who opened the door, and the other two Fathers there...

FR: No, no...you went and knocked on house # 50, and what Father opened the door?

LB: Father PEDROSA...and JORGE...they stayed behind waiting in the...

FR: In the house...

LB: ...in the garage, yes, in the garage of house # 16.

FR: So when you were there, did you tell Father PEDROSA what you had seen?

LB: I came in, because he told me: "How are you?" Good morning, Father, I said. "How are you, LUCIA?" Very badly, I told him, the Fathers...the Fathers... I said, they have killed the Fathers. Go see that right away! I told him.

FR: Who else listened to that conversation with Father PEDROSA?

LB: Uh...the two... the two Fathers who were there.

FR: Yes. Who were the other two?

LB: And...and the short man who was at the door.

FR: But who was that?

LB: He said ...that he felt sorry about was his wife and his daughter, and that he got saved only by God's miracle, because he was in a room.

FR: Excuse me, maybe you didn't understand me. Besides Father PEDROSA, who was on Street ["calle," probably "house," "casa," was meant] # 50 who heard this conversation ...

LB: Ah...

FR: ...with...with...with Father PEDROSA... Father PEDROSA?...

LB: Yes, I went inside, I went inside. Father PEDROSA opened the door...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...so I went inside, because I have familiarity with them...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...uh...and: Good morning, I told the two Fathers who were there.

FR: Who were the two Fathers?

LB: Father SANCHEZ and Father ESTRADA.

FR: OK. Continue, please.

LB: So...I told him: Father! I told him...poor...poor Fathers..."Yes, LUCIA," [he said]. But they were livid, they were livid. But, the way it seemed to be, that...that man had already been there to tell them.

FR: OK. What did that man look like? Can you describe him for me?

LB: Looked...very humble ...

FR: Aha.

LB: He looked very humble.

FR: An elderly man or...

LB: Elderly...

FR: How...how old?

LB: Like my husband, maybe...

FR: Aha.

LB: Humble-looking man...So, after...the Father was leaving, and that these [other priests] were staying, Father ESTRADA told me...

FR: Excuse me...

LB: Yes.

FR: ..let's wait...let's go on...

LB: Yes.

FR: So you told the Fathers...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...the fact that you had gone...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...to the Fathers' rooms...

LB: ...to see...

FR: ...and that you had seen the Fathers...

LB: ...the shooting...last night the shooting was there, Father...

FR: ...and you told them the situation...

LB: ...the shooting was there, Father, I told him. So...

FR: You told him that you had... that you had heard the shooting?

LB: Yes, the shooting, yes. The shooting was there, Father. My god, I told him, and what are you going to do with all this? And the Fathers? I asked him. Then, "look, LUCIA," he told me, "right now we can give you no protection." Ah, you already knew that I was there in house # 16? "Yes, we already knew it," he said. That is, they talked about it.

FR: OK.

LB: At a certain moment they talked about all that.

FR: Did you at any time tell...tell Father PEDROSA, Father ESTRADA, Father SAENZ that you had seen something? That you had seen soldiers?

LB: No, I only told him that the shooting had taken place there, and that I had...I was coming from the inside house.

FR: OK. Please continue.

LB: Yes...from the inside house, and I was coming to tell them to go see.

FR: Aha. OK, so, after you told him, what did you do?

LB: Then Father ESTRADA told me: "Right now we can't give you a place at the Curia or here with us because we are in great danger. Watch where you are (ui). And control yourself so that people won't see that you are crying, because you know how people are," he told me, the Father told me.



FR: Aha.

LB: So I tried to control myself, and at that moment I saw the man standing there. And just like that, with the utmost calm, the man said: "I was saved just by pure miracle, because I was in a room downstairs. But I'm sorry about my wife and my daughter."

So then I didn't even pay attention to what the man was saying...uh... and I went running to the house where JORGE was waiting for me with the girl. So they were in the garage.

FR: Aha.

LB: They were in the garage waiting for me.

FR: Wait, what's the "garage" [Spanish: "cochera"]?

UM: Where they keep the vehicles.

LB: I told him: Look, look, the Fathers can no longer help me, I told him. No way, I told him. I'm going to take my things to my mother's.

FR: Aha.

LB: I told him. No way, I have no other... no other alternative or other way out. Let's pack up and go, I told him. "Well, yes," he told me, "what can we do?" He told me. So we did so, and I took the two small mattresses... I took the things that the Father gave me.

FR: OK. Are those things still at your mother's house?

LB: Yes, yes, those things are still there. I took them there.

FR: OK. So that was on a Thursday...

LB: Thursday morning...

FR: ... and you went [there] and went back... a Thursday morning...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...you went back to your mother's house.

LB: Yes, we went back to Antigua.

FR: So, when you went back to your mother's house, whom did you tell that you had seen...what you had heard, what you had seen?

LB: She was surprised...

FR: OK.

LB: ...because the first one to arrive was JORGE, who was going with the ...the small mattresses...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...jumping up and down. And I was carrying a briefcase that was very heavy, because I was carrying a lot of nickel.

FR: Aha. All right. Whom... when you arrived at your mother's house, whom did you tell the story that you... uh...whom did you tell what you had heard...what you had seen?

LB: My mother.

FR: Your mother. Anybody else?

LB: I told her: Mom, look, look what a disgrace, Mom. Look, this happened to Father NACHITO, I told her.  
And so my mother told me: "What a pity. And you were going there so happy yesterday."

FR: But did you ever tell you mother that you had seen anything?

LB: No.

FR: OK.

LB: I told her about the shooting there...about the shooting that there was last night, I told her.

FR: [You told her] that you had heard that.

LB: Yes.

FR: OK.

LB: About the shooting that there was last night, I told her.

FR: What's your mother's name?

LB: DOLORES BARRERA.

FR: OK. Uh... what's her address there? You don't know?

LB: Look...no...all I know is that, from the store that is there, [she is on] a passage opposite to it.

FR: All right.

LB: At the end [of it].

FR: Did you tell anybody else what you had seen?

LB: What I had heard?

FR: What you had heard.

LB: Yes.

FR: Whom?

LB: What I had heard...uh...a few days went by...there...

FR: Aha.

LB: .. and so I told my mother what I had heard, and she told me: "Well, then, if that...if you had known that, you wouldn't have gone back there with the luggage. You would just have stayed,"...

FR: Aha.

LB: ... she told me. Well, yes, Mom, but who can know how things are? I told her. I got there...uh...she offered me... she offered me food. "Eat," she said.

FR: Aha.

LB: No, I told her, I'm not hungry. Maybe they would like to eat, I said. Don't think so much about eating, I told her.

FR: Aha.

LB: If you [plural] felt the war in your own flesh, I told her...

FR: Exactly.

LB: You wouldn't be thinking only about food. Since here everything is very quiet, you can't feel what war is like....

FR: Exactly.

LB: I told her.

FR: Well, did you tell anybody else what you had seen...what you had heard?

LB: My mother.

FR: And who else?

LB: The thing is that there were only kids...kids around.

FR: But during... Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, did you talk to anybody else about what had happened?

LB: Uh...my brother, I don't know...

FR: What's your brother's name?

LB: ...I don't know whether he got there Saturday or Sunday...

FR: Hm...

LB: ...I'm not aware of that. When he came... and I was around there washing some dishes...uh.."Hello," he said. Hello, man, I said. Then I told my brother: I'll be right there...uh... when you [plural] (ui) here, I went over there...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...and he told me: "Look...look," he told me...uh..."the Fathers you know" he told me... "look, it's in the news"...yes, man, I said.

FR: And so you told him...

LB: Yes, then...

FR: ...what you had heard.

LB: ...what I had heard.

FR: What's your brother's name?

LB: OSCAR BARRERO. So he told me: "Well, and you were there?" He told me. Not in their house, man. I was in the house this side, the one they had left, I told him.

FR: Aha.

LB: And I heard, I told him, the shooting.

FR: Very well.

LB: I told my brother.

FR: Did you tell anybody else?

LB: No, I only told him, my brother.

FR: So... during those days, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday...nobody else...

LB: But he came...I don't know whether it was Saturday or Sunday.

FR: Very well.

LB: One of those two days.

FR: Monday morning...

LB: Everything was quiet in Antigua. So I told JORGE on Sunday night: Look, I said, tomorrow I'm going down there...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...to see if it's open, and if it isn't, well, I'm going to the Curia, because I haven't gone all this week, I told him. It was because of the war but here everything is quiet today. I'm going there after breakfast ...

FR: OK.

LB: ...I told him. I saw [the situation] very quiet without being there...that... because it was already...(ui) only of what (ui) was, right? [unclear] Because I knew that, whatever time I arrived there, and finished my job, I would [just] go, and that was that. I didn't have a fixed schedule.

FR: So you went to the Curia Monday morning.

LB: Yes, I got there shortly after 8:00...shortly after 8:00.

FR: The Curia... we are talking about the house that is...house # 9.

LB: That's right.

FR: OK. What happened when you arrived at the Curia?

LB: Brother FRANCISCO was there, talking...[sitting] at a table where there was a phone.

FR: What's Brother FRANCISCO's [last] name?

LB: AZURZA (ph).

FR: OK. And what happened?

LB: Then... and I told him... and I... since I knew that he was severe...I told him: Brother, today I'm going to hang your curtains. "They are very wrinkled," he told me. Yes, I told him, but I'm going to hang them. So I put my bag in there and picked up a plastic bag to start getting the garbage out. I was doing that, when Father CHEMA opened the oor.

FR: What's Father CHEMA's name?

LB: JOSE MARIA.

FR: JOSE MARIA what?

LB: TOJEIRA.

FR: OK, Father TOJEIRA opened the door...

LB: He opened the door and he told me: "LUCIA," he told me. Yes, Father, I told him, what can I do for you? What can I do for you? "Look," he told me, "come in here." Ah, all right, I said. And I saw that the lady was sitting on the sofa.

FR: A lady?

LB: Yes, there was a lady sitting there. He introduced her to me and told me: "Look, LUCIA, this is MARIA JULIA... MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ," he said.

Uh... you can talk with her, he told me, about what you have heard or what you have seen," Ah, really, I said. Look, I told her, I have seen you on TV. Because that was the first time I ...I met her there.

FR: Hm.

LB: And I told him that I had seen her on TV, because it's true.

FR: And so you told her the... the...

LB: And so I told her: I don't have much to tell, madam, I told her, or Licenciada ["Licenciada" is a college graduate. In this case, a legal expert]...uh...look, I told her, I only heard, I said, I heard that they were shooting in the house, that they were knocking on the doors here and there.

FR: Aha.

LB: And I was paying much attention.

FR: So you told her what you had heard.

LB: Yes, what I had heard.

FR: Aha. What happened then?

LB: Then...uh... and I heard, I told her, Father NACHITO speaking, I told her. But there were other, softer, voices, but I didn't recognize them.

FR: Where was Father TOJEIRA then?

LB: He had left.

FR: He had left the office.

LB: Yes, yes, yes.

FR: CK. Continue.

LB: Then... and I was commenting, telling her the things...

FR: Aha.

LB: ... what I had heard... and that they were pulling this and pulling that, and that I was able to hear the Father's voice. Those two things.

FR: Aha.

LB: Then... "well," she asked me, "and where were you?" she asked me. In house # 16. "Where is that?" [she asked] Then, there, I said, there. Then she told me: "Let's go, let's go now." She told the Brother: "Look, Brother, I'm going there," she told him. "Come with us."

FR: [That is] MARIA...MARIA JULIA ...

LB: Yes...

FR: ...talking to the Brother...

LB: Yes...yes. Then [she said] "Come with us. We are going to the house there...house # 16, as she is saying," MARIA JULIA said.

FR: Aha...

LB: Then...

FR: Continue, please.

LB: Yes. Then MARIA JULIA got...got into a small white car, the Brother was with her, and I was in the back seat.

FR: OK.

LB: Yes... and we went to house # 16. And they said: "Well, how are we going to open the door?" Well, I have the key the Father gave me, I said. So I tried to open, I wanted to open, and I couldn't. I couldn't. So, look, I said, maybe they have drawn the bolts that the door has [on the other side].

FR: Aha.

LB: "Well," said the Brother, "I'll try with my keys to see if any of mine works." And we moved into the little garden like that, and he opened the door of house # 15.

FR: Yes.

LB: Uh... then, what I don't remember is whether MARIA JULIA entered next or I did. I don't remember that.

FR: All right.

LB: But I do [remember] that we entered. Then...uh...it's this way, I said, it's this way, Licenciada, I told her, this is the room I had. You can see, I told her, why I couldn't open that door. It has two bolts, I told her. So, "show me," she said. And she went there...there where I was showing her. This is the little room, I told her, where we slept. "Aha," she said. Look, I said, here... these papers that are still here, this is where we heated up water last night for...for the girl's bottle.

FR: Not last night, last Wednesday.

LB: Ah, yes...

FR: Exactly.

LB: Yes. So, these are the papers we burned, I told her. Then she told me: "Look"... she went... she saw the windows we had in that room...

FR: Aha.

LB: ... that open right to the...the chapel...behind the chapel. From there she went there to the other room, and I sat down on a plank that is there, which I had used for a table...on...the night... Wednesday evening...

FR: Yes, exactly.

LB: So...from there... "ah, from here one can see well," she said. One cannot see everything, but a part, I said.

(end of side two)



DATE: 11/29/89

TAPE # 2

PARTICIPANTS: LUCIA BARRERA (LB)  
[REDACTED] (FR)

*LB*

(continuation from tape # 1, dated 11/29/89)

FR: OK, now we are going to continue. This is the second cassette...uh...we were talking before about the fact that you were with Licenciada [legal expert] MARIA JULIA in house...in house # 16...

LB: Yes, yes.

FR: ...you may continue from there.

LB: Yes. When she told me to show her...

FR: To...to...

LB: ...yes, that when...

FR: ...that she was looking through the window...

LB: Yes, yes, yes...that... from the Curia we came...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...to house #16...

FR: Exactly.

LB: ...and we entered [house] # 15, because the bolts of # 16 were drawn...

FR: Exactly.

LB: So we went inside. This is the room, I told her.

FR: Aha.

LB: Then she opened the curtains like that, and she saw the chapel's wall. Then she went to the other room, checking things around as she was looking into the bathroom... uh... and...uh...and...and...she went there to the window. "But from here one can see something," she said, "from here one can see something." Well, I told her, not much, because it's covered, I told her, it's covered. "No, look well...for, look," she told me, "for"... with a verbosity that I couldn't describe. Uh..."for justice to be served...for justice to be served," she told me, "not only what you told me, or what you have heard. Because, for justice to be served and continue the investigation, you have to (ui) that you have seen the soldiers" And how could I say that? "Well, that you saw the

soldiers, that you saw five men, that you saw five men. Two...since there is a full moon," she told me. "So, say that the moon lit them up for you." And the other ones? I asked her. "Well, that you saw them in another color. But...but that always...they are not like that." That's what she told me.

"So, say that you did. And so from there, where you say... where you say that you heard the Father saying that it was an injustice, and that it was trash, then, don't say that it was...that it is an injustice and that it is trash. Say that you heard that it was a great injustice."

That is, she was telling me to say that. To say that I had heard that it was a great injustice, but I hadn't heard about the "great" bit, but "an injustice."

FR: OK.

LB: Then, "and say," she told me, "that the men went inside. The Father no longer spoke." Look...look, I told her, frankly I would never say those things, I told her. And then: "But, if you want to help them," she told me. But with such a soft voice. "You want to help them to throw light on this matter. The poor Fathers, but if you just say that you only heard, they won't listen to you," she told me.

Look, I told her, I don't know what to think. And I sat down again on that plank, which I had used for a table. I don't know what to think, I said. "It's only just a little bit like that, only like that...and so you will give importance to it, so that they may investigate that. You, at every point, say that it was the soldiers."

Then I...look, I told her, I...I don't know what... I don't know, I told her, because that...that...that...that [situation] is very bad, I told her. "But if...if you don't say that, justice will not be served. Go, dear," and she went like that [meaning, she gestured]. "Don't be afraid." Then I...I said... I had never testified or got involved in this big...these big messes, so I thought that...if you tell me such a thing, and I come to help, then the matter can be solved.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Then...uh...

FR: Did you discuss what window was going to be used?

LB: Yes, the one in this room only...

FR: Because...

LB: ...the...the...she told me to...to say I had seen from there.

FR: Because from the other room one couldn't see.

LB: No, she didn't mention that.

FR: OK. What happened then?

LB: Then...she said: "You only [have] to say that little bit, and they will listen to you," she told me, "they will get interested in the ...in the investigation; since you loved the Fathers so much, they have to find out"...

FR: (interrupts) Where was...

LB: ...I told her then, the truth, I told her, you may be speaking the truth, I said. But...she was talking with such sincerity...

FR: Aha.

LB: That...that I thought that, in fact, we could do that.

FR: Where was Brother AZURZA (ph)...AZURZA (ph)?

LB: He had stayed in...in [house] # 15.

FR: Aha.

LB: Kind of outside. Since he is already old, so whatever happens, whatever comes up, he starts to talk.

FR: Please continue.

LB: Then...still...ah, well, she had already persuaded me to say those things, because she said that they were going to see to it that justice be served. And if I said that I would be giving credit to what I had heard. ...

FR: Hm...

LB: ...then...uh...the Brother was closing the door at that moment, as we were coming...

FR: (interrupts) You moved into house # 15...

LB: ...yes...into house # 15, and the Brother was coming through the door and closing it when somebody knocked on the door. "Aha", he said, "Who's that?" the way he has [of speaking]. Then he was told the name maybe of those gentlemen, and he closed the door a little, yes, he closed it, and said: "They are looking for you, MARIA JULIA."

So then she told me to move over so that those who were coming wouldn't see me. "Move over that way," she told me. And she moved this way toward the shelves, as they knocked again on the door, and the Brother opened again, and told her: "They are looking for you, MARIA JULIA."

Then she saw them like that and said: "Ah, come on in, come on in." This was a dark man, wearing sky blue clothes. Then she told me, the...

FR: Was it only one man?

LB: No, two. They were a man and a big boy.

FR: Aha.

LB: Then...uh... MARIA JULIA told me: "Look, LUCIA, like this, the way we talked, explain it to the gentleman. He is a lawyer," she told me, "he is a lawyer." Then...I...I had dealt with lawyers [only] when I got married. That matter was very different. So...

FR: Exactly.

LB: Yes. So...uh...and I was, like that, between fear and distrust, since she told me to tell him, so "just like we talked," she told me, "tell...tell everything to the gentleman there," she said. All right, I said. Then, uh...afterwards...I told him the matter and how I had...I didn't tell him that the Licenciada had convinced me.

FR: No, exactly. You told him what you had...

LB: Yes...

FR: ...you had...

LB: Well, yes, sure...

FR: ...you had reached an agreement.

LB: Well, yes, because she said that, with that little bit they would get interested in the matter. Because with only hearing the matter was not interesting.

FR: All right.

LB: That wasn't interesting. So then... uh...well, after I told that gentleman that...uh...and they still hadn't...uh...uh...and the Brother... as I stayed, as MARIA JULIA left me talking with that...with those two gentlemen, they were both writing on the floor...uh... MARIA JULIA went to the little yard that house # 15 has, next to the...to the UCA. But there is another wall, you understand? It isn't outside...it isn't outside house # 15, but it is, as it were, a yard in between, yes...

FR: Yes, yes.

LB: Then since there is a large window, made up of about three long window panes...

FR: Aha.

LB: One can see well outside from inside. And I saw that what that lady was talking with the Brother was unfounded, because, yes, the Brother got to talking there, but those were things with no basis, nothing like what we had been talking there in the room, it was unfounded...

FR: And you were noticing that while you were giving...

LB: Yes, I was telling him what she told me...

FR: ...telling...exactly...

LB: ...what she...yes...

FR: ...the lawyer...

LB: Yes, what she told me and what I had heard.

FR: When that finished, what happened?

LB: Then...uh...well, I stayed...I got up because I was tired of sitting on the step...uh... and we still weren't walking, they hadn't dismissed me...uh...and she told me...and... "look, Brother," she told him, we have to send her to...to the embassy. So, in my mind...in my mind, since they hadn't told me these things, I got scared...

FR: Aha.

LB: I got scared...and so... where? I asked her, where are you going to send me? My husband is waiting for me and my child, too, I told her. Then... "no, they can go and get them," she told me. But the thing is that, without me, he is not going to leave, because he doesn't know the people. "Well, you can go and get them"... and just at that moment Father PEDRAZA was coming, when I was already there, when they had already decided to take me.

FR: The Brother was still there?

LB: Yes, he was still there.

FR: The white car was still there, or couldn't you see the car... the little white car?

LB: No...no, I didn't see the car. I saw it when I got out. Then...uh...I told her that JORGE wouldn't leave without me because, in my opinion, it was always with the fact that... we would go to such and such a place, but, like that, just because some strange people might come [to get him], he wouldn't move.

Then, "let's go, let's go now" because that's the way Father PEDRAZA speaks, and he was getting tired, "let's go, let's go, let's go," he said. So, "are you...are you going, MARIA JULIA?" He said. "yes," she said, "take her to the embassy." So, when we went by Plaza del Sol and...uh... by the Colonial movie theatre, I was telling them to turn in the direction of Antigua because...I didn't owe anything, so I could go tell JORGE that, if they were taking me to such and such a place, he should come with me. But that's something I was thinking. Father PEDRAZA was going with me. And, driving the car, was a man with glasses who is I don't know what in the embassy, but he is not a driver.

When I got out of house # 15...he told me: "It is necessary, what all that you told the gentleman there, it is necessary to give you protection [security]." Well, I thought, why protection? I said to myself, why protection? My mother [unclear] hasn't done done anything. I can walk everywhere, I said to myself.

FR: Yes.

LB: Then: "Well, get in," he told me, "get in," Father PEDRAZA told me, "and let's go." MARIA JULIA stayed in house # 15. That day...

FR: So you went ...went to the embassy...

LB: Yes, I went to the embassy, yes, I went to the embassy. Two gentlemen were at the door, when he arrived with me, when the car arrived with me and the Father. Then the Father greeted them, and I also greeted them, but "good afternoon, excuse me," I didn't shake hands, because I wasn't introduced, but "good afternoon, excuse me," The Father did shake hands with the two gentlemen with glasses at the door.

From there they took me...we went up a few steps...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...we went up a few steps...and there was a room there with a very nice bed, and on a corner there was like a little lounge.

FR: Aha.

LB: Like a little lounge, small. Well, the Father was going in and out, Father PEDRAZA, was going in and out...uh...a little later, when I went inside the embassy, I saw, since I didn't know [the place], I thought it was that way but, no, it was this way, so I got in there and saw a group of gentlemen who were talking about I don't know what. But "no," they told me, "no," they told me.

Then they took me up...the Father took me up...the Father took me up with another person, but what I don't remember is whether [this other person] was one of the men with glasses or a concierge, I don't remember that. But I did go upstairs... I did go upstairs to the room with the Father.

So I stayed there...I stayed and stayed. A little later the two...two gentlemen with glasses came in...uh...and, a little later, Father PEDRAZA, who started to talk with the gentlemen with glasses, and he told them that...that, a few days earlier, he had had...he had an argument with the ambassador.

FR: Yes, I understand.

LB: Yes. Then...but since I had nothing to do with that, I didn't pay any attention to them, because the talk was not with me.

FR: When did JORGE and the girl get there?

LB: A little later.

FR: All right.

LB: A little later, but...

FR: What happened then?

LB: Yes. Then, shortly after he [JORGE] came, the ambassador arrived...uh... shortly after that Father CHEMA arrived. Uh... and the ambassador said that, in his opinion, I should leave immediately.

FR: Going where?

LB: Well, they said that I should leave.

FR: The country.

LB: Yes. Maybe so. That I should leave, because they didn't specify to me where I would be going...

FR: All right.

LB: That I should leave. Then I told the Father: Look, Father, I told him, JORGE, unless it is a piece of paper [unless he receives a message from me]...ah, and he, "look," he told me, "and of your family, who knows there where you are living right now?" My Aunt JUANA, I told him, the one who works at Father IBIS' (ph) house. Ah, then, but I'm going to send her a piece of paper, and you give it to her, I told him. Go there to my aunt's, I told him, and tell her to give this piece of paper to JORGE. Then, "all right," he told me.

FR: That is, you sent for JORGE after you arrived at the embassy.

LB: Yes, yes, and...and I heard the talk they were having there. And...and I was thinking, they are going to send me, and where are they going to send me? I thought. Uh...and when Father TOJEIDA arrived, shortly after the ambassador, father TOJEIDA arrived, and they started to talk about...about the situation, but MARIA JULIA had stayed in house # 15...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...when they sent me to...to the embassy.

FR: Yes, exactly.

LB: Then Father CHEMA arrived.

FR: OK, the Father arrived... we are at the embassy...

LB: Yes.

FR: After you arrived...

LB: Yes, then...

FR: Yes.

LB: ... Father CHEMA arrived and they greeted each other. "How is this?" And... "well, the problem is with LUCIA," said the Father. "The problem, look"... "well," he said, "what I think is...that... we need to get her out as soon as possible," said...said the ambassador. Then... and Father CHEMA said: "No, the best thing is that she talk to the law here," he said.

FR: Aha.

LB: "Let her talk to the law here," he said. So, by that time, I wasn't feeling well, I wasn't feeling cheerful, I didn't feel cheerful. Then...uh... a little later...uh... I went down to the kitchen to see if there was something to eat.

FR: Yes.

LB: So I went to the kitchen to ask...uh... when, then, as I was in the kitchen, Father PEDRAZA came in, because he had already gone to get JORGE. Uh... and he told me: "They are already there." Ah, all right, [I said], and I went back to the room upstairs.

And I asked him: Did they go get you? "Yes, man, I'm puzzled by all this" he told me. Who knows, I told him, who knows, but, look, I...I don't understand, I told him. Let's be patient, I told JORGE, because since he was already there, the girl was already there, and.. and there they had told me that they were going to give me protection [security], and that I didn't have to worry.

FR: Aha.

LB: A little later, I don't remember whether it was the father or a concierge...or the ambassador, who said that they were going to take us to a room downstairs with two beds, because there were three of us, and that for GERALDINA that room was better. Uh...all right, it was good because... for me it was good, well... to be taken down there...uh...and that...Father CHEMA told me that the next day a judge was coming. I spent the whole day waiting for the judge.

But the next day there was a lot of shooting there in that Colonia [neighborhood].

FR: Exactly.

LB: Yes, uh...and...no, the whole day went by and...

FR: He didn't come.

LB: The man didn't...didn't come.

FR: Anybody else came to visit you on Tuesday?

LB: No, on Wednesday...uh...MARIA JULIA came to visit me.

FR: She came to the embassy to see you?

LB: Yes, yes, but at about noon. Uh...and...she told me to fix myself up, like she had told me in the Curia, uh...because they were going to take some pictures...uh...what pictures? I asked her, and what for? Uh..."you [plural] are going to leave the country." And ...and I told JORGE ...look what she told me...that's what she told me, JORGE. He didn't answer me. So, a little later...



FR: Was JORGE there when you were with...

LB: Yes, when MARIA JULIA came...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...when the Licenciada came. Then...uh... she sat on my bed...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...and from an attaché case of that color she took out some papers. Then JORGE left to take care of GERALDINA because she didn't let me talk, and the Licenciada told me to fix myself up because they were going to take some pictures for a passport, because I was going to leave the country.

Then, well, I did what she told me and went to fix myself up... to fix myself up. "Come," she told me, "before you do that I'm going to read you [something]." And she took out...a typewritten [piece of paper], and she read it to me. So that...

FR: What did she read to you?

LB: What I had told the lawyer.

FR: In Street # 15...

LB: In...in house # 15.

FR: In house # 15, all right.

LB: Yes, in house # 15. Uh...and... allow me...so I went to fix myself up, like...like she had told me to fix myself up and get good looking, like she had told me in the Curia.

FR: The piece of paper that she got out of the attaché case...

LB: Aha.

FR: ... what was on that piece of paper?

LB: I was able to read the large print.

FR: What was that?

LB: It read: "Legal Custody."

FR: "Legal Custody."

LB: Yes, because she sat down by me, that's how I saw it.

FR: And what...

LB: But it was typewritten, they had typewritten everything.

FR: So she read it, she read it to you.

LB: Yes, she read it to me.

FR: And, basically, what she read ...

LB: She read it to me...

FR: ...was what you told the...

LB: She read it...yes... what...what I heard and what she told me was there.

FR: What you saw, basically, what you had said to the two lawyers...

LB: Yes...

FR: ...to the lawyers...

LB: ...to the lawyers, yes.

FR: OK, what happened then?

LB: Then, she said: "I'll read it to you so that you won't forget it." All right, I told her. Uh... "but you have to sign it," she said. No, I told her, and why should I sign it? Then, but...I... was afraid to sign it because I knew that I shouldn't sign a blank [piece of] paper, but that wasn't a blank [piece of] paper, but it was written on.

FR: Aha.

LB: So, she... told me like that: "Here," she told me, "this...this is no problem. You are going to say the same thing to the judge," she told me.

FR: Aha.

LB: "You are going to say the same thing to the judge." And then, no, I told her, after I talk to the judge I'll sign it for you. "No, dear, sign it now...sign it now," she told me. So she persuaded me again. And I signed it for her.

FR: OK. So what happened after that?

LB: A photographer came in with hair and sideburns like that...

FR: Aha.

LB: To take the pictures in the room. I was the last to be taken the pictures, because I don't like to get pictures taken. It was just out of necessity.

FR: After the pictures, what happened? Did you go downstairs to talk to GEORGE?

LB: First... first...uh... as I am relating in detail...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...like that, right? So, when... first he took the girl's pictures...uh...then he said that he had to take some more. After that he told GEORGE that he, too, for the passport. He took one of him, and he said that it was too dark, that he needed to take another one. He took another one. Uh... "now you...now you," he told me. All right, I said, I'm coming. And he took the first ones. "Ah, no," he said, "these are no good for the passport." Then, he [or she] said to the photographer: "Take some more," and he did so. "Ah, no good, these are very dark." "Look, take the pictures and say 'whisky,' to make her laugh," he [or she] told him, "with that smile she has."

Then, well...I only smiled when the photographer told me: "Smile." Then I smiled. That's the picture they used for a permit they gave me there, when I got off the French plane. Those three pictures, my husband's, mine and my daughter's...

FR: Well, you went downstairs...

LB: Ah, yes, then...a little later...a little later...uh...she came out...she came out, and I think I went to the bathroom or went to prepare the bottle, I don't remember well, but... or else I was coming with the bottle...uh...when... as I was supposed to have the door closed there, not open, even if I couldn't see (unclear) the kitchen, I was supposed to close it. If I came in, I was supposed to close it.

Uh... so a little after I went there with I don't know what, what I was taking there, there was a knock on the door. It was the ambassador, because I was expected to be there in the meeting room because the judge had already come... because the judge had already come. Then...uh... well, since I was not thinking anything bad, up to that moment I was not thinking anything bad, I saw that MARIA JULIA was coming beside me.

When I got to the place where they told me to sit down, I told them that the seat was too luxurious. I didn't like it because it was like velvet. No, I said, a more modest chair, I said. And the ambassador said: "There are two there." Then I saw MARIA JULIA who picked up one, and I picked up the other one. But I was not telling her to keep walking behind me.

FR: Aha.

LB: Uh...and...and I told her...I told the Licenciada: Leave it there. I'll get it for you. But I was always with my...yes...then...I'll be right back. I'll get yours, wait. So I went to place mine and came back. As I came back she was already coming with her chair, just going through the door before they closed it. So then she sat down beside me.

When we started to prepare...well, they prepared there...they way they prepare their papers, the gentlemen came in. I didn't pay much attention. I only recognized Dr. COLORADO, I did recognize him. He was there, but there were other people. I don't know who they were, but you must know.

FR: Yes.

LB: Well, then, I started my report. The very same I had given her, the Licenciada told me: "The same thing I read to you you are going to say there." So I was hesitating, because I had partly forgotten...I had partly forgotten...uh...but, I said it...I said it. So in the end...I said things just as she had...she had read to me there, remembering, remembering, and when I hesitated...well, what surprised me was that she touched... she was grabbing my hand here. The Licenciada was grabbing...was grabbing my hand...and she was looking at me with an expression rather...rather bad.

Then, uh... I was saying...she wasn't scaring me, but she hinted something with her expression...

FR: Aha.

LB: ..and I, upon my honor, my name, if I had signed there...and she had told me to say the same thing, well, then, I had to say the same thing.

FR: Exactly.

LB: I had to say the same thing. I was somewhat hesitating, but it was plain.

FR: Was the judge taking down your...

LB: ...uh...another young man, another young man...

FR: ..what you were... his secretary...

LB: ...by hand...

FR: Very well.

LB: ...by hand. So then, at about 5:00 p.m., I think that was the time, uh...it wasn't finished yet, they were saying that I had to sign, I had to be fingerprinted...uh...for what I had said, and the man with glasses said...he said... he was the one who was driving the car that brought me from house # 15 to the Spanish Embassy...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...uh..."let's go," he told me, "let's go, now, now," Then I was surprised because they had me talking...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...they were not telling me: "Go now." They kept me talking..uh... and the judge said...uh..."wait, just a minute, just a minute." Then another man came from there, I don't know who. They called him PACAS (ph), they called him PACAS (ph). A man like (ui). Then, "wait," said...uh... a man ...PACAS ...they called him PACAS.

FR: Did they at any time make you draw a sketch?

LB: In the French Embassy.

FR: It was in the embassy...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...it wasn't in front of the judge. They asked you to draw...

LB: Yes, yes, but in the French Embassy, in front of the judge....

FR: OK, then...

LB: ...the next day.

FR: All right, then, you...

LB: Yes, then, uh... at that point they all got agitated there because the curfew was starting soon and they needed to go. Then, well, I went out, and then, Father SAENZ was there, outside the door. Then he told me: "Get in that car, get in that car." A car like, as it were, with dark windows. So I got into the car, and uh... well, and the girl?, I said, and the girl? Then, "there she is," he said. Then I saw them, when I moved over like that, and the girl was there with JORGE, inside the car. But another man was going in the back.

So then, when the car started, the man in the back told me to lower my head, to lower it, to lower my head, and that he would tell me when to lift it back up. So we left from there, the car went across...now I couldn't see that, but I...I...

FR: You heard...

LB: Yes, I heard. The car went across...the street that goes up from the entrance of the Spanish Embassy...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...uh...going up. Then..uh...I lifted...I lifted up my head when the man said: "You [plural] may lift up your heard." We were already at the residence...at the parking of the residence of France [French Embassy].

FR: Aha. What happened then?

LB: Then, there already were a lot of people there, very influential...uh...and there, I think it was the Spanish Ambassador, or...yes, the Spanish Ambassador. He introduced me to the French Ambassador, who was a blond man, and who appeared to be very kind, more so with GERALDINA. But that was just in an instant. Then, a man was speaking...English, I think. I...I... recognized him because they told me that I was going to travel the next day with the minister, with the minister.

Well, then JORGE went inside with (ui) and one of the security men, who had picked up the suitcases and went up with them. JORGE went behind him. And...and these people were coming with me in the group as we were coming inside. At that point...uh... they were saying: "All right, where...where..where is she going to travel?," the minister was saying. Well, "to France, to France," they said. We are going to call in at...here...

FR: At Miami...

LB: ...yes, we are going to call in at Miami. When I heard that they were sending me there, and that they were going to call in here, I stopped on the...on the step, going up, as we were going with the suitcases. Uh...I stopped [and said:] Look, excuse me, sir, but...how is that, I asked. You are going to...I know, I told him, that you are getting me out of the country. But France...I can't even imagine that, I said, that's too far away. Leave me rather where you are going to call in at, because I heard that it's close by. So I imagined that it was close by.

FR: So it was you who requested to stay here in Miami?

LB: Yes, I asked them to leave me here, here where they were to call in at, to leave me here.

FR: OK.

LB: I didn't say "to leave us," but "to leave me"...

FR: Aha.

LB: ..."to leave me." So they were there speaking in English, and I went up following JORGE and GERALDINA, and security were coming behind. Uh... and they gave us the security room the men use, because they were speaking there, I think, in English. But they were...

FR: English or French?

LB: Yes, French, maybe, but I understood it was English.

FR: Yes, all right.

LB: Yes.

FR: OK. Continue. So you stayed one night there.

LB: Yes, yes. Then, well, we went up to our room...uh..after having been in the room they had prepared for us for about 45 minutes, I told JORGE: Oh! Such big beds, I'm used to low beds. Those were very high beds, like that.

FR: Hm.

LB: Yes, very high. So I told him: Look at those beds. "Yes, man," he said, "these are new models," Shortly afterwards about six security men came in, speaking in their language...uh...that I couldn't..."good afternoon"...and one of them show me where the bathrooms were.

FR: Hm.

LB: Well, that's what happened. A little later two housekeeping girls came to offer us some food, and they asked us what we wanted I told them that anything, just so it was food. So they said: "Come downstairs, if you want, to

the dining room." No, I told hem, because the gentlemen are going to be there eating, and we are not used to those things. But I...I'm not used to eat like they eat.

FR: Exactly.

LB: So I feel better here in the room, I said. Bring the food up here, please. So they brought the food up for us. And we slept there. Or rather didn't, because we were anxious. I told JORGE: But security told us "we are going to be right there, if anything happens, you can call us. Just open the door and we are there."

The security men were going in and out of the room. When we went to bed, I was afraid, afraid that JORGE would get angry at me. That's a fear I have of him...(chuckles). So I told him what I had talked with the judge.

FR: Exactly.

LB: I told him: Look, I said, I told him this and this an this.

FR: Speak a little louder.

LB: Yes. Look, I told him, but I was speaking softly because I knew that security were next door.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Look, I told him, I went to testify there in that room. I said this and this an this. And he told me: "You are going there, you are getting involved with the men in uniform." Well, yes, but MARIA JULIA, the Licenciada, the Licenciada told me so...to..to, at any point, to stress, to stress, yes...

FR: (ui)

LB: ...yes, to stress, at any point, to stress, that...that those were soldiers. And she told me, she advised me, because [telling] only what I had heard had no value to serve justice, I told him. But he told me that I was then getting involved with men in uniform.

FR: The next day...

LB: So...but I told him that very softly...

FR: So that nobody would listen.

LB: ...so that there was no chance that others [would listen].

FR: Exactly.

LB: No, because...I would have explained... I told him, look, I told him that I got up here and went there to see, I told him that...he told me: "Why are you getting involved with men in uniform?" Well, yes, I told him, but the Licenciada said that, that way, justice would be served.

FR: Hm. So you went to bed.

LB: Then we went to bed, yes. I slept with the girl. I fixed the pillows. I pushed the big beds that way, and we went to bed. We didn't even sleep because...we had to...one of those men who were around me told me that we were leaving early.

FR: OK.

LB: So we got up early and took a shower. A little later they came to offer us food. I told the girl who was serving there to please bring the food up again for us. She did so. She did so. Uh.... I only went downstairs to fix the bottle for GERALDINA. I asked for some hot water.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Uh... but then I didn't even eat because they called me down there. They needed me down there.

FR: Who needed you?

LB: Uh... all the gentlemen that had arrived at the garden...

FR: That is, was the judge down there?

LB: Yes, the judge was there.

FR: Aha.

LB: Then uh...and MARIA JULIA was also there.

FR: Aha.

LB: I greeted everybody, because when one doesn't owe anything, one doesn't feel...

FR: Exactly.

LB: Uh... well, then I greeted the gentlemen: Good morning, even if I hadn't slept very well, but I said "good morning." Uh...so she told me: "Sit here, this is your seat." This was always the Licenciada. So we started to talk about the same thing, in the form of questions...in the form of questions.

FR: Aha.

LB: And then he told me: "And the caps that..that you saw, couldn't you make a sketch of them?" Look, I'm very sloppy to draw, I told him. I'm very sloppy to draw. She came with her pencil and the paper they had given me. She wanted to draw the cap.

FR: Aha.



LB: But the fat gentleman who was next to us came and told the judge that that wasn't allowed, that somebody strange to me should be helping me. So she told me: "Do it like...like...like, just about a cap," she told me. So, just so-so, I didn't draw it well because, when I draw something I can't really do, I just make little dots like that.

So it was then that he said, they said also that we were going to leave soon, when I saw that they were asking questions to JORGE there, at another table. They were asking him things. Then I got up because they were no longer talking to me, they were no longer talking to me. Then he told me: "All you still have to do is sign," the judge told me, "all you still have to do is sign." Then, well, I signed for the questions he had asked me. And this fat gentleman also asked me questions, which I answered...uh... based on what I had told the judge.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Aha. Then...uh...allow me...I got up from there, when they brought to me a piece of blank paper. These were, they said, from the Criminal [Police], from the Criminal [Police]. When they said "Criminal," no, I said, the thing is that... and why are you giving me a blank paper, that is, I put my two hands on the blank paper...

FR: Aha.

LB: ... on the blank paper. Uh... and I told MARIA...the Licenciada: Licenciada, I told her, can I do that? Because I was trusting the Licenciada.

FR: Exactly.

LB: So...uh... I asked the Licenciada if I could do that, and the man told her, the one who was giving me the piece of paper: "Yes," he told her, "this is for the Criminal [Police]." Then the man took my...she told me: "Yes, you can do it." Then the man took this finger first, this way and that way, and inked it all well. But I felt the man's big hand, very strong. His big hand was sweating.

FR: Aha.

LB: But he...painted this one...painted this other one...

FR: And so he...exactly...he painted them...

LB: ...and he painted them, on the card.

FR: On the card, OK.

LB: [that was] blank. So then, since there was nothing else to talk with me, I went to the sink and washed my hands, so that they wouldn't stay blue.

FR: Concerning the cap, was that... was that a question you had previously discussed with the Licenciada?

LB: She told me to describe the soldiers with all their equipment.

FR: Where was it that she told you that?

LB: In the room.

FR: When you were still in the house...

LB: (interrupts) Yes, when she was persuading me of the fact that...that the men were going around with their equipment.

FR: So when that happened...that discussion took place on Monday in house #15 or house # 16?

LB: Yes, yes. The thing is that it wasn't a discussion but rather...

FR: She told you...

LB: Yes, she told me...

FR: ...to say that.

LB: ...to say that with the equipment, to say this, to say that...and...and "with caps on, you saw them with caps on," [she said].

FR: All right, let's go back, then, after you washed your hands, you left shortly after that...

LB: Yes.

FR: ...as they came to get you?

LB: No, they didn't come to get me, but I went to give the key to father SAENZ, who was there at the entrance...

FR: Aha.

LB: ...waiting in the garden.

FR: How long did it take before they came to get you to take you out of the country?

LB: Uh... about 25 minutes.

FR: So what...

LB: (interrupts) It was just for JORGE...for JORGE to finish talking there at the table..uh...and then... we were leaving.

FR: Then, did you have any other contact with MARIA...

LB: No, no...

FR: ... with the Licenciada...

LB: No...only that, yes...

FR: ...at the last minute?

LB: ...the only thing that I asked her was if I could do what the man was telling me to.

FR: **Yes, taking your fingerprints.**

LB: Yes.

FR: Did you have any contact with any other person...

LB: No...

FR: ...that would be interesting?

LB: ... only with the Father, when I went to give him the key, in view that I was leaving.

FR: Very well. So you arrived...you arrived here on Thursday, that same day...

LB: Yes.

FR: Late at night, that night, right?

LB: Yes, at night, yes.

FR: All right. Uh...

LB: The night... when they...when they said that they were going to...they were going to send us... we would come in a TACA aircraft, but TACA had left. So we waited from about 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the (ui), shut up there...

FR: Aha, then...

LB: (interrupts) ...and with security outside.

FR: Yes.

LB: Well protected.

FR: All right, then, you arrived here in the United States.

LB: Yes, we left there at 5:00...uh....

FR: Yes.

LB: ...because... because, as they said that a...a... I didn't understand well... that... an aircraft... that if TACA was coming at 5:00, that the aircraft was taking off from Belize... I don't know whether that was the one that brought us or I don't know which one it was. Yes, but... but it was...it was French.

FR: Aha. The aircraft was French.

LB: ... because the minister, who was coming with us, had asked for that aircraft to come.

FR: All right.

LB: Because he travelled with us, but he left.

FR: So you arrived here...

LB: Yes, at night.

FR: ... because I was waiting for you at the airport, if you remember.

LB: At night. But I didn't notice that you came to Immigration.

FR: Exactly.

LB: Right?

FR: Exactly.

LB: Yes, maybe, the thing is that I don't notice...

FR: All right. So I...I went to see you again Friday night in your room.

LB: Yes.

FR: And there you told me...

LB: Yes...

FR: ...basically the story...

LB: Yes...yes...

FR: ...you told me...

LB: Yes...

FR: ... what had happened...

LB: Yes...

FR: ...including that you had seen...

LB: Yes...the same thing that I had...

FR: ...that you had told ...

LB: ...stated, yes.

FR: Exactly.

LB: And I did so because I know that, if one says something, one has to say it always, always, upon my honor, because, but... I... up to that point, was thinking that it was all right.

FR: All right. And you told us that same story...

LB: Yes...

FR: ... Friday night...

LB: Yes...

FR: ... and it happened again...

LB: Yes...

FR: ... that then you... you...told us again Monday morning.

LB: Yes, so that you would take me into your confidence and I would tell the truth.

FR: OK, very well. Then it was yesterday that you, basically, said what you had really done.

LB: Yes, only then. What I had forgotten all about was the matter of the four policemen, because I hadn't mentioned that.

FR: Doña LUCIA, why, after having arrived here and received FBI protection, why didn't you tell the same thing? Why didn't you?

LB: Because I thought that I had to tell the same thing. I thought that I had to tell the same thing. Then I didn't know you, so that you could take me into your confidence, as you did.

FR: All right. What you are telling us now is the truth?

LB: Yes.

FR: Entirely the truth?

LB: Yes, entirely.

FR: OK.

LB: And I want to know if, the same thing I asked you yesterday, and you must excuse me, you already told me that I am in no danger or...or..or all the matter of yesterday..

FR: Exactly

LB: The same thing. Then...

(end of side one)

(side two)

LB: ...then getting into a problem (unclear).

FR: OK. Let's continue. Then...uh... that's basically what you are telling us...

LB: Yes, yes.

FR: ...that happened...

LB: As you told me to...

FR: ...entirely so...

LB: ...explain to you...to explain to you [everything] all the way from Soyapango.  
Everything is there.

FR: Very well. Well, I want to thank you...

LB: Everything is there.

FR: We are now going to end this interview.

(end of recording)



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counted as processed*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/17/90

The attached transcript reflects the contents of a recorded interview of JORGE A. CERNA on November 27, 1989. The unidentified male conducting this interview is Colonel MANUEL RIVAS, Director of El Salvador Special Investigative Unit (SIU). Also present during this interview were U.S. Department of State Official RICHARD CHIDESTER and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent [REDACTED]

*b7c*

Investigation on 11/27/89 at Miami, Florida

INDEX

by [REDACTED] *b7c* [REDACTED] Date dictated

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TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

DATE: 11/27/89

PARTICIPANTS: JORGE A. CERNA (JC)  
UNKNOWN MAN (UM)

UM: Well, Jorge...

JC: Yes...

UM: Uh...as...practically repeating the same words that I was telling your wife early this morning...

JC: Aha.

UM: I was telling her that...well, uh... I'm the Director of the Commission...

JC: Aha, all right...

UM: ...and...the President of the Republic is perhaps the most interested person in our country...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...in clarifying this situation and arriving at a happy conclusion in determining who are the culprits of...of...of this horrible crime...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...against the priests.

JC: Aha.

UM: But to that effect we have to...to earn the good will of the people who saw or may know something...

JC: Aha, yes...

UM: ...so that...

JC: ...correct...

UM: ...we may proceed in the best possible way and...and get to the bottom of it.

JC: Yes.

UM: That's why I was saying yesterday that...that...you should calm down, and try to start remembering more details, because it's often from the details that one can...

JC: ...one can deduce something better...

UM: ...something better...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...because if one speaks in a general way, well, it isn't...

JC: Aha...

UM: ...it's better to talk about some details like that, to talk about them, if we can do so...and that, after these talks that we are going to have, later on, we will have other talks in which, well, I'm going to intervene. Right now you are going to...you are going to give me a recall...

JC: Hm...

UM: ...but step by step, from the moment you left home...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...until, we could say, until...

JC: ...the moment...

UM: ...you went to the airport to come here.

JC: Aha.

UM: So, as I said, I would like you to recall, to remember details, and then start narrating to me, just about...

JC: Yes...yes...

UM: ...you can be assured that...

JC: Yes, oh, no, yes...

UM: ...that what you are saying won't be used to put you in jail...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...or to death...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...but it will be used only to throw light on this matter...

JC: Exactly. Yes...yes... yes...

UM: ...because [otherwise] this may remain like an unknown quantity...

JC: ...yes...yes...like a mystery...

UM: ... if...if...if people do not...

JC: ...aha...

UM: ...cooperate...

JC: ...yes...

UM: ...by remembering the details...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...although, well...the more general details are those of your wife, who is the one who actually saw...

JC: ...actually, yes...

UM: ...however, your [details] can help us a lot.

JC: Aha.

UM: So, what...

JC: Yes, well, to begin with, at the moment we left home, right?

UM: Yes.

JC: Uh...

UM: From Soyapango...

JC: From Soyapango. Well, we left there just about after 6:00...after 6:00 a.m..

UM: Yes.

JC: It was a Wednesday...uh...I don't have the date...I don't remember the date...but...just about, you can see...

UM: Yes...yes...I remember...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...it has to be... on Saturday started...

JC: ...Saturday the 11th, just about...

UM: ...the terrorists' offensive...

JC: Yes...yes...and so...

UM: ...it has to be Wednesday the 15th...

JC: ...yes, just about... just about...so...we left that place under the bullets...uh...we were able to get to where there was a military detail on the army's boulevard...uh...now, there they didn't let us through, because they said that there was some shooting at the time between guerrillas and soldiers, before arriving at Molinos del (ui).

UM: Molza...

JC: Molza...yes. Well, we waited a while, because I told my wife: Let's wait here, I told her, because...

UM: How did you get there, to Molza?

JC: Walking, yes, walking...uh... we were there for quite a while, approximately half an hour or 45 minutes, waiting to see the outcome. Well, from there we...uh... a sergeant, yes, an army sergeant called us and told us that it was open, that we could get through, those of us who were waiting to get through. And we went through, it was free...and, 10 meters, no, about 15 meters from the place where we were we found a light truck there. It was there by chance, maybe it wanted to enter Soyapango, but it no longer could do so. There it was, alone, with its driver, a woman, and there...yes, they told us that, if we were coming downtown, they could give us a ride. That's how we drove downtown, there by the Banco Salvadoreño. We stayed there.

UM: By the Banco Salvadoreño that is there at the Plaza...

JC: Exactly, Morazán...

UM: Morazán.

JC: Yes, Plaza Morazán...we stayed there. From there we went to a flour mill, because I had made an order and I had it still coming. We went there to cancel it with my wife and child. At that time, when we got there, it was closed. We had breakfast at a small café next to the flour mill...uh... and as we had breakfast, in the meantime, the owners of the flour mill arrived. I cancelled, we cancelled, then we went back in the direction of downtown. As we got to the corner...uh... just before the Apolo movie theater there are some pay phones. There my wife told me, she said: From here I'm going to call the Father [priest], she told me, to see if he would give us a place to go. She called from some phones that are about 15 meters approximately from the Apolo movie theater...uh...there we talked, she talked...to him, and when she finished, she told me: Look, she said...uh... I talked, she told me, with the Father, she told me. We are going to his place. We went in the direction of downtown...uh...we got into another truck that dropped us in the Gardens...

UM: Where did you get into the other truck? You don't remember...

JC: Mhhh... I'm trying to think...no, no, no, I can't give you so many details, I don't remember very well. Because it was a moment, we were getting very tense, nervous...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...no, no, I don't remember very well. There we got in, quite some time had already elapsed, hours...uh...

UM: You don't remember the time, approximately.

JC: No, no...uh... then...we arrived there...at the Gardens...the Gardens of Guadalupe...uh... she told me to wait for her and that she was going to talk to the priest again, with the Father. And I went on, where she met me. I didn't wait for her where she told me, but I went on. Then, well...we went to her mother's house, to my mother-in-law's house...which is at Antigua Cujatlan...uh...from there...we were there...it was about... approximately 11:00, maybe... 11:00 a.m....uh... we had lunch. After lunch she came out and told me: I'm going, she told me, to talk to the priest, to the Father, she told me...uh... already after lunch. I can't tell you the exact time because I don't know exactly...

UM: (ui)

JC: ...but it was after lunch, probably...

UM: When you arrived at the Gardens...uh.... before going to your mother-in-law's, you wife went to the Fathers' place...

JC: She tried to, because she left me there with the suitcases we were carrying. But as she saw that I was walking on, she came after me.

UM: Aha.

JC: That's all.

UM: And you left for Antigua.

JC: And we left for Antigua, where her mother lives. We were there, we had lunch, then we rested a little and she left for the Fathers' house. It must have been a little after 12:00, a few minutes, just about, but it was after 12:00.

UM: Hm...

JC: Uh... yes, 12:00, just about.

UM: Aha.

JC: ...uh...she came back later, after a while, I can't give you the exact time, because I don't...but she took ...maybe an hour to come back...

UM: Yes.

JC: When she came back...uh... she told me: I arranged everything. The Father is going to give us two sofas there in the house, yes, in house # 16, she told me. He is going to give us the house. . the room in house # 16, she said.

UM: Aha.



UM: How long was the Father there with you, welcoming you?

JC: It was a few minutes, a few minutes, because we greeted each other, he just talked a little bit with my wife and left.

UM: Yes.

JC: Uh...we rested a little bit...uh...then we ate something for dinner that we had already prepared. We had dinner and we just tried to go to bed because we were exhausted...uh... with tense nerves...and many little things like that...

UM: Yes.

JC: Uh...we were...

(a phone rings, UM answers and speaks in English)

JC: We were...I was telling you that the Father got there at about 5:00...yes...

UM: You knew the Father already?

JC: Yes.

UM: From before...

JC: No, that is, since my wife had been working there for some time, I'd go there now and then, and so occasionally he would walk by, any Father would walk by. She'd say: "Look, that's Father so-and-so, that's Father so-and-so," and so on. That's how I knew their names. Well, maybe not all of them, but the one I knew best was...uh... Father IACUDILLA, Father BARO and Father MONTE. The others, well, I knew them by sight but I didn't know their names.

UM: And who was the one who came in?

JC: Father MARTIN BARO

UM: And did you talk to him quite a bit there or...

JC: No...no...

UM: ...just...

JC: ...we just greeted each other, you understand?

UM: Yes, yes.

JC: ...uh...we rested...from that time on...and we had dinner...uh...tried to sleep...I had already slept some. I can't tell you the time because I don't know, I wasn't looking at the watch; but we slept some...

UM: And when...when you arrived...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...when you came from Antigua...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...at what house did you arrive?

JC: At... my mother-in-law's, her mother's.

UM: No, when you were coming from you mother-in-law's, like that, excuse me, when your wife came and told you that she had already talked to the Father...

JC: Yes...

UM: ... and you said that you came down to Gardens...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...at what house did you arrive?

JC: House # 16.

UM: # 16.

JC: Yes, house # 16, where the Father took our things. Both houses are theirs, # 15 and # 16, but we were in # 16, yes, # 16.

UM: But both houses have their...their garage.

JC: Yes.

UM: Which one did you enter, # 15 or # 16?

JC: No, # 16.

UM: You entered that one?

JC: Yes. Yes, # 16.

UM: And... you had dinner, and then...

JC: Yes, we tried to sleep...uh... and we could hear some sporadic firing nearby, during the night, when we were trying to rest, to sleep.... and [this was] maybe before 1:00 a.m., because we had already slept some...uh... but just about at that time, I figure...uh...we heard some firing, a little...no longer sporadic, but heavier or more...more continuous, you understand what I mean, right?

UM: Yes, yes.

JC: Then...uh... yes, around that time, after that continuous firing, we heard a burst [of shooting], a burst...



UM: Yes.

JC: After that shooting...

UM: But...

JC: ...that burst that was heard very near to where we were...

UM: But you couldn't locate it?

JC: No, no, but [it was] very near to where we were...well, I can...I can say that it was within the university campus...and, just about, it was in the wood, at the entrance, there is a main entrance next to the Gardens. So in that area there is a wood around there and the shooting came from there.

UM: But...was there any shooting anywhere else ...

JC: We could hear...

UM: ...or only there at the UCA [Central American University]?...

JC: Well, there was some, just about near the highway, and here on this side, this street, I don't remember what street it is...that one...that goes up near Democracy Tower...

UM: The (ui)...

JC: Well...just about, we could hear on this...on this street, and then on the university campus. Uh... then...we could hear the heavy shooting, very close...very close. At the time when the heavy shooting was going on they were knocking on doors...they were knocking on doors. My child wanted to get up, when she heard the noises, she wanted to get up. So I picked her up like that so that she wouldn't get up. My wife reacted right there, she got up the moment they were knocking on the doors, not in our room or our house, where we were sleeping...uh...but they were knocking on the door of the Fathers' room, that's where it was...uh...when she got up...when they were knocking on the doors, she got up and she went to a room next to ours. There is an empty room, it's still empty, right? This room has two windows that open...no, no... you can see, through these windows you can see well the...the Fathers' room.

UM: Had you entered the UCA before?

JC: Yes, yes.

UM: Did you know where...where the Fathers lived?

JC: No. I had entered... that ...that room is very recent...very recent.

UM: Well, what else?

JC: Uh...through those windows my wife was able to observe what happened, what was happening, right? Because (ui) she got up, without talking to me, without saying anything, when they were knocking on the doors...uh...then,

as we were hearing the doors, I only heard one voice, the voice of Father NACHO, that's what we called him, Father MARTIN BARO. I recognized his voice, it was his. I didn't understand what he was saying, but he was talking, he was the only one talking. We could hear very soft voices, but the one that stood out was Father NACHO's. Uh...when...yes, when he was talking, I was hearing...since I didn't see, I only heard, but it might have been inside the facilities...no, in the rooms, in their room. We could hear the voice...then, but the shooting was going on, right? At a certain point, the shooting got heavier, and right at the time when the shooting got heavier, father NACHO stopped talking. No voice could be heard anymore. Everything was silent for a few seconds.

UM: Yes.

JC: Then...uh... we could hear like the noise of something like chairs being moved or dragged, noise of [breaking] glass, and of dragging something on the floor. That's what I heard...uh...then, well, everything was quiet, that's all. In a matter of seconds, again, we heard the noise of two powerful bombs because they...uh... they shook the room where we were, right? Uh...then...well, we could hear a few shots, I don't know where, I don't know...I don't...I don't remember about that, I can't tell you where that was. We could hear some shooting but a little far away, I don't know where. I was inside this room and I couldn't tell...uh...my wife came in, after that, my wife came in, slowly. She went to bed. She made no comments to me...uh...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...until the morning. Uh... well, we again tried to go to sleep. We were somewhat frightened, but we tried to sleep.

UM: You didn't say anything to your wife...

JC: No.

UM: ...or asked her anything?

JC: Or asked her anything. I just heard her going to bed there on a small mattress and I heard her. But I didn't ask her anything, and she made no comments to me...until the morning. We woke up at about 5:30 or 5:40, just about...uh... then she got up and told me: "I'm going to see," she told me, "to see what happened." It was already 6:00, a little after 6:00. No, I told her, don't go yet because it isn't 6:00 yet. "No," she said, "we'll wait a little bit." Because there was the curfew.

UM: Yes.

JC: Until 6:00.

UM: Yes.

JC: Until 6:00. After 6:00...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...she got up, she went out through this door that opens to the university campus. You didn't know...

UM: Sure, sure...

JC: ...there is a door that, from these houses, # 15 and # 16, opens to the campus. She went out that way...uh...in a matter of seconds she came back. She was frightened, trembling all over, with her nerves shot. And what had happened? "They did the Fathers in," she said. Like that, these very words, she said: "They did the Fathers in. I'm going to tell...I'm going to tell those in the other house," she said. The other...the other...the other house of the Fathers... because there is... there are those houses... # 15 and # 16 are theirs, and the other room where the incidents took place...and there is the other one where the other Fathers are...I don't know...I don't know the name of this...this street. I can't give the name, because I don't know...or the house's number...ah, # 50...house # 50.

UM: Did you know it before?

JC: Yes, yes, I knew that house. But now I can't remember the house's number, or the alleyway or...that is, where the house is located, I don't know, don't know...

UM: Yes.

JC: Uh...yes, that's what she told me: I'm going to tell them. She picked up her purse with her documents and went to tell them. She came back a moment later...about 10 minutes later she came back because it's very close. She came back and told me: "I already told them," she said. "They told us," she said, "to go away from here as soon as possible because we are in danger." That's what she told me. Uh...We packed our suitcases and left again, going to her mother's house. We stayed there. We stayed from that day, Thursday...Thursday...Thursday...Friday...Saturday...Sunday...we stayed there at her mother's house.

UM: There in Antigua?

JC: Yes, in Antigua. On Monday my wife said: Now I'm going to work. Well, I told her, are you going to see if...if...if they have opened the university? I told her. "No," she told me, "I'm going to the Curia." The Curia is another house where they have their offices, right? So that... that...they used to work in those offices, but she worked there too.

UM: Yes.

JC: Uh... we stayed with the little girl in the house of my mother-in-law and she didn't come back...uh...

UM: What time did she leave for that place?

JC: Early, yes, at about 8:00, after breakfast. Yes, I don't have the exact time to tell you the time, but, just about...

UM: Yes.

JC: At 8:00 or soon after 8:00. Uh...we were all at home. At about...after lunch also...I don't...I don't have the right time...to tell you the exact time, I don't remember. After lunch...uh...came...I know him, the Father who is... Father...FERMIN...

UM: Aha.

JC: Yes, FERMIN.

UM: How do you know the Father?

JC: Uhhh...I have seen him, too, on many occasions, and it's because of my wife that I knew him by name, too.

UM: Aha.

JC: But as of friendship, I don't have one. My wife does. Yes, he came there to bring me here. When he came in, I said...he told me: Uh..., no... "get ready because we are leaving." Where to, Father? I asked him. "Well," he said, "you'll see, you'll see where we are going." But, look, Father, I said, and where is my wife? "Right now I don't know, I don't know," he said, "but you'll see her." We left. Uh.. I picked up all the suitcases I was carrying. We went to... to the embassy...yes, to the Spanish Embassy...the Spanish Embassy.

UM: So then, you went directly from there, from your mother-in-law's to the Spanish Embassy?

JC: No, we went to house # 50. There we changed vehicles. I don't know who was there, I don't know who was there. There we changed vehicles and left in an...armored car, I think it was an embassy's car, property of the embassy. There we just changed from one vehicle to the other and we left. We were on our way when I asked him: Where are we going? "Well," he said, "right now we are going where your wife is, where Lucia is," said the Father. "She is in the Spanish Embassy, she is under security."

UM: You were going with Father FERMIN?

JC: Yes. I was going with Father FERMIN.

UM: Aha.

JC: Uh...we arrived there at the embassy. We stayed there...uh... the night of Thursday...and..

UM: Of Thursday or of Monday?

JC: Ahhh...what day was it? Let's see...no, it was the night of Monday, yes, the night of Monday...yes, the night of Monday. Yes, the night of Monday, Monday and Tuesday, if I'm not mistaken, yes, also Tuesday...I think so...Tuesday...Wednesday...no, no...I don't remember well, but, yes, I think Monday and Tuesday, because we...then, from there...I'm not sure about the two days, either, because, well...

UM: But we were at....

JC: ...at Spain. [the Spanish Embassy]

UM: ... at the point when you had...that you had come...that Father FERMIN had brought you there from Antigua...

JC: Yes...yes...

UM: ...and then you went to house # 50...

JC: To house # 50...

UM: ...you changed vehicles...

JC: Yes, we drove...

UM: ...and Father FERMIN was always taking you in the other vehicle...

JC: ...always...

UM: ...to the Spanish Embassy.

JC: Yes.

UM: That was on Monday.

JC: Hmh...

UM: When you got to the embassy...

JC: I stayed there, from the emb...from house # 50, Father FERMIN was no longer...no longer with us, but...with us came...I don't know who that was...if it was...but it was somebody who has sufficient influence at the Spanish Embassy.

UM: Aha.

JC: Because he appeared very friendly and...well, I'm telling you that he had enough influence because he just honked and we entered the embassy.

UM: So Father FERMIN did not go in with you?

JC: No, no, he just went to Antigua to bring me there...

UM: Yes. What days were you there at the embassy, you don't remember?

JC: The night of Monday...and Tuesday, I think...Tuesday, I think.

UM: Where did you meet your wife?

JC: There at the embassy.

UM: There at the Spanish Embassy .

JC: There...there we met. They had her there then.

UM: When you got there, what did your wife tell you?

JC: Well, we just said Hello. She said: Did they bring you here? Yes, I said.

UM: Aha.

JC: And I said: And how are you? "No," she said. "The thing is that they told me"...uh..."the Fathers told me," she said, "that we are in danger," she said. "We are staying here," she said, "they told me...they told me that here we are going to be secure."

UM: And...and when Father FERMIN went to pick you up there at Antigua, at your mother-in-law's, he didn't tell you anything?

JC: No, he didn't give me any details.

UM: Or that your wife was sending you any message?

JC: No, no, I didn't ask him about that, but where she was and where we were going. And that's when he told me that we were going where she was.

UM: Aha.

JC: Yes.

UM: And when you were...the days you were staying at the embassy you didn't talk to anybody?

JC: No.

UM: Or with the Spanish Ambassador...

JC: Yes, sure, sure. Uh...with the Spanish Ambassador.

UM: Did you talk with him?

JC: Yes.

UM: And with anybody else?

JC: Uhh...somebody came...I don't know what ambassador...

UM: Ah...

JC: Yes, the French Ambassador came.

UM: Aha.

JC: Well, the Spanish Ambassador talked with him.

UM: Not with you.

JC: No, not with us. He didn't talk with us...until it was late, and after that I don't remember. Then it was Thursday...Thursday and Friday, if I'm not mistaken...uh...then the judge came to interview my wife...

UM: Aha.

JC: ...in the afternoon... he came Thursday afternoon...yes...

UM: Now, there at the embassy, didn't a woman come to talk...to interview you there? As a reporter or...

JC: No, this woman came, whose name is MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, a legal expert.

UM: What day did she come?

JC: The same day the judge came. I think it was Thursday.

UM: And what time did the judge come?

JC: At...3:00...at 3:00, or before 3:00, just about that time, maybe before 3:00.

UM: And that MARIA JULIA you mentioned, what time did she come?

JC: At about 2:00 p.m.

UM: So she came before the judge?

JC: Yes, she came before the judge.

UM: That wasn't in the morning, or a day before that?

JC: No, no...uh...no...yes...about...about that time or in the morning, I don't remember very well, because being shut in you can't feel the time passing.

UM: Ah, yes.

JC: Yes.

UM: Because where...where...in what room were you?

JC: In the Spanish Embassy.

UM: But you don't know what room?

JC: Hmm... not the number, but it's a room that opens to the office, but I don't know the number.

UM: And what did MARIA JULIA tell you?

JC: Well, she said nothing to me. Now, to my wife, she talked to my wife, but...uh...I'm trying to think...uh...no, no...I don't know...I don't know...

don't know what they talked about, but they did talk, but I don't know what they said.

UM: And what did the judge tell you?

JC: Well, I don't know that, either, because I was in this room I told you.

UM: Yes.

JC: And I couldn't move, I couldn't move from there, because if I did...the little girl was always going around there. Either I or my wife had to look after her. That's why, well...she was into that. They called her...uh.... to go talk to the judge.

UM: Uh... did they ask your opinion on whether you wanted to leave the country?

JC: Yes, they did.

UM: Who talked to you about that?

JC: The ambassador.

UM: What did you tell him?

JC: Well, that we did want to leave, either to Spain or...

UM: What day did you tell him that?

JC: I don't know, I don't remember the day...uh...we were there ...Monday...ah, yes, that same day, Monday afterNoon, yes, in the afternoon. It was quite late. He asked me if we wanted to travel some place like Spain or France or this place, any place here in the United States.

UM: But he didn't tell you why? Why you wanted...

JC: Well, since...

UM: What did he tell you?

JC: Well, that the situation was very bad. Well, he said that to me, to me, because my wife, uh...I don't know what she was doing, but...the ambassador called only me to explain the case to me, explain to me and ask me what we were doing, where we wanted to go, because of our situation.

UM: Your situation or the country's?

JC: The country's situation.

UM: Yes.

JC: Yes.

UM: But he didn't tell you that you...what was happening to you? Why...why...



JC: No, no.

UM: And you didn't ask him either why they wanted to get you out of the country, why especially you?

JC: No, I didn't ask him. What he emphasized was the fact that [at the embassy] we were well protected and didn't need to fear anything. That's what he told us, what he told me.

UM: Yes.

JC: He told me that we didn't need to fear anything because we were well protected.

(end of recording)



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mounted as processed*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/17/90

The attached transcript reflect the contents of a recorded interview of JORGE A. CERNA on November 28, 1989. The unidentified male conducting the interview is Colonel MANUEL RIVAS, Director of the El Salvador Special Investigative Unit (SIU). The second unidentified male is [REDACTED] Assistant Legal Attache, Mexico City. Also present during the interview were U.S. Department of State Official RICHARD CHIDESTER and Special Agent [REDACTED]

*h7c*

Investigation on 11/28/89 at Miami, Florida File # 163A-HQ-61055-26

by ALAT [REDACTED] *h7c* [REDACTED] Date dictated [REDACTED]

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*C-3* *h7c* [REDACTED]

TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

DATE: 11/28/89

PARTICIPANTS: JORGE A. CERNA (JC)

UNKNOWN MAN (UM)

UNKNOWN MAN 2 (UM2)

(continuation from tape dated 11/27/89)

JC: ...arm ...first of all, by the ...what do you call it?...uh... by the epaulettes, as we call them...

UM: And how do you distinguish an officer? Or a lieutenant?

JC: Well, I don't know about that.

UM: But you told me that there at the Amaltepec (ph) a lieutenant had stopped you and didn't let you get through.

JC: Yes, well...maybe he wasn't called a lieutenant, but a...a...corporal or sergeant, what do you call it? A lieutenant...

UM: Yes, a lieutenant.

JC: Uh...well, maybe it was a mistake on my part, with all the questions you are asking me, because if...if it wasn't...it wasn't a lieutenant...because if it had been a lieutenant, he wouldn't have had that position, at the place where he was. So I suppose that that's how it was.

UM: Yes.

JC: Then it was a ...a corporal, less than a lieutenant's grade, right?

UM: But you were saying, you were telling me about a sergeant, and now you are saying a corporal.

JC: Aha, yes. Well... that...the thing is that I don't know...the truth is that I don't know the insignia of either one. That's the truth.

UM: In the statement ...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...that your wife made to the judge, there in El Salvador...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...she mentioned that she had left you at the "Big Boy," in the Gardens of Guadalupe, at the "Big Boy" shopping center, and you told me, you mentioned to me that you had gone all the way to Antigua Cuzcatlan. How is this? Did she leave you at "Big Boy" or did you go to Antigua Cuzcatlan?

JC: Yes. Remember that I told you that I...I...I had stayed there while she went to talk to the Father.

UM: Aha.

JC: But I didn't accept this but, from the place where she told me: "Wait for me, I'll be back," I walked toward Antigua Cuzcatlan.

UM: But she went to the Father's place.

JC: She no longer went there but came back.

UM: But in her statement...in her...

JC: To follow me.

UM: Yes, but in her statement...

JC: Yes.

UM: ....here it is...she says that she left you...uh...and I'm going to read it to you. She says...uh...your wife says: "As we arrived at house # 15, mentioned before, at about 2:00 in the afternoon of the same day, as her husband and daughter had stayed behind taking care of the luggage, near the 'Big Boy' shopping center, the deponent went to house # 15 on the aforesaid street where, immediately after she rang the bell, Father NACHO welcomed her". But you are telling me that she followed you, then. How is this? Either she went to see the Father or she followed you.

JC: Yes. She...she no longer went [there]. Yes, the thing is that she is... she is kind of like that, right? That is...uh...in her system...or in her...body, the way she was feeling, very badly, at that moment, that's how she was doing, very badly with her nerves and everything. So there she, well, she was... she was failing a little, because of the fact that we stayed there, and she left in the direction of her house [her mother's house].

UM: So then she no longer went to...

JC: She didn't go, yes, she came back, as she saw me going on ...like that, in the direction of Antigua...uh... she followed me.

UM: Can you, could you give me a description of Father NACHITO? What was he like?

JC: Well, he was a tall man, strong... uh...with a beard...let me see what else...yes, that day he was wearing a blue-black shirt...yes, blue-black...

UM: Could you tell me how you knew the full name of Father NACHITO?

JC: Well, on several occasions she, my wife, would tell me, well, this is Father NACHO. And also on television and in the papers I saw him on different occasions. The reason is that I knew him personally...and I knew his name well.

UM: Personally? Where?

JC: Uh...well...uh...in that...that is, when I, on occasion, came to the place where my wife worked, I used to see him walking by. After my wife had already told me that his name was Father NACHITO, because they called him that way, Father NACHITO.

UM: But, but...to find out his full name, because his name was IGNACIO MARTIN BARO, according to what (ui)...

JC: Yes, exactly ...

UM: ...mentioned...

JC: That's right.

UM: How did you find out that his name was IGNACIO MARTIN BARO?

JC: Well, from...from what my wife said.

UM: As I told you at the beginning, I'm going to be asking these questions...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...because this is for the sake of truth...

JC: Yes, yes.

UM: ...and to throw some light on the whole situation...could you tell me whether in house # 15 or house # 16, which of the two houses, has...is the one that opens, or whether both houses open to the university campus?

JC: Well, look, I don't know very well, because it was only the night we arrived there and stayed there, that was the only opportunity I had to know it inside...

UM: Hm...

JC: ...and there is only one door. I don't know whether both open to the same place or there is another one. I can't tell you that. But I do know that both houses, # 15 and # 16 are connected. You can supposedly get out through the same door.

UM: But, the houses are connected...

JC: They are connected...

UM: ...but...but they are different houses, so...

JC: ...this one...

UM: ...the door that opens...

JC: ...this one connects to the other one.

UM: Yes, but then the...

JC: With a door in between.

UM: ...the door that opens to the university campus is in # 15 or # 16?

JC: Uh...I can't tell you whether that entry belongs to # 15 or # 16.

UM: But you...

JC: I don't know that.

UM: ...you, in your statement before, here, here it is...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...you said that Father MARTIN BARO, when he came bringing you the sheet  
...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...got out through the frontdoor of house # 15.

JC: ...out of house # 15, or he came in [that way].

UM: Or he entered through house # 15...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...from the university campus, so the door...the door...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...is in # 15 or # 16?

JC: Well, supposedly it's in between the two houses. I say supposedly because I, as I told you, it was the first time that I went to that place, inside the house. I do know better within the university campus.

UM: But...the strange thing is that, in your statement, you speak as if you already knew the house. And I'm going to show you...the house...the door...the only one that has access is this one.

JC: Aha.

UM: So you are telling me, [the door] in between belongs to house # 15. [It belongs] to house # 16.

JC: Aha.

UM: So there you are lying to me.

JC: Uhh... what exit is that? From house # 16...

UM: House # 15...

JC: ...or house # 15?

UM: ...from house # 15. And you told me initially that the priest had left out of house # 16. And if you had been sleeping there, if you had arrived there, and had entered through # 15, passed into # 16, then, at least, you should have known. And, if you were talking about the exit from # 15 or from # 16, that's because you had some knowledge. But now you tell me that you don't... that you don't know, so I think you are lying to me.

JC: I am not lying. The reason is that we entered through house # 16. What I don't remember very well is whether the numbers, the designation, of the alleyway that comes through the main gate of the university...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...always in the Gardens, not by the highway but by the Gardens, this alleyway comes to the gate. From there starts this alleyway, I don't know its name, or where the numbers start, 1...2...3...I don't remember that very well. What I am...

UM: But then, how is it that you identified # 15 and # 16?

JC: Well, by the number, right? Now what...what I am confused about, is whether the first [house] from here is # 15 and this is # 16. I'm not very sure about that. So...

UM: Your wife...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...mentioned that the Father talked... when...when...when the Father came to bring you the sheet...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...she said that, at that moment, she introduced the Father to you.

JC: Aha.

UM: So that, before then, you had seen him but never greeted him.

JC: Yes, never, never.

UM: You had never heard his voice...



JC: Yes...no...no...

UM: ...you had only...

JC: ...yes...yes...

UM: ...so that up to that moment...

JC: ...up to that moment...

UM: ...when she introduced him to you.

JC: ...yes...yes...that was the moment when I saw him from close up, and we shook hands, we greeted each other...uh...yes, that was the only time...

UM: Yesterday you said that you just greeted him...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...and I would imagine that it was a greeting like "hello," "how are you?," "good afternoon"...and that's all, right?

JC: Yes...yes...

UM: But your wife said that the Father was talking with you for some time about the situation. What's the reality? You just greeted him or...

JC: We greeted each other...

UM: ...or you were talking with him?

JC: ...we greeted each other, we greeted each other. We only greeted each other, we shook hands, and what he...what he told me was: "This is your house, you will be here until the situation returns to normal."

UM: So that you didn't talk about the situation?

JC: Yes, that was all. Nothing about situations...

UM: And do you think that, if I...if somebody is introduced to me: "How are you? Pleased to meet you..."

JC: Yes.

UM: Uh...from a distance of sixty meters, I would be able to listen to and recognize that same voice? But in your statement you said that you did. You recognized the Father's voice.

JC: Exactly, exactly. When...when...when...I said in my statement that I did listen to the voice, during the night, right?

UM: Hm...

JC: And that voice...uh...then, well, yes, his voice, the way he was speaking, the tone of his voice, the pitch of his voice, was easy to recognize.

UM: That is, you are able to recognize a person uh... that has just been introduced to you and...uh...through shooting and noise...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...you are going to recognize that person's voice from a distance of sixty meters, there being walls in between?

JC: Well...if...if...if the voice is loud [enough], I can recognize it.

UM: So then you are sure...

JC: I am sure, I am sure.

UM: ...that you can...that you can...

JC: Yes, yes.

UM: And so then...uh... why is your wife saying that...that he was talking with you about the situation? That means that, if you were talking about the situation the country was living through, you were talking approximately for maybe five minutes, or for not so short a time, but...because a greeting can be, like I said...

JC: Exactly, yes.

UM: ..." hello, how are you? Pleased to meet you."

JC: Yes.

UM: And...

JC: Well...concerning those questions I can tell you that, concerning the country's situation, uh...we didn't...we didn't talk. No, only from that moment...and that we would be there until the situation became normal. That's what he told me.

UM: And...uh...you...uh...the voice...the voice of the Father...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...the way he was talking, was he shouting, or speaking normally?

JC: No, loud, loud, loud but not shouting, but with ...with...with a rather loud voice, but he was not shouting.

UM: You mentioned that, as the father was speaking, you were always hearing some shooting.

JC: I was hearing that, yes, I was hearing that.

UM: And that shooting didn't...didn't obstruct you...

JC: No, because it wasn't...

UM: ...from listening to the Father's voice?

JC: ...it wasn't...uh...in such a way that could block the sound of his voice. It wasn't either...like...how can I tell you? Like bursts of shooting going nonstop, but some shooting like that... and then it would stop, but a matter of seconds. You know well how a weapon is fired. So the weapon, well... just a few seconds, and then it stops, it makes no noise, you don't hear anything. So during those intervals, well...uh...was able to hear his voice well. Not for long, for long...for a minute, but just a matter of seconds.

UM: Uh...initially in your statement...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...you mentioned that you didn't know where you were, you were asleep, and when one wakes up, well...you hear noises and you don't know...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...exactly...

JC: ...where the place is...

UM: ...where the place is...

JC: Yes.

UM: Then how is it that you were able to establish that the burst of shooting was coming from the wood?

JC: The position of our room was like this. Suppose...supposing it's like this, like I'm showing you...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...the small mattresses were stuck over there. That wall separates the university campus from the room where we were. From this...from this wall that separates from the university campus...uh...around there, around the wood...where the parking lot is, where I don't know what other things are around there... it's only like thirty meters or forty meters. That's why I'm saying that the shooting was coming from just about there, because it was heard quite close. I can't say exactly that it was [coming] from the parking lot or from the wood but, just about, because I was hearing it so close...

UM: And you didn't hear shooting from other places?

JC: All right...

UM: Or only specifically from there?

JC: All right, I remember telling you that they were heard from the wood, they were heard from the highway, and they were heard from this other side, this other street, right?

UM: Yes. You mentioned a main entrance. In your opinion, which is the main entrance to the university?

JC: On the Gardens? That's where a walkway is. I don't know the name of that alleyway.

UM: Yes.

JC: That's an entrance, because there is no other one.

UM: No.

JC: And the other one is on Highway South.

UM: Uh...I remember also asking you whether you entered the university. You said that you did, but I asked you whether you knew ...uh...the priests' residence, and you said that you didn't. So, in your statement, you said that you located the Father's voice as coming from their residence.

JC: Yes.

UM: If you didn't know it, how could you be locating the residence?

JC: We arrived at that place early.

UM: Yes.

JC: When one arrives [at a place] to take a room, well...uh... you see where the bathroom is, where the windows are, right?

UM: Yes.

JC: So, there were two open windows, uh...and [through those windows] I was able...I was able to distinguish a chapel and a...a...their residence.

UM: You were able to see it?

JC: I...it could be seen perfectly, a part of it, the entrance...here there is this wire netting, it was able to see it well from this room where we were.

UM: According to the sketch we have here...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...I don't think that "Superman" could have seen that, because you can't see... from here to here you can't see, because this is a...a...an elevation that there is here...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...therefore there is no visibility access in this direction. So how could you have seen this, all the way here where the priests were? How could you see that?

JC: I can't explain to you that I saw room by room.

UM: Yes.

JC: Right? What I...

UM: But you initially told me that you didn't know...

JC: ...I didn't know...

UM: And so how could you say that they were in the priests' room?

JC: Well, because...because...because...because of my wife's talks, up to that moment...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...when we arrived there, right?

UM: That is, when you got there, your wife told you where the rooms were?

JC: Not directly: "Look at this and this." No, not directly, right?

UM: Well...

JC: With...with her... well, uh...sometimes we don't have talks openly like that, right? All the more since we are in this situation. But I can tell you with certainty that from this window, I don't know if this is the sketch of a window, or a door, I don't know what it is.

UM: Yes, yes, it's a window, it's a window.

JC: I don't know if this is the one through which she was watching... she was able to watch through the window in the room where we were, right?

UM: That's it. But what I do want to know is whether you knew this place. You are telling me that you didn't know it. So, if you didn't know it...then you are telling me that it does have a view in this direction, and there isn't...

JC: Partially...partially...

UM: ...there is no view. There is only a view up to here. From here to here you can't see anything. So, if you didn't know this place, how can you tell where the priests were, how can you say how you heard his voice? so then, I think, I feel that you are lying to me, that you are not telling me the truth, because it would be better...you should tell me: Look, no, the truth is that I didn't see anything, I didn't uh...uh...I didn't hear anything, the one who heard was my wife, or I did hear, but what I heard was only the shooting, etc., etc.

JC: That's all I'm saying...that I told you, that...I didn't tell you that I watched such a thing, but that I heard...but, I repeat, that through this window one can observe, and I'm telling you with certainty, if we were there and went to inspect the room, we would be able to observe part of the...of the...the entryway...the entryway to the place where the Fathers lived.

UM: So then, in your opinion, does the picture show where the entryway to the priests' place was? Come closer, closer...I'm going to show you...which is the entryway to the priests' rooms?

JC: I can't place it very well here.

UM: But you said that you were watching because the windows were open. So...if you noticed that the windows were open, you must know the place.

JC: As I told you, here ...don't think that I'm going to take that back or lie...or that I invented things, because if I'm saying something, this is a serious thing, because...what I saw and what I heard...I'm not going to try in any way to be lying.

UM: Well, locate for me there, just about, uh...the priest's residence. Well, where do you find it? That's the window at which...at which your wife...uh...was standing, according to your [or her] statement, watching...so, describe for me there where the priests' rooms are. You can't? You want me to tell you?

JC: Yes.

UM: Look...that's why I'm telling you that you'd better tell me and specify...yes, what...what you..heard... and how far you (ui), because if you...you are inventing...

JC: Well, no, that's why I'm telling you...

UM: ...because if you are inventing, then, later on, besides this, I'm going to give you a polygraph test...

JC: Yes.

UM: ..so that, if you are lying, it's going to come there...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...whether you are lying or not, besides what we are checking here right now, because here are the pictures...

JC: Yes.

UM: I was telling you, this is the window, here, at which your wife was standing...and, since you said that the windows were open, and when you arrived at the house, you were able to see, and [you said] that you saw the priests' room. Indicate --here is your wife's window--indicate here for me where the priests' rooms are.

JC: I suppose that this is part of the chapel...

UM: Yes.

JC: This thing you see (ui).

UM: Yes.

JC: So then, this way...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...right?

UM: But can you see from here? If you were behind here, could you see this? Could you see it or not?

JC: Well, the way [the picture] is taken there, one could not see it.

UM: And once...and once in front of the window, there in El Salvador, inside the house, you think you could see all the way to the Fathers' room?

JC: [The thing is] that it has two windows. The thing is that I can't place it...

UM: On this one? All right, place it here.

JC: Yes.

UM: This is a view taken from outside...from inside the university facilities...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...looking in the direction inside the house.

JC: In the direction of the houses...

UM: In the direction of the houses...

JC: Yes.

UM: So...this is the window...uh... that your wife mentioned.

JC: Let's see...this way is this other one...this one belongs to the other room...

UM: Yes. So then place it here... and place it here. Uh... here... this is the ...this is the...the part that is circled is the window at which your wife was standing. Place it as if you were on the inside, coming this way. Where is the priests' room? You know something?

JC: Yes.

UM: You can't distinguish it because it cannot be seen. That's why...that's why you can't distinguish it, because it cannot be seen. There is no visibility all the way there, because you have...uh... and I'm going to show you here, see?

JC: Yes.

UM: You have visibility, or your wife, you didn't see it, your wife had visibility up to here.

JC : Aha.

UM: So, from here to here, it's impossible to see because this wall prevents you from doing so. This wall prevents you from seeing in this direction. Therefore, here there is, to the place where the priests lived, a distance of, approximately, between 60 and 65 meters. If you didn't know [the house] you couldn't have placed it. But, in your statement, you said that you did, that those were the priests' rooms, that is, you affirmed that it was there.

JC: There are things...that, even if they didn't explain to you point by point but, by logic, by logic, you can...you can...if...if there is some building, well, that's the house of so-and-so.

UM: In your opinion, which was the new room you mentioned there, in your statement yesterday, or in the interview we had, you mentioned to me, when I asked you if you knew the room, you said: "No, I didn't know it, but that's the new room." Which is the new room, in your opinion?

JC: Where the priests lived.

UM: Yes...when you mentioned that you heard noises, as if they were dragging books, as if they were...

JC: Yes, that they were dragging furniture...

UM: ...furniture...

JC: ..and that I was hearing noise of [breaking] glass...

UM: ...and you were locating them, specifically, in that direction...

JC: In that place...in that place...

UM: ...in that direction. And you knew that that was the Fathers' room.

JC: Yes, yes.

UM: But how did you know it if your wife never mentioned it to you?

JC: I'm saying that we got there early...

UM: Yes.

JC: Right?



UM: Yes, yes.

JC: So she...with some...with some word or something like that, because we didn't start...start talking directly: "Look, Jorge, look, this is their room. Look, Jorge, this and that." Because maybe she doesn't know that much either. Because then, that's a room...I don't know how long it has been since they moved into it. But, according to what my wife said, they had moved in not long ago. Days...

UM: And she...you think that she doesn't know?

JC: Well, I don't know that.

UM: You just told me right now that you think that your wife doesn't know very well either.

JC: That's right, yes, all the way there, all the way to that place.

UM: That is, all the way to the priests' room.

JC: Yes, all the way to that room. Well, up to that moment I think that, maybe, she still didn't know the inside...

UM: So then...

JC: Yes...

UM: ...at what point did your wife know the inside?

JC: Well, when she...uh...it was the day after it happened, after they had already killed them, because she had arrived at...she went out in order to see what had happened...uh... a few hours earlier, or...at midnight, just about...

UM: So then you [plural] don't know with full certainty, a...a...you as well as your wife, a knowledge of what this was, this area of the university.

JC: I don't.

UM: And your wife?

JC: Well, although her work, well, was there, not specifically in this place at...at their room, but she did her job, well, at the Rectory...uh...I don't know what other places there, right?

UM: So...

JC: So that, in order for her to have known all the way up there...uh... I think she didn't...

UM: Could you tell me...could you tell me, now that we talked about the houses...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...in which one of the houses exactly you stayed to sleep, in # 15 or # 16?

JC: In # 16.

UM: That is, you already knew where you were, because you told me initially that...

JC: Yes, that's the conclusion...

UM: ...you didn't know the numbers...

JC: ...I reached...

UM: Yes...

JC: ...and that's what might hurt us somehow, especially, well, that the statement should coincide with the way things [actually] are, not the fact of agreeing with each other, but that things should coincide.

UM: Yes.

JC: Do you agree? So that's the thing...that's what concerns me... that I don't know whether this is...this # 15 or # 16. That's what I don't...don't remember very well.

UM: Your...your wife, that is, LUCIA...

JC: Yes.

UM: LUCIA mentioned that...that when she came back...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...from seeing what she saw, she didn't tell you anything of what she had seen, but that you, yes, when she came back, you told her: "You could get shot for being curious, or they could shoot you." But yesterday you told me that she...that LUCIA had come trembling and nervous, sat down, didn't talk to you, didn't make any comments, and went to bed. What's the truth?

JC: Allow me, allow me, let's recall...well, I don't remember...I don't remember very well...yes, the truth is that I don't remember...because...uh...especially, we were by then very...very frightened.

UM: But...uh...

JC: At that moment, I don't remember...

UM: ...that's a situation that one lives through and can remember...

JC: Aha.

UM: So how did you recognize the name of the legal expert? If you don't recognize...at that moment...if you don't remember...at that moment...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...how...how is it that... what you told her when she came, after hearing the shooting, and...and you being concerned that...that she...she was...how then did you recognize the name of the legal expert?

JC: Well, I saw her many times on television, talking on television.

UM: So then you don't remember what you told your wife?

JC: No, no...no...I don't remember.

UM: But you do [remember] that you didn't talk about anything...

JC: No, not that I remember.

UM: That is, something, anything you talked about when she came back from...from the next room.

JC: No, I can't say yes, I can't yes no because I don't...

UM: You don't remember...

JC: No, no...

UM: That is, if you talked about something, if you told her something, anything that you might have told her: "Look, why did you go there to watch? They could have killed you," or anything. You didn't...you didn't tell her anything? Because yesterday you told me that you hadn't told her anything...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...that you just saw her come in all nervous, she went to bed, she didn't tell you anything, and she went to sleep...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...until sunrise.

JC: Aha. Yes, I didn't...didn't tell her anything. Well, maybe, no, not maybe, but...no...no...no...no...

UM: When was it, then, that your wife, if that night, when she...when she came back... from the other room...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...from the room that was next to it...

JC: Hm...

UM: ...uh...and didn't mention... didn't tell you anything, when was it that she explicitly told you what she had seen?

JC: In the morning, before 6:00, we woke up...

UM: Yes.

JC: ...concerned with what had happened. So she got up and told me: "I'm going to see what happened." She got up, combed her hair and left. It was then a little after 6:00, after the curfew. A few minutes later, or seconds, she came back, fast, and closed the door after she came in...and she came in fast, and I was still in the room with the little girl...and then she told me...uh...uh...she said...she said: "They did the priests in"...uh...a...a... a...what do you call it? How can I tell you? A brawl that we had with some people who used to live near to the place where I used to live before. The place is called San Pedro (ui). And the place where we used to receive was Cantón Las Comunidades.

UM: What happened there?

JC: Uh, well, I was attacked, I was attacked...uh...let's see...one, two, three...among four people...

UM: They attacked you with what, what machetes?

JC: With "corvos," with "corvos" and pistols.

UM: What is a "corvo"?

JC: It's a machete like that.

UM: A machete...

JC: Yes.

UM: A big "corvo"?

JC: Yes.

UM: Long like that...

UM2: OK, then, you defended yourself...

JC: I defended myself

UM2: ...and you survived, right?

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: Because...no...you are alive...

JC: Yes.

UM2: So four [men] attacked you...

JC: They attacked me...uh... MANUEL, MIGUEL, ANDRES...and a guy whose name was...is...PEDRO BERNAL.

UM2: How did they come out?

JC: Well, one died and I injured another one.

UM2: So you are quite a brave person. You are not a coward.

JC: Uh...maybe not brave, because...but rather, there... it was some luck and maybe some...

UM2: This...this would be that (ui), right?

JC: Yes, this is from mine..this is from mine...this is from mine...this other one is also from mine...

UM2: Uh...what I would like you to do...was this reported to the police there, or...

JC: Yes, and also to the Court.

UM2: Did you go to Court?

JC: Yes.

UM2: What happened?

JC: Well...the Jury had to see (unclear).

UM2: Aha, then...well, what I want to establish here is...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...that, at the least, you are a person who can defend himself...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...that you have defended yourself on other occasions when you life was...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...at risk.

JC: Aha, yes.

UM2: OK. What I don't understand is...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...how a man, well, like that...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...is going to let, in the first place, let his wife be the one...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...who is going to...to investigate, through the window, the shooting.

JC: Aha.

UM2: Because this is alien to me. If something...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...if there is a noise in my house...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...I won't send my wife to get up and see what's going on.

JC: Aha, yes.

UM2: I'd do it myself.

JC: Yes.

UM2: That...can you clarify that for me?

JC: It's like that with everything, and we have always been like that. But in that...in that case she acts...and would be...or it must be...or it would be at that moment because... of the...the...what do you call it? The appreciation she has for the Fathers, but I didn't tell her to do it.

UM2: Well, but the thing is that I wouldn't let my wife do it.

JC: Yes.

UM2: How would I? And you would?

JC: The thing is that she wasn't going to come out where the danger was. I suppose that's how it was, because we were inside the room, right?

UM2: You didn't know where she was going? She got up to...

JC: Exactly.

UM2: ...and there was a shooting...

JC: There was.

UM2: ...and you let her go.

UM: You didn't tell her: "What are you doing? They are going to kill you"?

UM2: ...none of that...that...that...I don't understand that. It's impossible. I don't think that a person who would fight somebody with a machete...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...and who killed a man..and...and all that...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...that would let her own wife get up in the middle of the night, in the midst of a shooting,...

JC: Hm...

UM2: ...and that he wouldn't ask her: "Where are you going?...if we have to find out something, stay here with the girl, I'll take care of it." I don't understand that, I doesn't...doesn't ...

JC: No...no...

UM2: ...it doesn't fit a person of Latin extraction.

JC: Hm...

UM2: That isn't...that isn't...

JC: It's a strange case, well.

UM2: It's too strange...uh...that's not ...that's...

JC: Yes...well...

UM2: ...that's totally alien to your way of life.

JC: Aha, yes, you are right.

UM2: That's why I want you to clarify that for me. I don't understand that part.

JC: Yes, you are right. But the truth is that...uh...sometimes she acts like that, OK?

UM2: Apart from that, let's...how can you...she (ui)...

JC: Yes.

UM2: She came...crying or nervous, or...

JC: Exactly...

UM2: ... she came in, after what might have happened...what she might have seen or heard, and you didn't ask her anything?

JC: Nothing.

UM2: That also...

JC: ...doesn't...doesn't fit, right?

UM2: ...ii...it doesn't...

JC: Yes, you can't...can't perceive...

UM2: ...so if you would explain to me why...

JC: Aha, yes...well...uh...she, well...sometimes...sometimes is like that...a little secretive, right?

UM2: But that...we are not talking about a simple situation, we are not talking about, well...about...she had a problem with her mother, or...we are not talking...she didn't cook what I wanted to eat...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...or...uh...we are talking about the fact that there was a horrible shooting...

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: ...explosions outside, very close, thirty meters...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...forty meters away...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...she goes out...she comes back, she comes back visibly nervous, because you said that you saw her looking nervous...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and you didn't even ask her what...what's...why she is nervous? How come? That cannot be. I won't believe that, he doesn't believe it, he doesn't believe it, nobody will believe it.

JC: Aha.

UM2: That's not...that's not...that's not the way things are. There is something here that you are not...

JC: ...conscious of what I'm doing?

UM2: Exactly. Here there is something that you are either hiding or...or you are fabricating things that didn't happen. Because I'm not going to believe that a Latin man, first of all, would let his wife go to see a shooting, and he'd stay behind taking care of the girl, and in the second place, that when she comes back you will stay like that and won't ask her anything at all. What happened? You can't tell me that that's the truth, because it can't be. Tell me what you found out, what happened there.

JC: Allow me, allow me...well, she came back and went back to bed.

UM2: And you didn't ask her anything.

JC: No, I didn't ask her anything.



(end of side one)

(side two)

UM2: Well, let's suppose...

JC: Aha...

UM2: ...let's suppose that everything happened the way you said...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...until the morning.

JC: Aha.

UM2: Now how are you going to tell me, or how are you going to tell the colonel, or how you are going to tell my companion that you let your wife go alone to the...to the university campus to see what had happened? That's something that...

JC: ...that you can't...

UM2: ...how are you going to tell me that...that...

JC: Well...

UM2: ...you stayed [in the house] taking care of the girl...

JC: Taking care of the girl...

UM2: ...what you are ...you are doing...

JC: Yes...

UM2: ...it looks like...uh...I don't understand that, because you are a man who, well, who have visibly been in trouble before...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...you no doubt had to fend for your life...uh...and you are going to let your wife run the risk of going to a place where she had already told you that there had been a shooting, where she could have been killed and all that, and you stayed there taking care of the girl? That...there is something...

JC: You can't believe it...

UM2: ...that doesn't square up...

JC: Well, there are things that you can't believe but the truth is that it was so...uh... she got up, all she said was: "I'm going to see what happened." (ui)

without knowing, because up to that hour neither she nor I, or the neighbors knew what had happened.

UM2: If...if I hear...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and see the things that you said you heard and saw, I...you don't need to be a nuclear scientist or anything like that...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...to image that there was something...

JC: ...there was something...

UM2: ...there was something serious there, and that there probably were people dead or injured on the other side, right? Because that's what both of you were imagining.

JC: Well, maybe neither she nor I realized what might have happened.

UM2: You didn't...you didn't imagine at all that that's what had happened?

JC: No.

UM2: Bombs, that...

JC: Yes, yes...

UM2: ...powerful ones, that sounded closeby...

JC: ...powerful bombs...

UM2: ...because I have heard those bombs sound, and they are...

JC: ...very loud...

UM2: ...very loud...shots...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...when a shot sounds as close as those shots sounded...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...yo can have no doubt that there was something serious there where that happened.

JC: Aha.

UM2: Exactly, You already said: "No, the shots were there, the bomb was there" ...there where the priests were...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and...something happened there. And you are going to let your wife go alone? What's...uh...

JC: Aha...yes, well, like I told you, you are right to think that way, well...that...but the truth is that it was so, the way I told you. So then you... like I told you, that neither she nor I, well, we were already coming from that shooting over there...and we heard big bombs, and shots on the streets, but, up to the moment of the shooting, I didn't see any dead person. All I saw...were he people who were saying: "In such a place there were several dead persons...in such a place there were several dead persons..." but that I didn't (ui) the Father. Maybe that's what prevented us from realizing what could, in fact, have happened in that place.

UM2: You didn't have the least ...the least idea...

JC: Idea, no...

UM2: ...of what had happened?

JC: No, no...

UM2: No...

JC: No...

UM2: So you heard shots, bombs, all that...

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: ...and you let her the next morning, instead of yourself...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...go to a place that was possibly dangerous to see what had happened? No..no...you didn't associate any danger with all that shooting and with all those bombs there?

JC: Well, the thing is that our minds did not look ahead, neither mine nor maybe hers, either.

UM2: What do you mean you didn't look ahead?

JC: We didn't look ahead to think that, in fact, there might have been casualties in that place.

UM2: I don't think that anybody can be so...so stupid, so unintelligent...so short of intelligence, nobody is that stupid. If I hear a bomb...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...in this case there were three or four bombs...

JC: No, two.

UM2: ...two...or two bombs...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and how many shots?

JC: Well...

UM2: Hundreds?

JC: Several...

UM2: Uh...screams?

JC: No screams.

UM2: No...

JC: Only voices.

UM2: Voices?

JC: Yes.

UM2: Uh...furniture being moved... things being broken...

JC: Yes...aha...

UM2: ...[would think that] nothing dangerous happened there...and a Latin man, who fought other people with machetes, and who caused somebody's death and all that, is going to let his wife be the one to go find out [what happened] in a dangerous place? That doesn't square up...

JC: It doesn't...it doesn't go...

UM2: ...it doesn't square up, here or anywhere.

UM: Besides that...besides that, you wife told you there... you said that she didn't tell you anything...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...and that you didn't tell her anything, either. But she also said that she told you: "Look, maybe they came to search the Fathers' room again."

JC: Ahh, well...you reminded me. Yes, that's right. Because, talking to her like that, I don't know at what time or whatever...I can't specify but, yes, she told me that Father NACHO had told her, that they had come to search I don't know what he said, but that's true, she told me that, that they had come to search the...

UM: But that was the day before. We are talking about the night, the time of the shooting, like he said...like Eduardo said...

JC: Aha...yes...yes, but I don't remember the time, it's true, now it's coming back...what you told me, but I don't...don't...don't remember what time that was...but I do...

UM: If you don't remember at what time you went there, then how can you remember that you woke up at 1:00 a.m.?

JC: Well, I'm not telling you specifically that it was 1:00. It was probably 1:00 because we, or I, I had already slept a little, I'm not mentioning a specific time, right at 1:00, I'm not saying that.

UM: But the problem is that in your statement for the judge you do specify a time. So that's what the bad part is.

JC: I might have given the wrong time.

UM: Because you did tell the judge a specific time.

JC: Mhhh...well, maybe that's the way they took it down, well, the truth is that it is not so...and how could I give an exact time knowing that we were in the dark? How could I see the watch at that time?

UM: But..but you signed here, you signed, and by signing, it's like you...you take responsibility for having killed so-and-so and...and...and until 1:00 a.m., and you sign...

JC: Ah...yes...

UM: ...you signed, and in order for you to sign here, the judge read your statement to you, and so, if you had said: "Look, you wrote down at 1:00 a.m., but I don't know how to figure the time." Then the judge would have written: "He does not know how to figure the time." But here you said at 1:00.

JC: Well, to err is human, and it must have been that I... that... I said: "Probably at 1:00."

UM: Or else...somebody told you: "Look, you are going to say this."

JC: No, no. I'm not being worked on by anybody, right? Because if it were so, I would say: Well, I was advised that way, and nobody is going to advise me because I have always been separated from everything...well, then, but I didn't...with certainty... make any statement for an exact time. They took down my statement but, up to that time, I didn't know whether that was a judge or...I don't know who. They took down that statement at the...French Embassy.

UM: It wasn't at the Spanish Embassy?

JC: No, at the Spanish Embassy they did not take down any statement from me.

UM2: Well, is it the custom there in El Salvador that the wife is the one who...well, takes the risks in the family?

JC: No, it isn't the custom. Well, not so that I noticed.

UM2: Is that the custom in your family? Is it she who does the dangerous things? Is she... is it she who works, is it she who supports the household? And is it she...

JC: I do, I do. But there are things...well...uh...in those days, during the curfew, about five to ten minutes before that, she used to go shopping, which...which I couldn't do because I was supporting...

UM2: In your relationship who is the head of the house? Who is in charge of the house, who is...

JC: Well, when I do my things, she does her things, that's all.

UM2: Because...it's unconceivable...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...that you let her run the risk of getting up in the middle of the night, leave the room, you didn't know where she was going, and you didn't even ask her: "Where are you going?" There was some shooting going on outside...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...when she went through the door, you didn't know where she was going...and you didn't ask her anything. When she came back, all nervous, you didn't ask...you didn't ask her anything, OK? In the first place, it's very strange that you let her go alone. In the second place, it's still stranger that you didn't ask her what had happened. After that, knowing all that had happened, you let her go to a place that you knew what had happened there, or what might still be happening there, because sometimes... because sometimes they leave bombs set so that people would step on them later.

JC: Aha.

UM2: That happens there, right?

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: And it did happen at that same place a week ago, right? So you just told me, you are telling us that you let your wife go to a place from where she might possibly not come back, because there was some shooting, there were bombs, a dangerous place, and you stay there like a housewife taking care of the little girl? That isn't...

JC: You can't believe it.

UM2: Well, not only I can't believe it, but very few people in the world will believe it, and nobody in the Latin world.

JC: Well, go and look, that's what we do here with the girl, either she takes care of her or I do.

UM2: Yes.

JC: Right? Well, right now she is taking care of her.

UM2: Hm...

JC: If she goes out, I take care of her. Uh.. yes, it's my turn to take care of her.

UM2: You are talking about a different thing.

JC: Aha.

UM2: There is no risk involved in taking care of the girl.

JC: No.

UM2: There is a risk...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...involved in getting up in the midst of a shooting...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...to see what's going on...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...and doesn't know... and the other person doesn't even know where she was going. There is a risk involved in entering a place where there were bombs during the night or shooting and all that and let...uh... the male of the family doesn't do that in any Latin family that I know of. Well, unless there are problems apart from that, right? And you don't look like you are a homosexual or dumb or nothing like that. It doesn't seem to me that way.

JC: No, no, never. A male is a male.

UM2: Exactly.

JC: But...but...

UM2: And a male doesn't do what you said that you did.

JC: The thing is that we were very aware that we were within the facilities of that house. So that, if she got up, I didn't...

UM2: Yes.

JC: I didn't know that she was going to...

UM2: You...you were...you had seen the house, you had gone through the house, right? I haven't been in the house but I saw the plan of the house...

JC: Yes.

UM2: and I can see that, if she leaves the room where you were sleeping, she could have gone all the way outside, right? There are doors here, there are doors here, she could have gone outside and come in here in the midst of the gunfire without...to see what was going on, without.... without you asking her anything. She left this room here where she was with you...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...she came here...

JC: Here.

UM2: ...here...you... and...and...and she could have come here and gone outside, or she could have come here...or she could have done anything. You didn't know where she went, when she left. And you didn't even ask her where she was going, in the midst of...with gunfire outside.

JC: No, no.

UM2: When she came back nervous you didn't ask her what happened.

JC: No, no, no, no, no.

UM2: That's it. And then you let her come to see what happened here...

JC: In the morning...

UM2: ...in the morning...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and you think that bullets don't hurt in the morning or...or bullets only hurt at night, or bombs only...

JC: Well, thinking that way, it must be that way, and it is like that. Thinking and analyzing well, specifically, analyzing, just like you are doing, well, the case is this: That now you are proceeding scientifically with things, but we...

UM2: I...I...I grew up...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...among Latins all my life, OK?

JC: Aha, but...

UM2: I have had...I have had contact with Cubans...

JC: Yes.



UM2: ...Nicaraguans, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans, Mexicans, Guatemalans...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...Colombians, Venezuelans, I know many people from all the Latin world.

JC: Aha.

UM2: OK, no Latin, who considers himself to be a man, does what you are saying that you did. It's impossible, that isn't...it's not allowed by...

JC: Our blood...

UM2: Exactly. If my wife hears a noise at night, I...you think that I'm going to let her get up to see what happened? And all the more when there are shots and...and explosions? No, I'd tell her: "Look, get under the bed, and I'm going to see what can be seen." OK?

JC: Yes, uh... in that case...well...

UM2: That wouldn't be done...and I'm not doing...I'm not saying this because I'm braver than anybody else. I'm saying this because that's the way I grew up, and that...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and all the Latins I know in all the countries of Central and South America would do the same thing. So, truly, I would like you, if you are...

JC: erring in the...in the...

UM2: ...in the...in the statement. If somebody told you... please, don't waste any more of the colonel's time or mine, OK?

JC: Yes, no...

UM2: Please, think well what you are saying...

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: ...because...I understand that maybe somebody told you to say this, to say that, or you think that you should say this because somebody is thinking, without telling you so...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...might have...might...uh...have insinuated..or might...or wants to hear those things...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...but, who is going to believe that? Who is going to believe that a man is going to let his wife do that, in the situation in which you, you [plural] were?

JC: Yes, like I told you, when you get to thinking like that...in depth, it is like that, that's all, that the man should face things, the whole problem, either a noise, or an uproar, it's like that.

UM2: And here this is more than noise, these are shots.

JC: That's right, exactly, yes.

UM2: It's not...it's not a matter that ...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...that those were shots. I mean those were shots, and they very many...

JC: Yes, yes, a burst of shooting...

UM2: ...hundreds...

JC: Aha, well, then...

UM2: If you...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...have erred in some way, have made a mistake in what you said, or...for some reason you thought that you should have said something, when in truth it wasn't ...it wasn't so, let us know, because...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...I understand the situation in which you [plural] were...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...and the colonel likewise...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...let us know now because we are going to find out anyway...

JC: Yes, aha.

UM2: ...you...you can sit there...I'm...I'm feeling, the same way he is feeling, the way you are talking, that you are not telling us things correctly.

JC: Aha.

UM2: And you can tell us anything you want. Now tomorrow, when they put you in the machine [polygraph test]...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...you won't be able to lie to the machine.

JC: That's right, yes, yes.

UM2: OK? The machine is going to say immediately...

JC: That it's a lie...

UM2: ...that it's a lie. So, please, don't waste our time. Tell us the truth.

JC: Allow me, at least, uh...no, but that I'm being worked on by somebody, not so...

UM2: Not so...

JC: ...that I'm being advised by somebody, not so.

UM2: What happened? Do you think that you should make some statements?

JC: Up to the point where we are there in my statement.

UM: You don't say we are in...

UM2: (interrupts) If...if there is something...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...if there is something that you have to clarify...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...because it isn't...it didn't happen like...like you told us...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...start telling us the truth, from the beginning, and tell us what part...what was the truth of what happened. We are not going to try to fix things...

JC: No...

UM2: ...little by little.

JC: ... conditioning...

UM2: ...we are going to fix...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...the whole thing.

JC: Yes. That is, according to the statement, from there you can take...

UM2: Don't worry about the statement. OK, if you tell me now: "Look, this is the truth" ...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...and tomorrow... and that's the truth that we are going to check on you.

JC: Aha.

UM2: I want to know that that is the truth, and not to waste time with all this, because I, truly, there are many things here that...

JC: Yes.

UM2: ...from the time...they told me that this is what it was said.

JC: Aha.

UM2: I mean, the red flags come out right away...

JC: Aha.

UM2: ...telling you that here there is something that doesn't square up.

JC: Aha. Yes, well, yes...that's what I can tell you...uh... whether I saw something else I can't say that I saw...or that...or that I heard something else or names...none of that...

UM2: What's...what's a (ui) that you saw and what you know?

JC: Well, in reference to that fact...in reference to that...uh...what I heard were the shots, the bombs...uh...the voice of...of...Father IGNACIO, or NACHITO, the way we want to call him...uh...noise of furniture [being moved]... noise of [breaking] glass...and of more shots, right? That's what I can tell you, but whether I can say with...with...with certainty that I saw that they fired shots there, I can't say that because I didn't see it. I only heard, right?

UM2: Hm...

JC: When one has a certainty that he has seen something, well, he can clearly say: "From here, just about, is the height." But I haven't seen anything. I only heard.

UM2: Did you see your wife get up and go to the window?

JC: Yes, yes.

UM2: Well, you saw your wife get out and leave the room. It didn't have... there wasn't any window, or did you see her go to the window?

JC: No, I only..heard...I was on my little mattress, two little mattresses, the girl was in the middle, right? I was here, against this wall.

UM2: Aha.

JC: Supposing that that is the wall, because it was in that position. I had my little mattress there, over here is the other little mattress, here in the middle was the girl...uh...when I heard...the girl...uh...the girl, well, was moving. When I heard that she got up, opened the door...I, well, at that time I didn't ask her at all where she was going, right?...uh...yes, that's what I can tell you.

UM2: Did you see her when she came back or were you asleep when she came back?

JC: I wasn't asleep, I wasn't asleep.

UM2: You saw her come back.

JC: She entered the room. The lights were not on, because there was no power.

UM2: Hmm...

JC: The lights were not on, but there was some... maybe... half...half...light...well...not...not...not perfectly well like that, but...uh...how could I say? I saw that she was coming in, right?

UM2: Aha. And what happened?

JC: Uh...well...I don't remember if she went to [the place] where she said that was...I don't remember well if, at that instant, she told me that maybe they had come to search...no, no, no. I can't say with certainty...if it was at that instant...

UM2: But, generally, when they go to search they don't shoot or set bombs, right?

JC: Well, but that was our feeling. That's what we thought.

UM2: So what happened then?

JC: Well, we went to bed, we went to sleep. I was in bed, and she also went to bed. We tried to sleep. In the morning she went out also...

UM2: And you let her go out...without...without offering...without telling her: "No, I'll go instead of you"?

JC: Like I told you, without...we were not aware, we didn't think that there could, in fact, be something...something worse, or there could be a mine or a bomb, I don't know what, right?

UM2: (to UM) Continue with him.

UM: (to UM2) Yes. (to JC) Like Eduardo was telling you...

JC: Yes.

UM: Uh...really what we want is, truly, and...that's why they are...they are present here...

JC: Yes, aha.

UM: ...to know exactly who was, or who were the authors of...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...whoever that was.

JC: ...whoever that was.

UM: No matter who that was. And that's why we are...they are present here. But...but if you mention something to us that doesn't ...that is, doesn't coincide, and our investigation is closed, it won't be worth it.

JC: Yes.

UM: It won't be worth it. So that's why ...why...why we want you to be honest, because all you are saying is confusing. What you are saying...uh...uh...has no relation...and then one can say that you may be saying something, perhaps because you imagined it...

JC: Invented or something...invented...

UM: ...because...or because they told you: "Look, you are leaving the country...and we are going to take you"...they forced you...

JC: No, no...

UM: ...right? Or something. Because how are you...how are you going to come here and leave your house? I...I wouldn't leave my house alone there. Yesterday I asked your wife.

JC: Yes.

UM: I asked her: And with whom did you leave your house? To nobody, she said, it's left alone there.

JC: There it is.

UM: If a radio that I buy costs me ...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...my work. And you leave it alone there and come here...

JC: Let's start from there, then. From the time when we were in my mother-in-law's house.

UM: Yes.

JC: And up to that moment I didn't know anything. I didn't know anything about...about...about our situation. But we were in fear, yes, right? We were in fear. Because these neighbors here saw us come out from...from... they saw us arrive at this house next to the university and they saw us leave in the

morning. And...and...uh... they could think that, well...whoever that was...they could think that we might testify, isn't it? And so, then, I was in fear, there where I was, whoever the perpetrators were. But they might...think something or investigate, or through the neighbors, come to know that we were there. Because the neighbors saw us arrive at about 3:00 or after 3:00, I don't know what time. And leave in the morning, after the curfew. With the small mattresses and the luggage. We were there, at...at my mother-in-law's, when they came to get me. The Father came to get me there, and he explained to me, well, once we were in house # 50...yes, it was house # 50. And there he told me where we were going. And as we were in the Spanish Embassy, there he told us, well, that, because of...because of... well...here...here is the point: My wife arrived at the Curia, a house that belongs to the same priests. I don't know the number of the house. She arrived there to work, thinking that she was going to work, because a new week was starting, a week. Uh...once she was there, well...what they did, well...uh... who saw her...I don't know who was the first person to open the door for her, or with whom she talked, but they let her in, right? So I don't remember what she told me...I don't...I don't....I don't remember either...

UM: And so how did you know that? If...if...how did you know that? If you are saying that she did not tell you? How did you know that she got to the Curia, that they let her in.

JC: Well, this is because of what she told me afterwards, right? All right, by the time...uh...yes, well, they let her into...into the Curia. There...there she told me... that they asked her whether she had seen anything, or heard anything. She said... she said... she told me that Father...I don't know who, because I don't know him.

UM: So then she told you that when she got to the Curia...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...they told her that.

JC: Yes, yes, she told me that...

UM: Because she stated that she told you so when she got to house # 50 to tell the Fathers. And now you are saying that [she told you that] when she got to the Curia.

JC: No, allow me, let's not confuse things...to the Curia...

UM: Hm...

JC: She...it looks that it was so, that in her statement, she reported to the Curia on Monday. I don't know the house number, I do know the house.

UM: Yes.

JC: But I don't know the house number. She reported there. There, well, she found the Fathers, I don't know who they were. I don't know that, with whom she talked, but I do know that one of the Fathers asked her to tell him what...what she had seen, or what she had heard.

UM: Where did she tell you that?

JC: At the Curia. Uh? My wife?

UM: Yes. Where did she tell you that?

JC: Once at the Spanish Embassy. Yes, at the Spanish Embassy. So that, at that moment the Father told her --my wife told me-- "What you are stating, what you are saying, tell, what you are telling me, just like it is, and just like you are telling me, tell it also to the judge and uh... the legal expert." I don't want to...I don't want to make a mistake because that's the way things are. Yes, that's what she told me. [the Father told her:] "And tell also, this statement, tell it also to the legal expert." That's what she told me, just like that. "So that for this reason, we are going to protect you because you are in danger, we are going to protect you in the Spanish Embassy." Uh...uh... that's what my wife told me, right? The actual expressions [or statements] that they told her...I don't...I don't know that. But she told me that.

UM: You also mentioned that...that...that you didn't even know the university rooms...

JC: Yes.

UM: But you were talking about house # 50. So if you didn't know it, why were you talking about house # 50?

JC: If I didn't know what, that place?

UM: Yes.

JC: No.

UM: Where is the house?

JC: Always in...in the Gardens.

UM: But you couldn't place it.

JC: No, no, I couldn't do that. Always in the Gardens. And I know it because...uh...well...uh...

UM: When Father FERMIN arrived...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...to pick you up at Antigua Cuzcatlan...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...you didn't ask him anything about your wife?



JC: I asked him. Father FERMIN got there with a lady of the name JUANA BARRERA. This JUANA BARRERA is my wife's aunt...possibly to show him the house, because I suppose that the Father didn't know where it was.

UM: And your wife didn't...she didn't send you any message?

JC: No, no, no.

UM: And then why did she say that she gave you a little piece of paper where she told you: "Look, don't worry, the Father is going to bring you where I am, and come with them"?

JC: No.

UM: What happened with the piece of paper? Is it a lie?

JC: Then...well...yes, because the truth is that it isn't so. Because I'm willing to tell the truth and not keep going with so many stories, wasting time, lying that way. These are serious things so we have to take them seriously.

UM: Yesterday...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...you told me that Father FERMIN...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...uh...who is Father FERMIN?

JC: Uh... the owner of the...a house, what is it called?...what is it called?...I forget the name of this house they have there where they make some retreats. I don't know what they do there, I don't know that, I don't know that. I don't know where he lives, either, right? But... by...by my wife's words, I do know that his name was Father FERMIN.

UM: What...

JC: Now then...

UM: ...if he...if he went with you...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...he went there to bring you...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...from one place to another, and from that place he took you to another place, he spent more time with you.

JC: Yes.

UM: And you don't remember his name, or know who he is?

JC: Ah, you are asking me about his name.

UM: Yes.

JC: Ah, well...uh...uh...his name is... FERMIN SAENZ, FERMIN SAENZ.

UM: Well...yesterday you told me that Father FERMIN SAENZ had taken you from your wife's house...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...your mother-in-law's...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...to the Spanish Embassy, but then later you told me that it wasn't so, that you had gone to house # 50, that you had changed cars, and that, from there...uh...you had gone with some other persons...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...but in another statement you said that Father SAENZ went with you from house # 50 to the embassy. So, what's the truth? Who went with you then?

JC: Well...yes...it's good that you remind me. From the house where we were, my mother-in-law's, this Father FERMIN SAENZ, a man with blond hair, took us to house # 50. Also Mrs. JUANA BARRERA was going with us, and another priest, another father whose name is...that name...no...no...no... I don't remember his name, because...well...if I see him I'll know him. I know who he is, a short man, a short Father...I don't...I don't...I don't know his name. But he came with us to house # 50. In house # 50 we changed vehicles. There...only...mhhh...ah, well, yes...this lady...this lady JUANA came to that point, and also Father FERMIN. They stayed there in house # 50.

UM: With whom did you go then to the embassy?

JC: In the... there in house # 50 there was a gray-blue car, I don't know...I don't...I don't...I don't remember the color, but it was a car with polarized windows. A tall man, with glasses, thick glasses was there...uh...we swapped vehicles and we got...I, with my little girl and the luggage, we got into that other car. It was probably the embassy's, the property of the embassy.

UM: And then you went to the embassy.

JC: From house # 50 we left in the direction of the embassy.

UM: So Father FERMIN didn't go with you...

JC: Father FERMIN wasn't going, Father FERMIN stayed in house # 50.

UM: But yesterday you told me that he did, that he came with you.

JC: No. The one who came with us...the one who came with me was this...this Father...I forget his name...I forget his full name. It's the short Father who only wears a "guayabera" [long shirt worn outside the trousers].

UM: Did the ambassador at any point ask you if you wanted to leave the country?

JC: Yes.

UM: And he didn't tell you...he didn't tell you why he was asking you that?

JC: Well, he said...[he told] me...only me.

UM: Aha.

JC: When my wife was I don't know where, in the kitchen, I don't know where, there, in the embassy's facilities...uh...the Spanish Ambassador called me and told me: "Look", he told me, "you [plural]," he told me, "can go to Spain or any other place," he told me. "Because," he told me, "there is a need to protect you," he told me...uh..."the situation is very bad," he told me, "there is a need to protect you."

UM: But he didn't tell you why you needed to be protected?

JC: No, no. I didn't ask him why, either.

UM: And you told him that you did want to leave the country.

JC: No, no. He only told me: "Think, and then tell me. Talk to each other," he told me.

UM: And then later you told him that you did [want to leave]?

JC: No.

UM: So then you left there against your will?

JC: Allow me. Uh...in the Spanish Embassy...yes, there we talked about that with the ambassador...uh...later the French Ambassador arrived...the French Ambassador... and a tall man arrived who said he is a minister...minister of France, right? Uh...when my wife was testifying, I don't know where, but she wasn't downstairs...she wasn't downstairs...uh...uh...yes, before we...we...or before my wife finished her statement, I suppose that's what she was doing on the second floor, the Spanish Ambassador called me.

UM: Aha.

JC: "Get ready in a minute and we are leaving," he told me. "Get ready in a minute and we are leaving."

UM: So then he didn't ask for your opinion?

JC: He didn't ask for my opinion. That was at about 5:00 p.m.

UM: So, practically, they kidnapped you from there.

JC: Uh...well...then from here...uh...before my wife...[before] I was able to see where she was...I left the room with all my suitcases and my little girl. "Let's go, let's go, let's go," he told me. I didn't ask anything... where we were going, right? But there was a lot of security there...security consisting of armed men, right? From El Salvador as well as from I don't know where, but only foreign men...uh...we arrived at... there was a car almost at the entrance...uh... of the Spanish Embassy and inside. After the main gate there is a courtyard, so that's where that car was. Not just one, but several. There... "You are going in there..." the French Ambassador told me. From there I was no longer with the Spanish Ambassador, but the French Ambassador. He took my girl in the car in we sat down. Up to that moment I didn't know where we were going.

UM: Not even when you arrived at the airport?

JC: No. We arrived at the French Embassy...

UM: Yes.

JC: Right? We arrived at the French Embassy. In the French Embassy he, the French Ambassador, talked with the minister, also French, who was going in another vehicle, I suppose. But there...I don't know who was going there...no...no...no...who was in the front...uh, well, no...he wasn't going in the front seat. No, because a security man was going there. Yes, ah, well, he was going in another vehicle...uh...yes, in this car, where I was going with my wife and my girl, only the French Ambassador was going. A short, fat man. Uh...once at the Embassy, it was...it's close, I suppose, because I don't know that area. But it's close, by the distance we covered, because, when we got out, what he told us was that we should hide, because...to...uh...to avoid being spotted by the media, right? We arrived at... we covered that distance from the Spanish Embassy to the French Embassy.

UM: And why didn't you ask your wife what the legal expert had told her? Because you are saying that the legal expert talked to your wife.

JC: Aha.

UM: And...uh... why didn't you ask her what they had talked about?

JC: Well, the thing is that there was no opportunity, right? Because after this legal expert talked with my wife...uh...

UM: Where was she talking...

JC: ...ah... they took...they took some pictures of us.

UM: Where was she talking to your wife?

JC: In the Spanish Embassy, in this room we had, in this room that opens to the office.

UM: And you didn't ask her what the legal expert had told her, or why she had talked with her?

JC: No, I didn't.

UM: And the legal expert didn't talk with you, either?

JC: No, she just got to, well, the room, and...yes, she was the one who entered, knocked on the door and entered, and she said: "Get ready," she said, "because we are going to take some passport pictures," said the legal expert. So...sure, I said, I fixed my little girl, kind of arranged my clothes...and I don't know what she said to her, I didn't ask her because there was no opportunity to ask her, because later...

UM: How many times did you [plural] talk with the legal expert?

JC: Well, there...uh...a short time... a little while...

UM: No, but I mean, days.

JC: Ah...

UM: We are speaking from Monday on. From Monday on, when you got to the Embassy, how many times did you [plural] talk with her?

JC: I...

UM: Or with the priests.

JC: I didn't even once, from that Monday on.

UM: And your wife?

JC: She...well, according...according to what she said, well, she talked, well, when she was...when she was in...in the Curia, in the Curia building.

UM: And in the embassy she didn't talk with her.

JC: Also in the embassy. When she came to take the pictures.

UM: What day was that?

JC: Probably Wednesday. I can't tell you the day because I don't...don't...don't know what day it was.

UM: Well, look...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...the situation is that there is too much controversy in what you have...what you have stated.

JC: Aha.

UM: What we are looking for is the truth.

JC: Yes.

UM: And the truth, well...uh... now we are not in those times when we would get you...

JC: Aha, yes, yes.

UM: ...or somebody could tell you ...

(voices overlap, ui)

UM: ...tell me what it is. Not so...

JC: Aha...yes, yes.

UM: Now...now...through the investigation we are establishing what...what the truth is. And you, in your statement, have too many contradictions, we feel that you are not being loyal...

JC: Aha.

UM: ...to us.

JC: Aha.

UM: ...so that the support that they offered you here, well, they feel that you are not being loyal. You are hiding something. And what you are hiding from us here, the machine [polygraph test]...

JC: Yes, can detect it.

UM: ...can detect it.

JC: Yes.

UM: And it's going to tell there whether you are telling the truth or telling lies.

JC: Yes.

UM: So, if you are... if in the machine [polygraph test] it comes out that you are telling lies, then we will corroborate what you are saying here, so your situation will maybe worsen because, if you were loyal, [you would say:] "No, look, gentlemen, what happened was this and this and this and this and this. And we, in order to...to get out of this situation..."

JC: Yes.

UM: ... we came out conflicting, because over there the shots are sounding morning, afternoon and night...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...in order to have perhaps a better life, well, we told the ambassador that we did [want to leave], that's why we are here, and some of the things are true, but others are not true...

JC: Yes.

UM: ...they have been invented."

(end of recording)



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K



*this page was not  
counted as proved*



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/17/90

Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He was advised of the identities of the Agents conducting the interview and the nature of the inquiry. He provided the following information:

b7c SA [REDACTED] entered on duty with the FBI on [REDACTED]. He entered on duty in the Miami Division of the FBI in [REDACTED]. He is presently assigned to the C-3 Major Case Squad.

On or about November 23, 1989, the Duty Agent for the Miami Office relayed information to him which had been received from the Department of State on the same day. He was advised that on the evening of November 23, 1989, he should anticipate the arrival of a French Military aircraft out of El Salvador carrying a witness in the killings of the six Jesuits Priests in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. This witness would be accompanied by her husband and child. He recalls that he met the aircraft at Miami International Airport and a large number of individuals were also at the airport to greet the plane. This entourage included Jesuit Priests, officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Department of State (DOS) representatives, and representatives of the French Embassy.

b7c SA [REDACTED] indicated it was his understanding that the witness, was in the care of the DOS. Upon their arrival, they were escorted by officials from the INS and were processed for entry into the United States. They were initially lodged at the EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL in Miami. The representative for the Department of State in charge of the witnesses for this period of time was an individual he identified as RICHARD CHIDESTER. In addition to the above-mentioned individuals, the family was also accompanied on the plane trip from El Salvador by Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) [REDACTED] Legal Attache, Mexico City.

b7c On November 24, 1989, at approximately 12:00 noon, the family was relocated from the EMBASSY SUITES to the RADDISON INN in the vicinity of the Miami airport. Three rooms were secured at that time by Mr. CHIDESTER. One room was given to the family, one room was for CHIDESTER and the third room for ALAT [REDACTED].

b7c At approximately 5:00 p.m. on November 24, 1989, SA [REDACTED] met with Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) LARRY E. TORRENCE at the Miami Field Office for the purpose of discussing plans and procedures in the handling of the witnesses from El Salvador.

Investigation on 1/17/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SA [REDACTED] SSA [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/17/90

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Thereafter, a telephone conference call was initiated involving ASAC TORRENCE, FBI Miami, MARTIN HALE, Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Office of Liaison and International Affairs (OLIA), [REDACTED] (OLIA) and SA [REDACTED] DAD HALE requested that Agents of the FBI Miami Field Office interview the witnesses as soon as feasible and provide FBI Headquarters with a summary teletype concerning activities thus far, to include the results of the interview.

Upon the further instructions from ASAC TORRENCE, SA [REDACTED] and ALAT [REDACTED] met with the witness, LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, to discuss the events which she allegedly observed in El Salvador on November 16, 1989, concerning the killings of six Jesuit Priests.

The interview of BARRERA DE CERNA was begun at approximately 6:30 p.m. and lasted a total of 45 minutes. During the interview, BARRERA was constantly reassured that she was in the protection of U.S. Government, and that she had nothing to fear from telling the truth in this matter. SA [REDACTED] indicated that they were aware of the possible reluctance this witness might in cooperating with law enforcement officials. Once again, they reassured her of their interest in obtaining the truth and providing for her protection.

During the course of the above interview, BARRERA DE CERNA advised that while she was staying with her family at quarters being provided by the Jesuits at the University Compound in El Salvador, she was awoken during the night by shooting and voices coming from the vicinity of the Jesuits' sleeping compound. She rose from the floor on which she was sleeping, looked out the window, and observed armed men dressed in dark clothes fleeing from the area of the priests' sleeping quarters. The interview was consistent with information SA [REDACTED] understood was provided by BARRERA DE CERNA while she was in El Salvador.

SA [REDACTED] noted during his initial contacts with the CERNA and her family at the motel, they were apparently not used to the modern conveniences offered at typical American hotels. He noted that they had difficulty turning on the water faucet and seemed somewhat disoriented by all of the conveniences at their disposal at the hotel.

Later that same evening, he had a discussion with ALAT [REDACTED] concerning security at the hotel. Apparently many people knew where the family was being lodged and the fact that they were staying in rooms being paid under the name of CHIDESTER, from the DOS. SA [REDACTED] indicated that they perceived this as a possible danger and therefore suggested that the family be relocated from their current lodging. He advised that the Miami area for this weekend was hosting

Continuation of FD-302 of SA [REDACTED]

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the Orange Bowl Football Classic and most available rooms had been pre-booked. It therefore became extremely difficult to locate available space convenient to the Miami area. It was decided that the family would remain at the RADDISON INN, however, they would relocate within the hotel itself.

At the conclusion of the above interview, ALAT [REDACTED] prepared a summary teletype communication to advise FBIHQ of the results of the day's activities. This communication was sent on the morning of November 25, 1989.

On Saturday, November 25, 1989, an additional Agent from the Miami Field Office, SA [REDACTED] was assigned to the security detail for the protection of the family. SA [REDACTED] was on duty from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on that Saturday. SA [REDACTED] was relieved by SA [REDACTED] who was assigned the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight shift.

During the security shift of SA [REDACTED] the family was taken at their request to visit several Jesuit priests residing in Southwest Miami, Florida. After a brief visit with the priests, the family was given some clothing by the Jesuits and the family, along with SA [REDACTED] departed the area. SA [REDACTED] they transported the family to an area of Miami referred to as "Little Havana". They had dinner at a local restaurant which specializes in Honduran food, and all of the family members had substantial dinners. At the conclusion of the dinner, they were transported back to the hotel and escorted to their hotel room. SA [REDACTED] concluded his shift at 12:00 midnight and was relieved by ALAT [REDACTED] at 12:00 a.m. Sunday morning, November 26, 1989.

Although SA [REDACTED] was unable to provide specific details concerning the activities of the family on Sunday, November 26, 1989, he stated that no unusual requests or occurrences were noted concerning the family on that date. He pointed out that it was the intention of FBI Miami to allow the family several days to rest and acclimate themselves to their new surroundings.

On Monday morning, November 27, 1989, the family was transported to the Miami Field Office by ALAT [REDACTED]. At the Miami Office at this time, was Mr. CHIDESTER, Colonel RIVAS, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), Salvadorian Army, ALAT [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]. Colonel RIVAS requested that a tape recording of the interview be made as he would require a transcript of the complete interview to facilitate this investigation in his country, and any prosecution which may result. A tape recorder was made available to

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be utilized throughout the interview process. The tape recorder was always situated in the middle of the room in plain view, and that there was no effort to secrete the recorder out of the view of the interviewees. He indicated that in fact, the tapes were changed periodically in the presence of the interviewees.

The first interview at the Miami, FBI Office was conducted in the Applicant Squad area. Present during the interview was LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, Colonel RIVAS, ALAT [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] and Mr. CHIDESTER. During the course of the interview, BARRERA DE CERNA, indicated she was cold and she was provided with an FBI "Raid Jacket", which appeared to be satisfactory. At the outset of the interview, she was advised that the only purpose in conducting the interview was to obtain a truthful account of the events leading to the killings of the Jesuits in El Salvador. She was again advised that she had nothing to fear, and should she have any specific requests during the course of the interview, to make them known and they would be accommodated as best as possible. BARRERA DE CERNA seemed calm and made no specific requests during the course of the interview. Halfway through the interview on that morning, it was decided to continue the interview in a more comfortable environment within the Miami Office. They relocated to interview rooms one and two, which afforded the use of two private bathrooms. Also this room provided additional privacy for the interview process. SA [REDACTED] indicated that at the outset of the interview on that morning, it was decided that RIVAS would be introduced as "The Director of the Special Investigative Unit" as opposed to a Colonel in the Salvadoran Army. This was done in an effort to circumvent any fear that BARRERA DE CERNA might have in speaking the truth in the presence of a military officer. The tone throughout the interview was non-confrontational and BARRERA DE CERNA was afforded the opportunity to use the ladies room and take periodic breaks for refreshments such as soft drinks or water as she felt necessary. She made no specific requests and appeared to be quite willing to cooperate throughout the interview. During the course of the interview, SA [REDACTED] periodically checked with BARRERA DE CERNA's husband, JORGE RAMIREZ-CERNA, to see that he was comfortable and to reassure him and his daughter that they would be leaving for lunch shortly. The interview conducted that morning of BARRERA was reasonably consistent with the previous account of events that she had provided to ALAT [REDACTED] and himself, during the interview in the evening hours of November 24, 1989.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., they broke for lunch. It was decided to take the family to a local restaurants to experience some of the local environment. They traveled by car to Hialeah, Florida, and had lunch at LAS DELICIAS. The family ate a substantial meal

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which consisted of seafood, steak, beans and soup. The lunch bill, paid for by CHIDESTER, was sizable. The family appeared calm and comfortable at the conclusion of the meal. Outside of the interview environment, the Agents consciously refrained from discussing the events which transpired on November 16, 1989 in El Salvador, to allow the family to relax and feel more comfortable while they were in the Miami area.

The lunch break lasted approximately two hours. At approximately 3:00 p.m. on the same afternoon, an interview was conducted of JORGE RAMIREZ-CERNA. RAMIREZ-CERNA was reassured that while he was in the hands of the FBI he should feel comfortable, relaxed and protected. RAMIREZ-CERNA made no specific requests or complaints concerning his lodging or treatment up to this point in the Miami area. During the course of the interview, he was provided with soft drinks, afforded the opportunity to use the men's room and was advised that should he have any questions during the course of the interview, he should address those through the Agent. They would be accommodated as best as possible.

The interview of RAMIREZ-CERNA was tape recorded. The tape recorder was in plain view and no effort was made to secrete or disguise the recorder. SA [REDACTED] is a trained Profile Coordinator for the FBI and consequently, takes special note of the conduct and demeanor of persons being interviewed regarding controversial or significant incidences. RAMIREZ-CERNA appeared uncomfortable with his statement. There was a lack of eye contact on the part of RAMIREZ-CERNA with the interviewers, and he demonstrated frequent nervous movement in his chair indicative of restlessness. He also noted that RAMIREZ-CERNA's statement lacked plausibility in some areas, particularly the differences in responses between he and his wife at the time of the killings of the Jesuits. SA [REDACTED] was concerned that according to RAMIREZ-CERNA he remained undisturbed throughout the incident while his wife was so disturbed that she went to the window during the shooting.

At the conclusion of the interview of JORGE RAMIREZ-CERNA, approximately 5:30 p.m., the family was escorted back to the hotel for the remainder of the evening.

Also on the same day, he discussed the results of the interviews of BARRERA DE CERNA and RAMIREZ-CERNA with them. This discussion highlighted the several discrepancies to them which needed to be further resolved through additional interviews. The items noted were as follows:

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BARRERA had advised that she had observed the armed men firing from a particular location, however, no shell casings were found in the area identified by BARRERA. This was unusual inasmuch as in excess of 250 shell casings had been recovered during the crime scene on the next day. The question remained as to why the killers would have picked up the shell casings from where BARRERA said they were and not picked them up from other areas of the crime scene.

Secondly, photographs taken from inside houses numbers fifteen and sixteen at the Jesuit compound indicated that BARRERA would have not been able to see what she alleged to see from those two windows.

Thirdly, no latent fingerprints were developed from the window area where BARRERA alleged to have looked out over the compound.

Lastly, it seemed inconsistent that the behavior of the husband would differ so greatly from the behavior of the wife during the same incident.

*b7c*  
Although SA [REDACTED] was not with the family on Monday evening, he was advised that they had eaten a substantial dinner that night and believes it consisted of either filet mignon or New York strip steak, or a combination of both.

*b7c*  
On Tuesday morning, November 28, 1989, the family was again transported to the FBI Office in Miami. JORGE RAMIREZ-CERNA was interviewed at approximately 9:00 a.m. Present during the interview, was ALAT [REDACTED] Colonel RIVAS, and SA [REDACTED] RAMIREZ-CERNA essentially recounted the same story as told previously, wherein he does not get up from his sleeping position, although his wife is up and moving about and looking out the window during the shooting. ALAT [REDACTED] questioned RAMIREZ-CERNA as to his responses provided during the interview. ALAT [REDACTED] indicated that this did not seem plausible, as it would have seemed more natural for RAMIREZ-CERNA to get up and go to the window with his wife. During the course of interviewing RAMIREZ-CERNA, he mentioned that on a particular occasion, he was attacked by several bandits in El Salvador and he sustained several large machete wounds resulting from the assault. The scars of this attack are readily noticeable on RAMIREZ-CERNA's face and hands. Again, it was pointed out to RAMIREZ-CERNA that a man who has demonstrated this amount of courage in the past would not have allowed his wife to expose herself to those dangers without some more positive response on his part. RAMIREZ-CERNA did not respond to this line of questioning in an offensive manner. He did not appear to be

*b7c*

upset with ALAT [REDACTED] nor did he voice any opposition to the arguments presented by ALAT [REDACTED]. Although he cannot recall specifically if a question was asked as to whether RAMIREZ-CERNA had any relatives with the Salvadorian guerrillas, SA [REDACTED] advised that this would be a typical type question to be asked as it is quite common that people have family members with the guerrilla faction, although most Salvadorians do not align themselves with the political beliefs or ideologies of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

*b7c*

SA [REDACTED] assessed the interview of RAMIREZ-CERNA as quite effective, in that it was mildly confrontational and yet demonstrated to RAMIREZ-CERNA that questions remained which had not been resolved by his statements. It was also demonstrated to RAMIREZ-CERNA that the facts of his statement were not consistent with either logical behavior, or in some cases, with the actual facts. He was shown photographs of the view from the quarters he and his family occupied at the Jesuit compound. It was pointed out to RAMIREZ-CERNA that his wife would not be able to see the things she alleged to see from her location. These discrepancies were not resolved by RAMIREZ-CERNA during the interview.

At approximately 12:30 p.m., the interviews were terminated for lunch. The family was asked to decide what they wanted for lunch, and they requested they be given hamburgers and french fries. This was done. The lunch break lasted approximately two hours and an interview of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA was conducted following the lunch break.

The interview was begun with an effort to relax BARRERA DE CERNA and reassure her that she had nothing to fear. The only thing being sought at this time was the truth. This process of reassuring her continued for several minutes, and once again, she was asked to recount her story as she recalled it. Early on during this interview, BARRERA DE CERNA recanted her original statement. Briefly, she indicated that she had been coached on her original statement and had been told to say that she saw soldiers in the vicinity of the killings of the Jesuits on the night that it happened. She stated she was coached by a Ms. MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, who is an attorney affiliated with the Archdiocese or the Jesuits in El Salvador. She expressed concern for her safety and what would happen to her in El Salvador because she had made the false statement. Briefly, she indicated that she did not get up out of her sleeping position when she heard the voices and the gunfire on the night the Jesuits were killed. She in fact stated she saw nothing she had previously alleged to have seen.

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It was obvious that she was emotionally upset at the conclusion of this interview, and it was decided that they would not proceed any further, but rather would permit the family to return to the hotel for some rest and relaxation.

Although he could not provide specific dates, he can state with certainty that throughout the course of these interviews, he was in regular contact with his squad supervisor, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED] and ASAC TORRENCE. He is also aware that the status of the interviews were being provided to FBI Headquarters on a periodic basis. Prior to the close of business for Tuesday, November 28, 1989, it was decided that on the morning of Wednesday, November 29, 1989, a polygraph would be administered to BARRERA DE CERNA to confirm her recanted statement. The subject of a polygraph was raised with BARRERA on the late afternoon of November 28 and although she expressed some concern, there was no reluctance to take the polygraph. She appeared to be committed to resolving this matter once and for all. The decision to use the polygraph examination was made based upon the conflicting statements previously provided by BARRERA.

SA [REDACTED] did not accompany the family to dinner on the evening of November 28, 1989, however, he was advised that the evening was calm, no specific requests were made by the family and that they had a substantial dinner through hotel room service that night.

On Wednesday, November 29, 1989, at the Miami Office of the FBI, the family was once again located in the vicinity of the interview rooms. One room has been set aside for the family and the other room was reserved for interviews. SA [REDACTED] pointed out that on two occasions during the week Agents of the Miami Division had purchased some toys and some games for the child to play with while she was at the FBI Office. SA [REDACTED] was of the opinion that this was done without any direction from their Supervisors and done on the Agents own volition.

The morning of November 29 was spent with a further interview of BARRERA DE CERNA. Present for this interview was the Miami Division Polygrapher, SA [REDACTED]. SA [REDACTED] was present only to become familiar with the facts of the case and to examine BARRERA DE CERNA as a potential candidate for a polygraph. SA [REDACTED] indicated that BARRERA DE CERNA was cooperative and had demonstrated an attitude of intent to resolve whatever conflicts now existed in her testimony. At the conclusion of this interview, BARRERA DE CERNA was advised that with her consent she would be polygraphed. She was introduced to SA [REDACTED] as the Polygrapher. During the introductory



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b7c  
phase of the polygraph process, SA [REDACTED] acquainted BARRERA DE CERNA with the procedure and continually reassured her as to the harmlessness of the machine, and that there was absolutely no danger as to physical harm. BARRERA DE CERNA appeared nervous, however, she was still cooperative.

b7c  
At the conclusion of the polygraph examination, SA [REDACTED] was advised by SA [REDACTED] that discrepancies have been noted in her statement and that additional interviews and/or polygraphs may be warranted.

b7c  
Once again, SA [REDACTED] was not present during the evening hours with the family, however, he was advised that they again received a substantial dinner meal and were afforded privacy and use of the facilities at the hotel.

b7c  
On Thursday, November 30, 1989, at approximately 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., the family arrived at the Miami FBI Office. SA [REDACTED] noted that BARRERA was comfortable and did not appear to be disturbed or frightened regarding the upcoming day's polygraph. She appeared to be committed to telling the truth and resolving any discrepancies in her statement. She was polygraphed during the early part of the morning, and once again showed some inconclusiveness and discrepancies with the story she provided concerning the killings of the Jesuits. SA [REDACTED] indicated that BARRERA DE CERNA became frustrated with the situation and indicated that she wanted to discontinue with any polygraph or interviews regarding her statement. ALAT [REDACTED] spoke with BARRERA DE CERNA briefly and advised her that she was a good person and obviously wanted to tell the truth, and the truth could only be determined through her continued efforts to work with the Agents in resolving any of the discrepancies or problems in her previous statements. BARRERA DE CERNA was asked to continue in an effort to obtain the truth and she consented to do so.

As the additional phases of the polygraph examination continued, BARRERA DE CERNA once again demonstrated either deception or inconclusiveness in her responses to the polygraph questions. Further polygraph examinations were discontinued at that time.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] recalled discussing the situation with Colonel RIVAS and ALAT [REDACTED] as to the best course of action at this point in an effort to resolve the discrepancies. It was decided that a polygraph would be administered to JORGE RAMIREZ-CERNA, with his consent, in an effort to corroborate the information being provided by BARRERA DE CERNA. The common goal was to obtain a consistent version of the events which she had observed on that night.

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*b7c* SA [REDACTED] discussed with RAMIREZ-CERNA the polygraph examination and explained to him that there was nothing to fear, and the examination is only designed to elicit the truth and confirm what he is telling as being the truth. RAMIREZ-CERNA consented to the polygraph and was provided with the questions to be asked during the polygraph. RAMIREZ-CERNA's results were indicative of deception.

At the conclusion of RAMIREZ-CERNA's polygraph, it was decided to conduct no further interviews or polygraph examinations that day. It was also decided that further polygraphs of BARRERA DE CERNA were not advisable, as her statements are so inconsistent it would be difficult to obtain accurate results through additional polygraph examinations. The interviews were discontinued for the day and were scheduled to resume on Friday morning, December 1, 1989.

*b7c* As with the previous evenings, SA [REDACTED] did not accompany the family to dinner but was advised that once again, they had a substantial evening meal and remained in their rooms until they were again transported to the Miami Office of the FBI the following morning.

*b7c* On Friday morning, December 1, 1989, SA [REDACTED] was advised that both BARRERA DE CERNA and RAMIREZ-CERNA had a new version of the events which they alleged to have witnessed. This version essentially reverts back to the first statement provided by LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, in that she actually observed armed men fleeing the vicinity of the priests' sleeping quarters on the night of the killings. In addition to the above, the new version now indicated that RAMIREZ-CERNA also viewed the same series of events.

RAMIREZ-CERNA was subsequently polygraphed regarding these statements. His results were indicative of deception and was either inconclusive or deceptive once again. When he was questioned regarding these discrepancies, RAMIREZ-CERNA advised that he and his wife decided to concoct a story that they believed the U.S. Government would accept as true. When asked in the post-examination interview what he believes the real truth to be, RAMIREZ-CERNA indicated that neither he nor his wife actually saw anything.

*b7c* SA [REDACTED] recalled that at approximately this time, Colonel RIVAS requested he be afforded the opportunity to interview the witnesses alone. This was denied. Colonel RIVAS indicated that he wished to address the witnesses as fellow countrymen to see if he could convince them to tell the truth on behalf of the honor of his country. Colonel RIVAS was advised that this would not be appropriate.

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SA [REDACTED] *brlc*

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*brlc* At the conclusion of the morning's interview of RAMIREZ-CERNA, they broke for lunch. During this time, SA [REDACTED] spoke with the Polygraph Unit at FBI Headquarters concerning both witnesses and their examinations, and it was concluded that the witnesses were unreliable. The results of the various polygraph examinations were facsimiled to FBI Headquarters, Polygraph Unit throughout this several day process for additional review and evaluation. At the conclusion of lunch, BARRERA DE CERNA and RAMIREZ-CERNA were requested to provide fingerprints and hair samples to assist the Salvadorian investigation. They consented to do so.

*brlc* The last time SA [REDACTED] had any contact with RAMIREZ-CERNA and BARRERA DE CERNA was at the FBI Miami Office on that Friday afternoon. He received a very cordial goodbye from both BARRERA DE CERNA and RAMIREZ-CERNA. He wished them luck and shook hands with RAMIREZ-CERNA before he departed. BARRERA DE CERNA hugged him as she departed.

*brlc* In summary, SA [REDACTED] indicated that the truthfulness of the witnesses could not be determined. No accurate statement was derived from the information provided by either BARRERA DE CERNA or RAMIREZ-CERNA. The family was treated in a very cordial fashion during their entire stay in the Miami area, and all their requested needs were accommodated. They were obviously placed in an environment where the living standards far exceeded anything they had been previously used to. Although they were occasionally apprehensive and concerned about the different events which transpired, they did not indicate any reluctance to cooperate. They were not antagonistic or hostile. They appeared to be appreciative of the service and consideration being provided by the FBI and Department of State.

*brlc* SA [REDACTED] is aware of several allegations having been made in connection with the interview techniques and treatment received by the witnesses during their stay in Miami. He indicated that it was frequently necessary to limit the mobility and activities of the family in view of the perceived threat to them as valuable witnesses. Irrespective of those conditions, the family was treated in a very accommodating fashion. To the best of his knowledge, he does not recall any parts of any of the interviews which were conducted wherein RAMIREZ-CERNA was referred to as being "effeminate". SA [REDACTED] does not recall any instance where any of the interviewers raised their voice to RAMIREZ-CERNA or BARRERA DE CERNA, nor where threats or acts of intimidation used. None of the interview techniques utilized during the separate interviews of BARRERA DE CERNA and RAMIREZ-CERNA could be construed as being abusive, overly aggressive, demeaning or threatening.

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*b7c* SA [REDACTED] stated that during the week of November 28 to December 1, 1989, he recalled SA [REDACTED] received a request for BARRERA DE CERNA to correspond with her mother. He suggested SA [REDACTED] would have the details concerning this request.

*b7c* SA [REDACTED] advised that to his recollection, he has provided all of the information, as it occurred, during the course of the interviews of the above two individuals. At this time, he has no additional information to provide.



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*this page was not  
counted as processed*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/19/90

*b7c*

██████████ Assistant Legal Attache, (ALAT) Guadalajara, Mexico, was contacted at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Office in Miami, Florida. ALAT ██████████ was advised that he was being contacted in connection with the interviews that he had conducted of two Salvadorian nationals during late November and early December, 1989. He was advised that the FBI Headquarters had been in receipt of a letter outlining allegations of mistreatment of these two witnesses by the FBI.

*b7c*

By way of background, ALAT ██████████ advised that he has been a Special Agent in the FBI since ██████████. His prior assignments included the Miami Division where he was responsible for a variety of investigations in the Criminal area. In particular, he investigated property crimes, personal crimes, bank robberies, and terrorism matters. From ██████████ through ██████████ he was the Supervisor of a Major Case Squad. In ██████████ he advised he was transferred to Guadalajara, Mexico.

*b7c*

ALAT ██████████ stated that on November 20, 1989, he was contacted at home by the Legal Attache, ██████████. ██████████ stated that ██████████ advised him of the shooting of six Jesuit Priests in San Salvador, El Salvador. He advised his assignment was to provide assistance to the El Salvadorian Government during their investigation. He further advised he flew to Mexico City the next day and reviewed a number of cables relating to the homicides. He stated his mission was further discussed and he was to review the progress of the investigation, make any recommendations deemed necessary, and offer whatever services may be required of the FBI to the El Salvadorian Government. On November 22, 1989, ALAT ██████████ arrived shortly before the curfew in San Salvador. He said that he was met by RICHARD CHIDESTER of the U.S. Department of State (DOS). He said he spent the first evening at CHIDESTER's home and received a briefing as to the homicides. He said that the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) was responsible for the investigation.

He said that CHIDESTER relayed the facts of the shooting as they were known to him. In addition to the six priests who were murdered, a maid and her daughter were also killed. He stated that CHIDESTER told him that the crime scene had been contaminated by many persons and that rumors were flying as to who was responsible for this crime.

Investigation on 1/17-18/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA ██████████ *b7c* ██████████ Date dictated 1/18/90

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on November 23, 1989, he went with CHIDESTER and an individual named RAY GANGON (phonetic). He stated they went to SIU and met with Colonel RIVAS, the SIU Director. He stated for the next several hours, he had received a detailed formal briefing by investigators and lab technicians. He stated that the briefing was professionally done with photographs of the crime scene, charts, and area plans regarding the location of the crime.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] advised the SIU personnel noted that while the crime had been discovered at approximately 6:00 a.m., in fact when they arrived there were literally hundreds of people on the scene. He said there was a delay of approximately two and one-half hours before the authorities were notified.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated he was advised that a substantial number of cartridge casings were recovered at the crime scene. He stated he recalled that the number may have been about 268. He stated the casings included 7.62 NATO rounds, 7.62 Russian rounds and 5.56 caliber cases. He stated during the briefing, a reconstruction of the events was portrayed for him.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated he was advised one priest was shot as he attempted to hide and the five other priests were shot outside of their dormitory. One of the five priests shot outside was dragged back into the dormitory.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that the SIU was aware of the fact that there was a cleaning woman who had given a statement to a judge concerning the murder of the Jesuits, however, they did not have a chance to question the woman. He gathered from the briefing that she was viewed as a key witness. He stated he also got the impression that the SIU believed the Jesuits were hiding other persons who may have had knowledge of the crime. He stated they were aware there was a roving team of four people who provided security at the University who had not been interviewed.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated he had offered the services of the FBI Laboratory and also offered the services of the Latent Fingerprint Section. He stated the Latent Fingerprint Section services were offered because the SIU Laboratory personnel were having difficulty processing the recovered shell casings for latent fingerprints.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated he was then taken to the Laboratory to review the process by which the Laboratory personnel were reviewing the evidence. He stated that the Laboratory was attempting to determine the number of weapons fired through a review of tool markings on the cartridge casings.

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ALAT [REDACTED] b7c

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b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated as he left the Laboratory, he received word from GANGON (PH) that CHIDESTER had called and left an urgent message for them to return to CHIDESTER's house. He stated that when he arrived, he was informed that the Ambassador had requested that he, [REDACTED] accompany the Ambassador and a woman named LUCIA BARRERA on a French military plane. ALAT [REDACTED] attempted to contact Legal Attache [REDACTED] to advised him of this development. He stated that in the meantime, the U.S. Ambassador was holding discussions with the French and Spanish Ambassadors concerning the ultimate destination of the witness.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he arrived at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 23, 1989 at the airport. He stated that while he was at the airport, he successfully reached the Legal Attache's office and while not speaking directly with Legal Attache [REDACTED] advised another Agent of the situation in El Salvador. He stated he also attempted to contact the Terrorism Section, however was unsuccessful in reaching Supervisory Special Agent [REDACTED]. The French plane arrived at approximately 4:00 p.m., was refueled and left at approximately 5:00 p.m.

b7c While waiting for the refueling, ALAT [REDACTED] learned from CHIDESTER that the witness, LUCIA BARRERA had seen soldiers doing the shooting and that she was in great fear for her life. He stated the flight took approximately four hours and during the course of the flight, he had several discussions with the witness and her family.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated he tried to ease any fears they may have had. He stated he noted it was their first flight. During the course of the flight, the man, JORGE ALBERTO CERNA-RAMIREZ, told ALAT [REDACTED] that he was a baker. He explained to the family that the Spanish language is very common in Miami and that there are many Central American people who reside in the area. He stated the woman, LUCIA BARRERA, was concerned about her home in El Salvador. He stated that CERNA-RAMIREZ wanted to come to the United States and had expressed knowledge of various ways to get into the United States. He said that CERNA-RAMIREZ talked about "coyotes" as persons who could assist people attempting to enter the United States.

b7c Upon arrival at Miami International Airport (MIA), ALAT [REDACTED] stated the party was met by officials from the Security Offices of the Department of State and Immigration and Naturalization (INS). He stated they took an international bus to the U.S. Customs and INS area, where he met two Miami Agents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He stated when they entered the office, there were three Jesuit Priests also there. He stated that CHIDESTER and the Department of State dealt principally with the Jesuits. He stated



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that the Jesuits told the family that they would get together the next day. He further stated they cleared U.S. Customs at approximately 11:00 p.m., and INS took the family to the EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL in Miami. He advised INS provided security for the family that night and he booked a room at the same hotel.

During his discussions with the Department of State representatives, he said there was uncertainty as to who was responsible for what aspects of the family's care. He stated that INS intended to parole the family to the U.S. and once the family was paroled, INS would have no additional responsibilities. He stated that he had a discussion with CHIDESTER at which time CHIDESTER mentioned his instructions from the DOS Command Post were that the family could get into the Witness Security Program (WSP). ALAT [REDACTED] discussed the WSP with CHIDESTER and suggested that alternative ways may be necessary to provide for the family.

By noon Friday, November 24, 1989, the INS Security assisted in moving the family to the RADDISON HOTEL in Miami, Florida. Later, on Friday, November 24, 1989, ALAT [REDACTED] recalled that he met with three Jesuit Priests and CHIDESTER. He stated the Jesuits could provide spiritual support and set up a house for the family, but that they would require financial support from the government to include such items as groceries, utility deposits, and things of that nature. He said the Jesuits were also concerned about the security for the family.

ALAT [REDACTED] said he did not recall the names of the three priests, however, did note that one had a parish in the Westchester area of Miami. ALAT [REDACTED] gave them his assessment of the terrorism situation in Miami based on his ten years' experience. ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the Jesuits said the government was keeping the family in a situation which was much too luxurious. He stated the Jesuits could offer them much less and that they were concerned the family would get spoiled.

Following this discussion, the Jesuits met with the family. ALAT [REDACTED] stated the Jesuits were of Cuban descent and were Spanish speakers. He stated the Jesuits pointed out that they were not aligned with the Jesuits in El Salvador. ALAT [REDACTED] said that this discussion related to his request that the witness' security would be enhanced as long as there were no press conferences or publicity given to them in Miami.

ALAT [REDACTED] stated the Jesuits met with the family for about one hour. He stated he left the RADDISON HOTEL and came to the Miami Office to make notifications to FBI Headquarters and Mexico City

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ALAT [REDACTED] b7c

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b7c  
 Legal Attache. [REDACTED] stated he advised Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) TORRENCE and briefed TORRENCE as to the situation. He further advised that he and ASAC TORRENCE put in a conference call to MARTIN HALE, Office of Liaison and International Affairs. He said that HALE wanted the witness to be interviewed and a teletype prepared.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] said he left the Miami Office of the FBI at approximately 5:00 p.m. and arrived at the RADDISON hotel between the hours of 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. He advised traffic was particularly heavy and that he was accompanied by SA [REDACTED]. He stated at that time, he believed LUCIA BARRERA was the only witness. He stated a DOS Security Officer was involved in the protection detail of the family.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] stated that his interview of LUCIA BARRERA lasted approximately 30 minutes. At the beginning of the interview, LUCIA BARRERA stated something to the effect that she had been waiting all day and that she would provide information concerning what she had testified to in El Salvador. He stated he advised BARRERA that they were interested principally in what she had seen or what she may have heard the night of the murders. He stated that he told BARRERA that she was in the United States and that she had nothing to fear.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] stated he felt what LUCIA BARRERA had to say was rehearsed. He said for example that she started her statement with what happened the day before the murders and not at the point that he requested her to begin with. He stated he had to reiterate that she should limit her statement to what she had seen or heard on the evening of the murders. He said she then gave a brief statement.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] said in his assessment that LUCIA was unable to identify any of the persons responsible for the shooting and that she could provide no significant information. He stated that following the interview, he telephonically contacted MARTY HALE that night and then prepared a teletype. He stated the teletype was detailed and was approximately ten pages long. He further advised on Saturday, November 25, 1989, the family was moved to a different room. He advised this was a security measure because the priest knew the exact location of the family. He advised that they could not locate another hotel so they merely switched rooms to the seventh floor at the RADDISON HOTEL. Following this move, ALAT [REDACTED] came into the FBI Miami Office to make sure the teletype which he had drafted the night before had been sent.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] advised later on Saturday, he explained that the television carried Spanish language stations and he showed them how to operate the television. [REDACTED] advised that it was his understanding

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that the family had spent the day touring the city with CHIDESTER and another FBI Agent. He stated that he recalled a television report which may have been as early as Friday, November 24, 1989, in which the departure of LUCIA BARRERA from El Salvador was on the evening news. This news broadcast carried a photo of her and this publicity heightened his concern for the safety of the family.

On Sunday, November 26, 1989, ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he had breakfast with the family in the morning. He stated that later during the day, CHIDESTER took the family to McDONALDS and perhaps to a mall. ALAT [REDACTED] advised the family had suitcases with them that they had brought from El Salvador and had adequate clothing. He stated that he had no additional contacts with the family on Sunday, other than the breakfast and later during the evening.

ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Monday, November 27, 1989 at approximately 7:00 or 7:30 a.m., he met CHIDESTER and the family for breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Following breakfast, he advised they drove to the FBI Miami Office. Upon arrival, he met with Colonel RIVAS. He stated that CHIDESTER wanted Colonel RIVAS to stay at the hotel with the witness and her family. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he believed that it would not be a good idea inasmuch as the witnesses may be uneasy due to the fact that the Colonel would be aware of their location.

ALAT [REDACTED] stated that they had additional discussions with Colonel RIVAS and that the Colonel was interested in obtaining a complete statement from LUCIA BARRERA from the time she left home to stay at the University until the time she left El Salvador. Colonel RIVAS had a copy of her statement that she provided to the Magistrate in El Salvador and was interested in obtaining her statement here and comparing it to the statement given in El Salvador and then asking questions as needed. Colonel RIVAS requested a stenographer, however, ALAT [REDACTED] upon checking, determined that one was not available. Colonel then requested that the interviews be recorded.

At the beginning of the interview of LUCIA BARRERA, the Colonel was introduced as the Director of the SIU. He stated that he did note that she referred to him as "Doctor". ALAT [REDACTED] stated it is not uncommon to refer to a degreed person, that is one with an educational background, as "Doctor". [REDACTED] said that he usually referred to RIVAS as either the Director or Colonel.

During the interview of LUCIA BARRERA, ALAT [REDACTED] stated her husband and child were left in the reception room. He advised that mid-morning they changed room because there was too much room in the initial area where they were conducting the interview. [REDACTED]

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b7c

said that the questioning was led principally by Colonel RIVAS and also by SA [REDACTED]. He stated that LUCIA BARRERA was advised that she was under the protection of the United States Government and that the sole purpose of the interview was to find out who was responsible for the murder of the Jesuits and that any assistance she would render would be appreciated. He advised her that at a later date, LUCIA BARRERA may have to testify concerning what she had seen or what she had heard; however, she would be under the protection of responsible authorities.

b7c

ALAT [REDACTED] stated that the witness was cooperative, forthcoming and responsive. He stated he recalled that she told the interviewers that she considered them like her confessor. He said in his opinion, however, that she used a particular language to describe her activities and the language was much like a Salvadorian peasant. He differentiated this type of language from that which she used to describe the soldiers in the moonlight. He said that it appeared to him that it was a different educational level reflected in her descriptions.

b7c

He said that it was his sense that there were discrepancies in her statement from what he had seen and learned from briefings concerning the physical evidence at the crime scene. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he could identify three areas which he believed contained discrepancies. He said the first was from his view of photographs, he did not believe that LUCIA BARRERA could have seen five soldiers because a large palm tree was in the way. He said at best, she could have possibly seen one and that this would have only been a partial view. The second area concerned a spot from which LUCIA BARRERA stated she had seen soldiers shooting. She stated the soldiers fired into the air at this location, however, the crime scene disclosed no shell casings were found at that location. He said there was no evidence that the individuals responsible for the shooting took the time to pick up their expended cartridge cases. Lastly, [REDACTED] advised that he did not believe it would be likely for LUCIA BARRERA to observe the shootings and in particular, stand up, walk across a bathroom to another room, and look out during the course of the shootings. [REDACTED] said if anything, it would have been much more likely that she would have looked out the window of the room in which she was staying.

b7c

ALAT [REDACTED] stated these factors caused him to question the statement provided by LUCIA BARRERA. He further advised he considered the second item, that is the lack of shell casings in the area where she stated she saw soldiers shooting as a larger discrepancy.

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b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that the original tape recordings of the interviews were provided to Colonel RIVAS and that prior to turning these over, the tabs on the cassette were punched out so that the tape could not be altered.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated they took a lunch break and went to the LAS DELICIAS restaurant in Hialeah, Florida. He said it was a nice Cuban restaurant and that he believed the change would be good, especially since the family had, to his knowledge, been eating principally food from the hotel. He stated that the lunch was very cordial and friendly and that the investigators recognized the tremendous risk in which LUCIA BARRERA had placed herself. He further stated that the conversation did not center on her observations, but rather they discussed Miami, Florida.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] said that they had provided the family the opportunity to select whatever items they wanted on the menu and that it was his belief that they chose several of the most expensive items. He advised he recalled the young girl did not like her dinner. The father tried the dinner and they sent it back to the kitchen. He advised that DOS paid for the witnesses lunch.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that after returning to the office, the interview of JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ began. He advised that questions were directed to CERNA-RAMIREZ in order to establish corroboration of LUCIA's testimony. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he was present during the initial part of the interview, however, left the room several times. He advised that his participation was very limited. He advised the family left between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. and prior to leaving, Colonel RIVAS recounted some of CERNA-RAMIREZ's interview and that he, Colonel RIVAS, planned to review the tapes that evening.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that CHIDESTER, in his presence, told the witnesses on numerous occasions that if they had any wants or needs to let him know and that he would obtain it for them. [REDACTED] advised CHIDESTER usually ordered room service for the evening meal and that the bill was approximately \$70 to \$80. ALAT [REDACTED] said that later in the week, he had offered to take the family to a restaurant for dinner, however, they chose to eat in the room.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he recalled a conversation with LUCIA BARRERA concerning her daughter wearing sandals. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he has two girls approximately the same age and suggested that it would be better for the girl to wear a different type of shoe. He said LUCIA BARRERA told him that sandals were the only thing her daughter liked to wear and that she (LUCIA BARRERA) got tired of her daughter taking off her other shoes.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Tuesday, November 28, 1989, the interviews started with JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ. He said that Colonel RIVAS began the questioning because he had several areas of concern about the initial statement given by CERNA-RAMIREZ.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] then made reference to page 17 of a transcript of the interview. He said that at this point, he took over some of the questioning. He advised he had seen machete scars in the past and that CERNA-RAMIREZ had scars on his face and hands. He advised that CERNA-RAMIREZ recounted an incident in which he killed a man while defending himself. Having noted CERNA-RAMIREZ's ability to defend himself, ALAT [REDACTED] stated he pursued a line of questioning that centered on the issue of how CERNA-RAMIREZ would allow his wife to place herself in such a dangerous situation.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] also, with reference to a report prepared by the Lawyer's Commission on Human Rights, noted on page 22 of the report that the line of questioning attributed to him concerning the possibility that CERNA-RAMIREZ was with the guerrillas did not occur.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] said in his opinion this was a confrontational interview. He said that in his opinion, Colonel RAMIREZ was being overly polite in his line of questioning and that he believed a more direct line of questioning was in order based on discrepancies.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] also noted that page 22 of the Lawyer's Commission for Human Rights report attributed a statement to him that CERNA-RAMIREZ's wife may have been doing something more than just cleaning for the Jesuits. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that at no time did he pose this question or make this assertion.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated in his assessment, he believed that CERNA-RAMIREZ understood that the interviewing Agents and Colonel RIVAS did not believe his statement and that he would have to tell the truth. Toward the end of the interview, he said that he believed CERNA-RAMIREZ agreed that people would not believe his statement.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on November 28, 1989, LUCIA BARRERA was interviewed in the afternoon. He said that it was his view that when they broke from CERNA-RAMIREZ's interview that their initial statements would not stand up.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that within a very short time of the interview of LUCIA BARRERA, she stated at no time during the shooting did she get up from her bed. He said she provided details, which to his knowledge, matched the forensic evidence at the scene.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that she was concerned about what the interviewing Agents would think of her and that on numerous occasions, they reassured her that they understood that she may have been under some type of pressure and that she should simply tell the truth.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Tuesday evening, they explained what a polygraph examination consisted of and the procedure was explained to her in detail. He stated she was advised that no new questions would be asked, she would see all questions before they were asked and that the polygraph would not hurt her.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated he believed the family had dinner in the room that night and the family was left alone. He said they made no requests to see anyone, nor did they have any other requests. He advised it was his understanding that LUCIA BARRERA understood that with two different versions of what she had seen, it was necessary to take a polygraph examination to establish the truth.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Wednesday, November 29, 1989, he met the family for breakfast in the hotel. He said they had casual conversation and, as in the past, did not discuss the case when the family was on their own time. He advised he believed that a polygraph examiner from El Salvador joined them for breakfast. He advised that in his view, the witnesses were unafraid of the Salvadorian authorities. ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the polygrapher was not staying at the hotel.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] said that during the morning, he had a number of discussions concerning several issues relating to the witnesses. He said in particular, the payment of hotel bills, meal bills, and ultimate responsibility for the family had to be resolved. He advised he was principally involved with CHIDESTER, DOS, during the morning. He further advised that CHIDESTER was leaving for Washington, D.C. to brief his headquarters that same day.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] said he had very little contact with the family at all and did not participate in the formulation of questions. He advised he was principally in and out of the observation room during several occasions in the morning. He advised he overheard SA [REDACTED] explaining to LUCIA BARRERA how the polygraph machine worked. He said that her observable behavior was fine and that she was quite composed.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that Polygraph Examiner [REDACTED] was being assisted by a Senior Polygrapher, SA [REDACTED]. He stated that he left the observation room to make some phone calls, and when he returned, he was advised by SA [REDACTED] that LUCIA BARRERA had shown

ALAT [REDACTED] b7c

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deception during two series of questions. After completing the two series of questions, he stated that they took a break and then continued for a third series of questions. He advised that during this time, the family had been provided with sodas. He further stated he had little or no contact with the witnesses.

ALAT [REDACTED] advised he was attempting to arrange logistics for the evening, which were becoming somewhat difficult due to a special investigative effort by the Miami Office. He advised that he took the family home and ordered the evening meal. He advised he stayed in an adjoining hotel room until approximately 2:00 a.m. ALAT [REDACTED] said that the room was connected to the family's by a door. b7c

ALAT [REDACTED] said that on Thursday, November 30, 1989, he met the family and had breakfast at the hotel. [REDACTED] stated that he inquired as to whether or not LUCIA BARRERA had slept better that evening. He advised that she said she had in fact had a better night's rest and that the biggest problem was that she was not used to sleeping in a bed. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that as was customary, he did not mention anything about the case. He stated he arrived at approximately 8:00 or 8:15 a.m. at the FBI Miami Office space. He said the polygraph examinations continued and that they were led by SA [REDACTED]. He advised that he had a discussion with the polygraphers and discussed some of the questions with Colonel RIVAS and SA [REDACTED]. He said the examiners would then discuss with LUCIA BARRERA the phraseology of the questions. He advised that at approximately 11:00 a.m., he learned that LUCIA again had failed the polygraph examination. He stated that mid-morning, he and SA [REDACTED] had a discussion with LUCIA BARRERA and asked her to try and recall exactly what she did that night. He said that they told her that apparently there were some indications of deception. He noted that there was a brief period when LUCIA BARRERA was crying. He said that she was sobbing mildly and that he went in and tried to console her somewhat and calm her down. During this discussion, LUCIA BARRERA stated that on the night of the murders she sat up on the mattress, turned to her husband, and told him to listen to the shots. Upon making the statement, she said her husband told her to lay down and mind her own business. ALAT [REDACTED] said that she indicated her movement and demonstrated her movement to the Agents. He further advised that he went back to discuss her statement with SA [REDACTED] and indicated that this change may be more accurate. He said the polygraph examiners agreed to try one more time; however, when he advised BARRERA of this, she said that she did not want to take another polygraph. b7c

ALAT [REDACTED] said that they explained to her that she had already taken four series of questions and failed. He suggested that as she begins her new life in the United States, that this was not the b7c



Continuation of FD-302 of ALAT [REDACTED] *b7c* On 1/18/90 Page 12

*b7c*  
best way to begin. He said that they treated her very gently and that their discussion lasted for 20 or 30 minutes. He advised that she agreed to take the test one more time. He stated that after the test was administered, SA [REDACTED] explained that the polygraph had indicated deception once again.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] said that this was the fifth and final series of questions that were asked of LUCIA BARRERA. He said that during the polygraph examination, he had overlooked the fact that they did not have lunch that day.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] said that the examiners had no doubt in their mind that deception was indicated. In a quality control effort, he advised that it is normal to send the results of the examinations to the Polygraph Unit at FBI Headquarters. [REDACTED] advised that due to the importance of the interviews and the examination, contemporaneous to the interviews, copies were sent to FBI Headquarters. He stated that the polygraph examiners stated that no further examinations would be productive.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] said that JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ was polygraphed after his wife. He advised the purpose of the polygraph was to try to pinpoint what items in LUCIA's statements may be true and those which may have been false. He said the post-polygraph examination interview was also done by SA [REDACTED]. He advised that he watched through a window and observed the demeanor of CERNA-RAMIREZ. He stated that following the interview, SA [REDACTED] advised him that CERNA-RAMIREZ also failed the polygraph. He stated he had a conversation with CERNA-RAMIREZ and recommended that the two, CERNA-RAMIREZ and his wife, talk to each other that evening and they broke early that day.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised that he was requested by LUCIA BARRERA to call some priests. ALAT [REDACTED] stated he told her that he did not know how to get a hold of the priests but he would advise CHIDESTER when he returned from Washington, D.C., of her request. He advised her that CHIDESTER was scheduled to arrive at about 8:00 p.m. and he would let CHIDESTER know that she wanted to talk to a priest. He advised that he had only one meeting with the priest and did, in fact, not know the names of the priests, nor their telephone numbers. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he had no reason not to grant this request and that if he had the telephone number, he would have made the appropriate calls.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] reiterated that before they left the office for the evening, he went in with SA [REDACTED] and told the family that they should discuss their answers. He advised that he reassured them that they were not mad and that the interviewing Agents understood it was

Continuation of FD-302 of ALAT [REDACTED] *b7c*

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quite stressful, and that they should go back, talk it over, and that the interviewing FBI Agents simply wanted the truth. They stated that they would do so.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] said that during this discussion, they had probably one of the more heated exchanges. He advised that JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ made a statement that "he was tired of this crap" and they should let them go back to El Salvador. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he responded that they may have violated the law when they gave a false statement to the judge. To his surprise, CERNA-RAMIREZ said something to the effect, "You're right, that's worth three to five years for perjury". He advised that LUCIA BARRERA stood up and said, "That's okay, we have friends who will take care of us". He said that both he and SA [REDACTED] were surprised by the comment made by CERNA-RAMIREZ. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that they did not realize that he had such a familiarity with the legal system to the extent he was aware of the penalties for a specific crime.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] continued that he requested the protection duty Agent to advise CHIDESTER to call him when CHIDESTER got in. He stated that he later learned that CHIDESTER arrived late and did not get the message to contact him.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] stated that on Friday, December 1, 1989, they met for breakfast. He stated in the conversation with CHIDESTER, he was advised the Jesuits would accept the family and that CHIDESTER was finalizing arrangements. He stated he told CHIDESTER the family had requested a priest.

*b7c* That morning, before he left the hotel, he informed CHIDESTER, and another DOS employee who was relieving CHIDESTER, named MCCARTHY, about the polygraph results. He stated CHIDESTER and MCCARTHY spoke to the witnesses and the witnesses admitted that they had lied. ALAT [REDACTED] said that he did not participate in this discussion and that it lasted no more than five minutes. He advised the witnesses told CHIDESTER they would tell the truth on December 1, 1989.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] stated that upon arrival in the office, a pre-polygraph interview was conducted and that during this interview, CERNA-RAMIREZ stated that they both got up and looked out the window of house fifteen. He advised further that they had not seen people in the moonlight, but saw people on the wall as they ran near the chapel. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that CERNA-RAMIREZ said that both he and his wife made these observations, and also later, on the morning of the murder, went to look at the dead bodies.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] suggested that the interviewing Agents simply take the statement, conduct the polygraph and assess the truthfulness of the statement. If in fact it was verified as accurate, they would take a formal statement. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that the polygraph examiners agreed to give it one more try.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised the polygraph examination was conducted and that deception was indicated on the part of CERNA-RAMIREZ. He advised during the post-polygraph interview, CERNA-RAMIREZ stated something to the effect that he had provided a truthful response when he said that neither he nor his wife got up, however, since the polygraph machine did not believe those statements, he, CERNA-RAMIREZ, thought that they would tell the story that the machine would believe.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that following this interview, the family was allowed to wait in an adjoining room. At approximately 5:00 p.m., MCCARTHY returned to the FBI Office according to ALAT [REDACTED]. He advised MCCARTHY explained she had taken CHIDESTER to the airport and that she was trying to make arrangements for the priest to take the family that evening.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that the family was returned to the hotel by another Miami Special Agent, and ALAT [REDACTED] took Colonel RIVAS to the hotel. He advised he last saw the family on Saturday morning while they were at breakfast with a Miami Agent and MCCARTHY. ALAT [REDACTED] advised he then returned to his duty post.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] was provided a copy of the Lawyer's Commission on Human Rights report and made the following observations:

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised on page 18, the correct date was November 27, 1989, not November 28, 1989. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that it was he who drove to the office with the witnesses and Colonel RIVAS was picked up by CHIDESTER. ALAT [REDACTED] stated the report failed to disclose that Colonel RIVAS participated in the interview of November 27, 1989. Also, ALAT [REDACTED] pointed out that the family had met SA [REDACTED] on the preceding Friday evening and on that morning, met Colonel RIVAS.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised there was a discussion that Colonel RIVAS would be introduced as the Director of SIU, which he is, in order to assure the witness that he was of sufficient stature to conduct a thorough and independent investigation.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] noted on page 19, paragraph three, that the statement concerning lunch is inaccurate. He said in fact, the family and the interviewing Agents went out for lunch in Hialeah.

Continuation of FD-302 of

ALAT [REDACTED] b7c

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b7c ALAT [REDACTED] also noted on page 19, paragraph four, that JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ was fully aware of the fact that the interview had been recorded. [REDACTED] advised that it was not a surreptitious recording. The recorder was placed on the table and, in addition, the witnesses were both advised the testimony was going to go back to El Salvador and that it was essential to maintain an accurate recording of what was said.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] noted on page 19, paragraph five, which continues on page 20, paragraph one, that JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ did in fact make a statement that he, too, looked out the window. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that in the December 1, 1989 statement made by CERNA-RAMIREZ, he said he looked out the window. CERNA-RAMIREZ was polygraphed on this matter and showed deception.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] advised that the purpose of the first interview with CERNA-RAMIREZ was to elicit information. He advised the interviewing personnel asked few questions, but rather allowed the witness to make his statements. [REDACTED] advised there was nothing which would lead CERNA-RAMIREZ to conclude that the Agents did not believe his statement.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] stated that concerning paragraph two on page 20, he in fact inquired as to the dress and, in particular, the wearing of sandals by GERALDINA. He advised as he had previously stated, he was told the young girl preferred to wear them. ALAT [REDACTED] advised as an indication of their concern, that during one of the interviews, an FBI jacket was provided to LUCIA BARRERA.

b7c Concerning the decision to leave earlier in the morning, ALAT [REDACTED] advised that he had fully explained to the family that it was necessary to leave earlier in order to shorten their trip to the office. ALAT [REDACTED] advised he explained to the family that traffic was heavy in the morning, and to leave earlier would be much better.

b7c Concerning page 21, paragraph two, the report alleges that CHIDESTER introduced the Colonel as "Doctor". He said that in addition to this alleged introduction occurring on the wrong day, in fact, the introduction was made as "The Director" and not "Doctor". Furthermore, [REDACTED] stated there was no effort on his part to disguise the fact that RIVAS was a Colonel. [REDACTED] said that it was his view throughout the questioning that when witnesses addressed him as "Doctor", it was out of respect and not a misconception that he was a doctor.

b7c ALAT [REDACTED] also commented that at no time did he make a statement as contained on page 22 in paragraph two, specifically, it

b7c  
 was attributed to ALAT [REDACTED] that he "could not believe you (CERNA-RAMIREZ) are that effeminate." [REDACTED] said that his questioning was not of that nature. In fact, in reference to the specific phrase, ALAT [REDACTED] noted that he said, "And you don't look like you are a homosexual or dumb or nothing like that."

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] also stated that it was a complete fabrication that he asked JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ whether or not he was political or had relatives with the guerrillas.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he found it unusual that CERNA-RAMIREZ would have found the manner of questioning as being rude and disbelieving. [REDACTED] advised that CERNA-RAMIREZ was well aware that he [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] were Cuban, and that Cuban-Spanish is a lot less formal. [REDACTED] said there was no effort to demean CERNA-RAMIREZ and it was his impression that the witnesses fully understood that any informalities were attributed to the use of Cuban-Spanish by the interviewing Agents.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] noted also that on page 23, paragraph one, it is an incorrect statement that was attributed to him. He stated at no time did he imply that CERNA-RAMIREZ's wife was doing anything other than cleaning in order to earn money from the Jesuits. ALAT [REDACTED] advised he did not make the statement, "Are you sure that's what she was doing for them?"

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] stated that with regard to page 23, paragraph two, he was unaware of any casual discussion concerning extradition which may have been overheard by LUCIA BARRERA. He advised a discussion was held on Thursday afternoon. This discussion occurred in the context of ALAT [REDACTED] advising both witnesses that they had failed the polygraph, and he was at a loss as to why they would have lied.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] advised that in response to some statements from CERNA-RAMIREZ about returning to El Salvador that ALAT [REDACTED] stated the witnesses should remember that they are in the United States because their lives may be endangered. ALAT [REDACTED] advised that it was his opinion that there was no discussion about extradition, and that he is not sure that the witnesses would have even been familiar with the term.

b7c  
 ALAT [REDACTED] stated with regard to page 23, paragraph four, which contained an assertion that JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ was white and shaking when he rejoined his wife, that it was his belief that CERNA-RAMIREZ was in fact unnerved by his questioning during the morning.

Continuation of FD-302 of ALAT [REDACTED] *b7c*, On 1/18/90, Page 17

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] stated that he desired also to comment on page 24, paragraph one. He advised that the hamburgers furnished the witnesses for lunch were given them at their specific request. He recalled that they told him that the hamburgers were similar to what they had in San Salvador and they liked the hamburgers.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the description of events which occurred on Tuesday, November 28, 1989, failed to disclose that LUCIA BARRERA recanted her original statement that she had seen soldiers early in their interview. He stated that it was his opinion she knew that the Agents would be discussing particulars of her first statement, and that she was prepared to tell them what really had happened.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] pointed out that on page 24, paragraph three, there is a discussion of what occurred in the morning. Omitted from this discussion is the fact that from 6:30 a.m. until they arrived at the office, the family had a breakfast meal. Also omitted was the fact that the family had been with him when he picked up Colonel RIVAS on Wednesday morning.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] stated that page 24, paragraph four failed to describe the fact that LUCIA BARRERA had repeated, in detail, the same statement that she had furnished during her interview on the preceding evening. He stated that this statement contained information which was already admitted to during the preceding interview. He noted the transcript shows a formal address of the witness by use of the term "Dona." He disagreed with the assertions that LUCIA was frightened and confused.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] suggested that any confusion may be attributed to the fact that LUCIA BARRERA had failed the polygraph examinations. He also stated that the questioning was not incessant, as it was characterized on page 25, paragraph one. He further noted that the "strange and intimidating men" were the same individuals that she had a daily breakfast with, and had in fact, met upon her departure from El Salvador. ALAT [REDACTED] said that there were ample opportunities for breaks, rest, and relaxation. He further stated the questioning was at all times limited to normal business hours.

*b7c* ALAT [REDACTED] advised that on page 25, paragraph two, there is an allegation that the investigators asked her what priest had told her to say these things. He advised that at no time was it suggested that the priest had told her to say anything. He stated that the only time there was any confrontation was on Thursday afternoon.

b7c  
Concerning a statement attributed to Colonel RIVAS that if LUCIA BARRERA would tell the name of the priest, they would "give you some whiskey to celebrate", this statement and offer of whiskey was never made. Likewise, in paragraph two of page 26, a reference is made to the fact that one of the investigators mentioned a particular Jesuit and said he was a guerrilla, ALAT [REDACTED] stated there was never a statement made that the Jesuits were guerrillas, or that a particular Jesuit was a guerrilla.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] advised that the circumstances concerning the polygraph examination as detailed on page 27, paragraph one, were inaccurate. He stated that the polygraph was explained in great detail over a length of time, to LUCIA BARRERA. He stated that she was quite calm.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] also noted that he had not heard any comments by SA [REDACTED] that the machine said she went to the window. This statement is attributed to SA [REDACTED] on page 27, paragraph three.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] noted that the reference on page 28, paragraph one, that BARRERA "was unstrapped from the machine" is likewise inaccurate. He advised that the machine has a cuff for the wrist, finger monitors and chest monitors. These monitors were in place for a maximum of three to four minutes when the specific questions were asked, and following the answers, were taken off. The impression put forth in paragraph one is totally inaccurate. ALAT [REDACTED] reiterated that he observed the substantial detailed discussions that were held with the witnesses by the polygraph examiner.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that paragraph four on page 28 is inaccurate in that it asserts a linkage between what the witness told them and whether they stay in the U.S. or go back to El Salvador. He advised there was never any linkage drawn between the two. He characterized CERNA-RAMIREZ's statement about "the suffering of his daughter" as absurd.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that paragraph two on page 29 indicated LUCIA BARRERA requested to call a Spanish-speaking priest. ALAT [REDACTED] stated that as he had previously discussed, he did not know how to get in touch with the priest and he advised LUCIA BARRERA of what he would do to honor this request.

b7c  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated that with regard to paragraph three, page 29, he reiterated that during his interview, he pointed out that there was no reason for the witnesses to lie. He told them if they made up the story just to come to the United States, that fact was not germane. He told them they were in the United States now and reiterated that they should tell the truth as to what they had seen.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] also noted that on page 30, paragraph two, the taking of hair samples is attributed to an El Salvadorian investigator. In fact, LUCIA BARRERA took a hair sample from CERNA-RAMIREZ and he did likewise from her. The assertion that no one clearly explained why this was being done was, in the opinion of ALAT [REDACTED], unfounded. He advised that he was present when the El Salvadorian polygraph examiner explained the need for the witnesses' cooperation. Further, that the hair samples and fingerprinting were needed to establish their presence in the room that they claimed they were in. He advised that they were told their fingerprints would be used to compare to other fingerprints found at the crime scene.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated in conclusion that he felt the witnesses were treated fairly, and allegations to the contrary were not true. He further advised that he and the other investigators which he observed were sensitive to the situation in which the witnesses had found themselves. Furthermore, they tried their best to develop what information the witnesses may have had in order to facilitate the investigation of the murders of the Jesuit priests.

*b7c*  
ALAT [REDACTED] stated in his view, the valuable investigative energies devoted by Colonel RIVAS to interviews in the United States could have been better spent pursuing the investigation in El Salvador. He noted, however, that with the potential for an eye-witness, it was essential to develop a clear picture of what was seen or heard by these individuals.



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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/18/90

b7c  
Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He was advised of the identities of the Agents conducting the interview and the nature of the inquiry. He provided the following information:

b7c  
He is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, having entered on duty [REDACTED]. He entered on duty with the Miami Field Office in [REDACTED] and is currently assigned to Narcotics investigations. In [REDACTED] he was qualified as a FBI Polygrapher and is periodically assigned to administer polygraph examinations in many different investigative programs.

b7c  
On or about November 23, 1989, he was contacted by the Duty Agent at the Miami Office of the FBI and advised to remain on standby as per the Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) LARRY E. TORRENCE. No specific information was provided other than he may be called upon to conduct a polygraph examination during the course of the upcoming weekend of November 24, 1989. He recalls that a subsequent telephone call from Special Agent [REDACTED], FBI Miami, was received indicating that witnesses were to arrive in the Miami area from El Salvador, and the FBI would be assisting Salvadorian officials in a Foreign Police Cooperation matter. He was further advised that he would be called upon to administer a polygraph examination, if warranted.

b7c  
On the morning of November 29, 1989, he met with SA [REDACTED] at the Miami Office of the FBI for the purpose of obtaining sufficient background information to administer a polygraph examination to LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, a Salvadorian national. He was advised that the witness, LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, had recanted on her original statement as to what she had observed on the night of the killing of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. BARRERA DE CERNA initially indicated to a Salvadorian judge, and also to FBI Agents in Miami, Florida, on November 24 and November 27, 1989 that she had in fact observed armed individuals in the immediate vicinity of the Jesuits' sleeping quarters just prior to the killing. In a subsequent interview conducted at the Miami Office of the FBI, witness BARRERA DE CERNA advised that she in fact had seen nothing on that night in question, although she was in the vicinity of the murders. In the recanting of her original statement, witness BARRERA DE CERNA indicated she was coached on her original testimony by a female lawyer in El Salvador several days after the actual killings.

Investigation on 1/18/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SA [REDACTED] SSA [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/18/90

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

On 1/18/90

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*for* SA [REDACTED] indicated that in his discussions with SA [REDACTED] on the morning of November 29, 1989, it was decided that he should observe an interview of the witness as a non-participant. This was intended to give him a familiarity with the circumstances surrounding the killing of the Jesuits.

*for* Following the initial interview that morning, there was a brief lunch break to allow for the witness to relax and calm herself prior to the polygraph examination. In the period before the interview and examination process began, witness BARRERA DE CERNA stated she was a little nervous, a little tense and taking medicine for hypertension. SA [REDACTED] assured her there are normal reactions.

*for* The witness, BARRERA DE CERNA stated that the polygraph machine and the chair in which she is going to take the examination reminded her of the "electric chair". SA [REDACTED] indicated the reference to the "electric chair" was only a passing remark and did not reflect an actual belief on BARRERA's DE CERNA part that the polygraph could in any way pose a danger to her life. During the course of the pre-examination, SA [REDACTED] took extra time and care to reassure BARRERA of how safe the process was and that it was designed to resolve any doubts as to which story was true concerning the events that she witnessed on the night the priests were killed. SA [REDACTED] stated he could not characterize her reaction as "being terrified" as indicated in the Lawyer's Commission report.

*for* At approximately 1:40 p.m. on the above date, SA [REDACTED] reviewed with witness BARRERA DE CERNA the questions that would be asked of her during the course of the examination. He advised her that she was to remain calm throughout the examination, and if she had any questions during the examination she should make them known at that time. The questions were based upon her statement provided to the FBI on November 28-29, 1989.

The questions posed to BARRERA DE CERNA during this polygraph examination are as follows:

SERIES I

*for*  
*for*  
*for* Within the polygraph examination a second part, referred to as Series II, was conducted. This Series II posed one question to the witness:

b7c

b2  
b7E

[redacted]

b7c

At the conclusion of the above two "series", it was the assessment of SA [redacted] that the responses provided by BARRERA to questions in Series I were inconclusive. In responses provided to the question in Series II, it was his assessment that the response indicated deception. He did observe that the witness moved a bit during Series I and he made a note of this observation.

b2  
b7E

In an effort to further explore the truthfulness of the statements being provided by BARRERA, Series III was initiated. Series III posed one question:

[redacted]

The assessment in response to this question was deemed inconclusive.

b7E  
b7c

At the conclusion of this portion of the polygraph examination, it was the assessment of SA [redacted] that LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA was tired and additional interviews at this time would be unproductive.

[redacted]

It was therefore decided that further inquiries be terminated for that day and she be allowed to rest and relax in preparation for any further interviews or inquiries on the following day. Prior to her departure from the FBI Office, SA [redacted] advised her that there were still some matters which needed to be resolved and that if she were still willing, these matters could be addressed on the next day. BARRERA indicated that she was anxious to resolve this matter and was willing to continue with inquiries on November 30, 1989.

b7c

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on November 30, 1989, SA [redacted] resumed his pre-test interview and polygraph examination of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA at the FBI Office, Miami. The pre-test interview phase of the examination process was brief. He once again reassured BARRERA DE CERNA that the FBI was only interested in obtaining a truthful version of what BARRERA DE CERNA had seen on the night of the killings. It was not the intention of the FBI to obtain one version as opposed to another. The only objective in the polygraph examinations was to ascertain a truthful statement from BARRERA DE CERNA.

Continuation of FD-302 of [redacted]

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A fourth series of questions was designed to further elicit the true and correct statement from BARRERA DE CERNA. Two questions were included in Series IV:

*h-2  
h-7E*

[redacted]

It was the opinion of SA [redacted] that the responses provided by BARRERA to questions E and F above indicated deception.

*h-2  
h-7E*

A follow up series of questions, Series V, were formulated for the last part of the BARRERA polygraph examination. Those questions were:

*h-2  
h-7E*

[redacted]

Once again, the response as indicated by the polygraph examination showed deception. BARRERA DE CERNA was advised that there were discrepancies noted in her responses and as indicated by the polygraph examination. BARRERA was emphatic that she did not observe anything on the night the priests were killed. She again reiterated that she was upset by the fact that MARIA HERNANDEZ had somehow gotten her into this situation by coaching her to say that she had seen armed men in the vicinity of the priests' quarters on the night they were killed.

*h-2  
h-7E*

SA [redacted] indicated that outside the presence of the witness, a discussion was held with SA [redacted] as to how best to proceed following the inconclusiveness of the BARRERA polygraph examinations. It was decided that they would proceed with the inquiries by interviewing BARRERA DE CERNA's husband, JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ. The plan was to discuss with JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ his account of what transpired that evening in an effort to shed some light on the statements being given by his wife. Once again, the goal was to develop some consistent account of what LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA and JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ had actually seen on that night.

*b7c*  
 At approximately 3:15 p.m. on the same date, SA [REDACTED] commenced a pre-test interview with JORGE CERNA-RAMIREZ. During this interview, CERNA-RAMIREZ was advised that he would be asked some specific questions concerning his activities while in the sleeping quarters he and his family occupied at the Jesuit compound in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. He was advised that he was to remain calm and there was no danger in taking a polygraph examination. CERNA-RAMIREZ indicated he was quite comfortable and had no fear of taking the examination.

CERNA-RAMIREZ stated that he had not observed the incident on the night of the shooting, that he had only heard shots being fired in the vicinity of the priests' quarters. CERNA-RAMIREZ did indicate, however, that he recalled on the night of the shooting that his wife did, in fact, go to the window in their sleeping quarters, open the curtain, and look out onto the University compound.

The following questions were included in Series I for CERNA-RAMIREZ's polygraph examination:

*b2*  
*b7E*  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

*b7c*  
 The responses given by CERNA-RAMIREZ indicated deception. SA [REDACTED] indicated that when he spoke with CERNA-RAMIREZ concerning the discrepancies in Series I, that CERNA-RAMIREZ replied with a changed story and indicated that in fact he had also looked out the bedroom window when his wife did. His initial version of the incident during the pre-test interview indicated that he remained in bed and did not get up and look out the window.

*b7c*  
 The interviews and examination of CERNA-RAMIREZ were discontinued for that day at approximately 6:30 p.m. It was the assessment of SA [REDACTED] that it would not be productive or beneficial to conduct additional interviews of CERNA-RAMIREZ this day, but to continue the interview on Friday, December 1, 1989.

*b7c*  
 On the morning of December 1, 1989, he was advised by SA [REDACTED] that apparently, CERNA-RAMIREZ had another version of the events which transpired on November 16, 1989. It was SA [REDACTED]

b7c

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

On 1/18/90

Page 6

understanding that the new version alleged that both CERNA-RAMIREZ and BARRERA DE CERNA, his wife, had gotten up, gone to the window, and seen several individuals in the vicinity of the Jesuits' quarters carrying weapons and running in the opposite direction, away from the Jesuits' quarters. In view of this, it was decided to once again polygraph CERNA-RAMIREZ.

A Series II questions were designed for this polygraph.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

After a review of the responses provided in Series II above, it was the opinion of SA [REDACTED] that CERNA-RAMIREZ indicated deception in response to these questions. Shortly after the conclusion of the examination, he questioned CERNA-RAMIREZ as to the discrepancies indicated in his most recent polygraph. CERNA-RAMIREZ replied that the most recent version told by him, wherein he and his wife both got up and observed events through the window, was in fact the version that the U.S. Government and the Government of El Salvador wanted to hear. He indicated that this most recent version was fabricated last evening by him and his wife for that specific reason. CERNA-RAMIREZ indicated that the actual truth is that he did not see any shooting or soldiers on that night in the vicinity of the Jesuits' quarters, as indicated previously.

SA [REDACTED] advised that with reference to the last polygraph examination given to CERNA-RAMIREZ that he, [REDACTED] decided to have CERNA-RAMIREZ write, in one-line sentences, what he observed on the night in question, November 16, 1989. SA [REDACTED] felt that in this way, CERNA-RAMIREZ would not be confused by verbage or other aspects of the account previously given by both himself and his wife. CERNA-RAMIREZ could be asked as to the truthfulness of the words and statements which has most recently written down at the behest of SA [REDACTED]. Irrespective of the above strategy, CERNA-RAMIREZ still showed deceptiveness in response to the questions.

SA [REDACTED] indicated that throughout the series of polygraph examinations and interviews he conducted with CERNA-RAMIREZ, that he indicated no unusual concerns or apprehension throughout the process. CERNA-RAMIREZ was constantly reassured as to the motives for taking a polygraph and did not voice any opposition to submitting to the examination.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] advised that at the conclusion of the CERNA-RAMIREZ polygraph, he orally advised SA [REDACTED] and Colonel RIVAS of the results and felt that additional polygraph examinations of either of the above two individuals would not clarify the discrepancies which were now apparent in the statements of both. It was the consensus of those persons that no additional polygraph examinations would be conducted.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] stated that his clearest recollection of the post-polygraph interview he conducted of LUCIA BARRERA-CERNA on 11/30/89, is that she stood fast to her statement that neither she nor her husband got up to look out the window during the shooting of the Jesuits on 11/16/89.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] advised that all of the polygraph examination reports (FD-498), the various consent forms (FD-328), and the polygraph worksheets (FD-497) were completed in connection with the polygraphs provided to both BARRERA DE CERNA and CERNA-RAMIREZ. SA [REDACTED] indicated that throughout the pre-examination and polygraph examination process, he was assisted by SA [REDACTED] as SA [REDACTED] is also a Polygraph Examiner within the Miami Division. SA [REDACTED] indicated that within the FBI's polygraph program, SA [REDACTED] is highly regarded for his polygraph skills and his technical abilities in connection with this examination process. All of the conclusions formulated by SA [REDACTED] were corroborated and supported by SA [REDACTED] throughout the examinations.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] then specifically commented on certain statements made in the Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights report. On page 25, BERRARA was "very frightened." SA [REDACTED] said in this view, BERRARA was not frightened. He said the interview and examination was straight forward.

b7c  
Concerning the comments on page 27, of the Lawyers Committee report he stated during the pretext he explained the purpose of each SA [REDACTED] stated FBI polygraph examiner never subject witnesses to extended periods of being connected to polygraph machine components. He stated he followed this procedure.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] said he was unaware of any questioning of the witness regarding which priest told her to say she saw soldiers as alleged on page 28.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] advised that he could provide no further information regarding this matter at this time.



FOUCHER



N



*this page was not  
counted as processed*

## POLYGRAPH REPORT

|                                                                     |                                      |                    |                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| DATE OF REPORT<br>12/5/89                                           | DATE OF EXAMINATION<br>11/30-12/1/89 | BUREAU FILE NUMBER | FIELD FILE NUMBER<br>163A-HO-61055 |
| FIELD OFFICE OR AGENCY REQUESTING EXAMINATION<br>FBI, Miami         |                                      |                    |                                    |
| AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL<br>SAC, Miami                                  |                                      |                    | DATE AUTHORIZED<br>11/27/89        |
| EXAMINEE NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)<br>CERNA RAMIREZ, JORGE ALBERTO |                                      |                    |                                    |

CASE TITLE UNSUBS;  
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS IN  
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR;  
FPC - MURDER  
OO: HQ

REFERENCES Polygraph examination of LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA on 11/29/89.

CASE SYNOPSIS/EXAMINER CONCLUSION During the night of 11/16/89, six Jesuit priests were shot to death while at their residence at the University of Central America (UCA). Also shot were the cook and her daughter. BARRERA DE CERNA, a cleaning lady at the university, and her family, were at the time of the shooting sleeping in a house near the incident. Following the shooting, BARRERA DE CERNA stated that she had observed five men dressed in uniforms and carrying weapons, shoot at the residence where the priests were shot. BARRERA DE CERNA gave a statement describing the men and their actions to representatives of the Spanish and French embassies. She and her family were then brought to the United States where they were debriefed by U.S. government officials and a representative of the government of EL Salvador. CERNA RAMIREZ, BARRERA DE CERNA's husband, stated that he did not observe the incident, only heard the shooting and voices that he could not distinguish. He was requested to take a polygraph examination to verify his statement.

CERNA RAMIREZ was administered polygraph examinations on 11/30/89 and 12/1/89. Prior to the test, CERNA RAMIREZ admitted that he had observed his wife open the curtain in the bedroom window where they were sleeping. He denied looking through the window himself. The following relevant questions were asked:

## Series I

- A. The night of the shooting, did you go to the window to look outside? No.
- B. Did your wife tell you that she saw some individuals from the window? No.
- C. Are you hiding any information regarding this case? No.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant questions asked above are indicative of deception. During the post-test interview, CERNA RAMIREZ admitted that when his wife looked out their bedroom window, he also looked out. He was requested to return the following day for additional testing.

EXAMINER NAME: SA [REDACTED] dl

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8/21/00 BY SP4/ELW/mk

FBI/DOJ

CERNA RAMIREZ returned on 12/1/89 for additional testing. Prior to testing on 12/1/89, CERNA RAMIREZ stated that he and his wife both had lied during their previous statements. He stated that both he and his wife had observed the incident. He said that as soon as the shooting ended, both he and his wife went to the window to see what had happened. He said he saw several men dressed in dark clothes and carrying weapons run away from where the priests were shot. He had previously denied seeing anything because he was afraid of getting involved. The following relevant questions were asked:

Series II

- D. Is the statement that you gave me this morning false? No.
- E. Did you fabricate the information that you gave me this morning? No.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant questions asked in Series II are indicative of deception. After Series II, CERNA RAMIREZ admitted that the new version of the incident was also false. He stated that he felt that this last version was the one that the U.S. government and the government of El Salvador wanted to hear, so he and his wife decided to fabricate this new version. CERNA RAMIREZ restated that he did not see the shooting or any soldiers the night of the incident.

## POLYGRAPH REPORT

|                                                                |                                       |                    |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| DATE OF REPORT<br>12/4/89                                      | DATE OF EXAMINATION<br>11/29;11/30/89 | BUREAU FILE NUMBER | FIELD FILE NUMBER<br>MM163A-New |
| FIELD OFFICE OR AGENCY REQUESTING EXAMINATION<br>FBI, Miami    |                                       |                    |                                 |
| AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL<br>SAC, Miami                             |                                       |                    | DATE AUTHORIZED<br>11/27/89     |
| EXAMINEE NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)<br>BARRERA DE CERNA, LUCIA |                                       |                    |                                 |

CASE TITLE LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA;  
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION -  
EL SALVADOR;  
OO: MIAMI

REFERENCES Polygraph examination of JORGE CERNA on 11/30/89.

CASE SYNOPSIS/EXAMINER CONCLUSION During the night of 11/16/89, six Jesuit priests were shot to death while at their residence at the University of Central America (UCA). Also shot were the cook and her daughter. BARRERA DE CERNA, a cleaning lady at the university, and her family, were at the time of the shooting sleeping in a house near the incident. Following the shooting, BARRERA DE CERNA stated that she had observed five men dressed in uniforms and carrying weapons, shoot at the residence where the priests were shot. BARRERA DE CERNA gave a statement describing the men and their actions to representatives of the Spanish and French embassies. She and her family were then brought to the United States where they were debriefed by U.S. government officials and a representative of the government of EL Salvador. She was requested to take a polygraph examination to verify the truthfulness of her statement.

BARRERA DE CERNA was administered polygraph examinations on 11/29 and 11/30/89. Prior to her polygraph examination on 11/29/89, BARRERA DE CERNA admitted that she had lied when she stated that she had observed armed men shoot at the residence where the priests lived. BARRERA DE CERNA stated that on Monday, 11/20/89, she was introduced to MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, a legal advisor, by a priest who asked BARRERA DE CERNA to cooperate with HERNANDEZ. According to BARRERA DE CERNA, HERNANDEZ instructed her to tell the authorities that, in addition to stating that she had heard the shooting and voices, to say that she had observed the incident through a window of the house where she and her family were staying. HERNANDEZ advised her that to mention that she saw the shootings would be more helpful than to simply state that she heard the shootings. BARRERA DE CERNA stated that she did not go to the window to look outside and did not see any armed men, as she stated in her original statement. The following relevant questions were asked:

## Series I

- A. Did you see the persons that did the shooting the night the priests died? No.
- B. Did you see anything the night that the priests died? No.

EXAMINER NAME: SA [REDACTED] *dl*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

FBI/DOJ

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/27/89 BY [REDACTED]

**Series II**

- C. Were you counselled by MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ to report to the authorities that you saw the persons that did the shooting? Yes.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant questions asked in Series I are inconclusive. It is the further opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant question asked in Series II are indicative of deception. Third Series with the following relevant question was then administered:

**Series III**

- D. During the shooting, did you see anything out the window that you have not told us about? No

It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant question asked in Series III are also inconclusive. Following Series III, BARRERA DE CERNA was asked to return the following day to resolve the above issues.

BARRERA DE CERNA returned on 11/30/89 for additional testing. The following relevant questions were asked:

**Series IV**

- E. The night of the shooting, did you go to the window to look out? No.  
F. Did you see anyone shooting guns near the building where those priests were shot? No.

**Series V**

- G. Did you get up to go to the window during the shooting? No.  
H. Did you go to look out the window the night the priests died? No.  
I. Are you lying when you say that MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ advised you to say that five soldiers shot those priests? No.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the recorded responses to the relevant questions asked in Series IV and Series V are indicative of deception. Following the tests on 11/30/89, BARRERA DE CERNA stated that she had lied during Series IV and V. She stated that both she and her husband, JORGE CERNA RAMIREZ, got out of bed shortly after the shooting to look out the window. She further stated that they both saw several individuals dressed in dark clothes and carrying rifles, run away from where the priests were shot.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF  
ATTACHED SPANISH CONSENT FORMS

CONSENT TO INTERVIEW WITH POLYGRAPH

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

Before we begin an examination by means of the polygraph  
in connection with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

you must understand your rights.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to refuse to take the polygraph  
test.

If you agree to take the polygraph test, you have  
the right to stop the test at any time.

If you agree to take the polygraph test, you have  
the right to refuse to answer any individual questions.

WAIVER AND CONSENT

I have read this statement of my rights and I under-  
stand what my rights are. I voluntarily agree to be examined  
by means of the polygraph during this interview. I understand  
and know what I am doing. No threats or promises have been  
used against me to obtain my consent to the use of the polygraph.  
I understand that the examination room (DOES) (DOES NOT) contain  
an observation device and that the examination (WILL) (WILL NOT)  
be monitored or recorded.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Examinee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Examiner)

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONSENTIMIENTO PARA INTERROGATORIOS  
CON EL USO DEL POLIGRAFO

Lugar 119MI  
Fecha 11/30/81  
Hora 3:57 PM

Antes de hacerle ninguna pregunta con el uso del polígrafo (detector de mentiras) con respecto a su  
declamación al FBI

Ud. debe tener conocimiento de sus derechos.

SUS DERECHOS

Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a tomar un examen con el polígrafo.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de poner fin al examen en cualquier momento.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a contestar cualquier pregunta.

RENUNCIA DE DERECHOS Y CONSENTIMIENTO

He leído esta declaración de mis derechos y tengo conocimiento de mis derechos. Estoy dispuesto de mi propia voluntad a ser interrogado con el uso del polígrafo durante esta entrevista. Comprendo y sé lo que hago. Nadie me ha hecho promesas o amenazas ni ha usado presión ninguna en contra de mi para obtener mi consentimiento para el uso del polígrafo. Comprendo que el cuarto donde se efectúa esta entrevista (TIENE) (NO TIENE) dispositivo de observación y que la conversación (SERA) (NO SERA) seguida por otra persona o grabada.

Firmado [Signature]  
Persona Examinada

[Redacted]  
Examinado

Testigo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

CONSENTIMIENTO PARA INTERROGATORIOS  
CON EL USO DEL POLIGRAFO

Lugar Miami  
Fecha 12/1/87  
Hora 11:55 AM

Antes de hacerle ninguna pregunta con el uso del polígrafo (detector de mentiras) con respecto a su  
declaración al FBI

Ud. debe tener conocimiento de sus derechos.

SUS DERECHOS

Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a tomar un examen con el polígrafo.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de poner fin al examen en cualquier momento.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a contestar cualquier pregunta.

RENUNCIA DE DERECHOS Y CONSENTIMIENTO

He leído esta declaración de mis derechos y tengo conocimiento de mis derechos. Estoy dispuesto de mi propia voluntad a ser interrogado con el uso del polígrafo durante esta entrevista. Comprendo y sé lo que hago. Nadie me ha hecho promesas o amenazas ni ha usado presión ninguna en contra de mi para obtener mi consentimiento para el uso del polígrafo. Comprendo que el cuarto donde se efectúa esta entrevista (TIENE) (NO TIENE) dispositivo de observación y que la conversación (SERA) (NO SERA) seguida por otra persona o grabada.

Firmado

[Signature]  
Persona Examinada

[Signature]  
Examinador

Testigo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



CONSENTIMIENTO PARA INTERROGATORIOS  
CON EL USO DEL POLIGRAFO

Lugar Miami  
Fecha 11/29/89  
Hora 1:48 PM

Antes de hacerle ninguna pregunta con el uso del polígrafo (detector de mentiras) con respecto a la  
muerte de 6 sacerdotes en San Salvador

Ud. debe tener conocimiento de sus derechos.

SUS DERECHOS

Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a tomar un examen con el polígrafo.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de poner fin al examen en cualquier momento.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a contestar cualquier pregunta.

RENUNCIA DE DERECHOS Y CONSENTIMIENTO

He leído esta declaración de mis derechos y tengo conocimiento de mis derechos. Estoy dispuesto de mi propia voluntad a ser interrogado con el uso del polígrafo durante esta entrevista. Comprendo y sé lo que hago. Nadie me ha hecho promesas o amenazas ni ha usado presión ninguna en contra de mi para obtener mi consentimiento para el uso del polígrafo. Comprendo que el cuarto donde se efectúa esta entrevista (TIENE) (NO TIENE) dispositivo de observación y que la conversación (SERÁ) (NO SERÁ) seguida por otra persona o grabada.

Firmado [Signature]  
Persona Examinada

[Signature]  
Examinador

Testigo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONSENTIMIENTO PARA INTERROGATORIOS  
CON EL USO DEL POLIGRAFO

Lugar Miami  
Fecha 11/30/90  
Hora 9:30 AM

Antes de hacerle ninguna pregunta con el uso del polígrafo (detector de mentiras) con respecto a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ud. debe tener conocimiento de sus derechos.

SUS DERECHOS

Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a tomar un examen con el polígrafo.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de poner fin al examen en cualquier momento.

Si Ud. decide tomar el examen con el polígrafo, Ud. tiene el derecho de negarse a contestar cualquier pregunta.

RENUNCIA DE DERECHOS Y CONSENTIMIENTO

He leído esta declaración de mis derechos y tengo conocimiento de mis derechos. Estoy dispuesto de mi propia voluntad a ser interrogado con el uso del polígrafo durante esta entrevista. Comprendo y sé lo que hago. Nadie me ha hecho promesas o amenazas ni ha usado presión ninguna en contra de mí para obtener mi consentimiento para el uso del polígrafo. Comprendo que el cuarto donde se efectúa esta entrevista (TIENE) (NO TIENE) dispositivo de observación y que la conversación (SERA) (NO SERA) seguida por otra persona o grabada.

Firmado [Signature]  
Persona Examinada

b7c  
[Redacted]  
Examinador

Testigo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Baker

1/30/90

J. W. Hicks

UNSUBS;  
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS  
IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR  
FPC - MURDER  
MM 163A-HQ-61055

PURPOSE: To furnish the comments of the Polygraph Unit, Laboratory Division, concerning the examinations conducted on LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA and JORGE ALBERTO CERNA-RAMIREZ.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information only.

DETAILS: The Polygraph reports and accompanying charts were again reviewed by Polygraph Unit personnel on 1/26/90. Unit personnel concur with the conclusion of the Miami polygraph examiner in that LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA was deceptive when responding to certain relevant questions listed in the report. The fact that LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA was deceptive to questions dealing with her new statement does not imply that her original statement was truthful. By way of background, polygraph examinations focus exclusively on the statement, alibi, confessions, et cetera, that the examinee maintains as the truth. Therefore, every modification of a statement that contains any falsehood will still be found deceptive on a polygraph.

The following analysis is set forth of the polygraph examinations conducted in the Miami Division on LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA and her husband, JORGE ALBERTO CERNA RAMIREZ. After testing and analysis, it is our opinion that neither examinee was an eyewitness to the shootings, and neither saw soldiers as has been alleged. They were both in close proximity and may have looked out the window, and possibly even thought they saw "something", but not what they originally stated. Additionally, these individuals were believed to be very pliable, and their stories changed to accommodate whoever interviewed them.

1 - Mr. Hicks  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. Baker  
(Attn: Mr. [REDACTED])  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED - OVER)

[REDACTED] (5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/14/90 BY SP4 [REDACTED]

MEMO TO MR. BAKER FROM J. W. HICKS DATED 1/30/90  
RE: UNSUBS;  
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS  
IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR  
FPC - MURDER  
MM 163A-HQ-61055

The original story of BARRERA DE CERNA was that she saw five (5) men in uniforms carrying weapons shoot at the residence of the priests. The timing and circumstances of her story are significant. Some days after the shooting, she was introduced by a priest to MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, a legal advisor, and subsequently her statement was furnished to the French and Spanish Embassies. It appears that through HERNANDEZ's efforts this witness surfaced.

On 11/29/89, when BARRERA DE CERNA arrived for a polygraph test, she had changed her story. She advised her prior statement was a lie and that she did not see the shootings or even look outside and that furthermore, she was advised by MARIA HERNANDEZ to state she actually saw soldiers doing the shootings not that she had merely heard shooting.

Several polygraph examinations were then administered and the results are set forth:

Test 1 - INCONCLUSIVE

- A. Did you see the persons that did the shooting the night the priests died? Answer: NO.
- B. Did you see anything the night that the priests died? Answer: NO.

Test 2 - DECEPTIVE

- C. Were you counseled by MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ to report to the authorities that you saw the persons that did the shooting? Answer: YES.

Test 3 - INCONCLUSIVE

- D. During the shooting, did you see anything out the window you have not told us about? Answer: NO.

On 11/30/89, testing was continued. BARRERA DE CERNA was administered several polygraph tests and the results are set forth:

Test 4 - DECEPTIVE

- E. On the night of the shooting, did you go to the window and look out? Answer: NO.

MEMO TO MR. BAKER FROM J. W. HICKS DATED 1/30/90  
RE: UNSUBS;  
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS  
IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR  
FPC - MURDER  
MM 163A-HQ-61055

- F. Did you see anyone shooting guns near the building where those priests were shot?  
Answer: NO.

Test 5 - DECEPTIVE

- G. Did you get up to go to the window during the shooting? Answer: NO.
- H. Did you go to look out the window the night the priests died? Answer: NO.
- I. Are you lying when you say MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ advised you to say that five soldiers shot those priests? Answer: NO.

BARRERA DE CERNA then advised that she had lied on both these tests. She then stated that shortly after the shooting that both she and her husband got out of bed and saw several individuals dressed in dark clothes, carrying rifles, running away.

It was decided to then polygraph the husband. CERNA RAMIREZ initially stated he heard the shooting, but didn't look out, and just prior to the test stated he saw his wife looking out the window.

Test 1 - DECEPTIVE

- A. The night of the shooting, did you go to the window to look outside? Answer: NO.
- B. Did your wife tell you that she saw some individuals from the window? Answer: NO.
- C. Are you hiding any information regarding this case? Answer: NO.

CERNA RAMIREZ then stated he also looked out the window. Testing was required to determine what he saw. He was brought back the next morning and furnished a short statement advising that after the shooting both he and his wife went to the window, saw several men dressed in dark clothes, running away. A test was then administered.

MEMO TO MR. BAKER FROM J. W. HICKS DATED 1/30/90.

RE: UNSUBS;  
SHOOTING OF SIX JESUIT PRIESTS  
IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR  
FPC - MURDER  
MM 163A-HQ-61055

TEST 2 - DECEPTIVE

- D. Is the statement you gave me this morning false?  
Answer: NO.
- E. Did you fabricate the information that you gave  
me this morning? Answer: NO.

CERNA RAMIREZ admitted this statement was false, and that he said this because he felt this was what we wanted to hear. CERNA RAMIREZ then advised he and his wife made the story up, that neither saw the shooting and that his wife had been coached by MARIA HERNANDEZ.

After an analysis of CERNA RAMIREZ's polygraphs, it can be concluded he is clearly deceptive and that he did not see who did the shooting.

An analysis of the BARRERA DE CERNA's examinations is more complex. Her strongest reactions are clearly on the questions involving MARIA HERNANDEZ and she is clearly not telling the truth about this issue. She may have lied to MARIA HERNANDEZ initially and this could be the cause of the reactions. However, if anyone coached her, these same reactions could occur. What is less clear is what she saw. Her reactions indicate she looked out, but could not identify anyone as soldiers.

Due to the numerous changes in her versions of what happened, a clear resolution was not possible. This is due to the fact that any modification of a statement that would still contain any falsehood would be found deceptive on a polygraph examination. Therefore, one could not draw the conclusion that since her second statement was false that you could imply her first statement was true. The only conclusion is that lies were present in both statements.



*this page was not  
counted as processed*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/18/90

*hrc*  
Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She was advised of the identities of the Agents conducting the interview and the nature of the inquiry. She provided the following information:

*hrc*  
She entered on duty with the FBI on [REDACTED] and entered on duty in the Miami Field Office on [REDACTED]. She is currently assigned investigative responsibilities with the F-2 Squad.

On December 1, 1989, she was assigned to work a 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight shift in connection with a protection detail regarding LUCIA BARRERA DE CERNA, a witness to the killings of six Jesuit Priests in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. Prior to December 1, 1989, 4-12 shift, she was advised that the protection detail would also include the witness' immediate family, her husband and a female child. She assumed the child would be without friends and playmates, and purchased some toys and games for the child prior to coming on duty. She purchased several coloring books, crayons, puzzle books, hair bands, a comb and some candy. Upon arrival on duty at the Miami FBI Office that evening, she gave some of these items to the child. During part of that afternoon, she played with the child, amusing her with the toys she bought.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on the same evening, she escorted the family to the Raddison Hotel from the Miami Office. Once again, she amused the child with the various toys she had purchased earlier in the day. She also pointed out that the child's parents, LUCIA and JORGE, also became amused with the child's toys at various times during the evening. During the course of the evening, she observed that the family was in a relaxed and pleasant mood and did not indicate any specific wants or needs concerning their stay at the Raddison Hotel.

*hrc*  
At approximately 7:30 p.m. on that evening, dinner was provided for the family through hotel room service. SA [REDACTED] indicated that she translated the menu for the family and that although she does not recall the exact food orders placed, she indicated the dinners were substantial and consisted of salad, vegetables and a dinner meat. The child was ordered a dish of oatmeal at the request of the parents.

At approximately 9:00 p.m., the family indicated they were going to retire for the evening and were left to the privacy of their

Investigation on 1/18/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA [REDACTED] *hrc* Date dictated 1/18/90



Continuation of FD-302 of SA [REDACTED] *b7c*, On 1/18/90, Page 2

*b7c* own room. Prior to 9:00 p.m, SA [REDACTED] recalls that she had some light conversation with the parents concerning the topic of children and things children had in common. SA [REDACTED] is the mother of two children and she exchanged pleasantries and general conversation with LUCIA.

*b7c* SA [REDACTED] remained on duty through the balance of her shift and was relieved at approximately 12:00 midnight by SA [REDACTED] also of the Miami Division.

*b7c* SA [REDACTED] indicated that she had no additional information to provide regarding this matter.



P



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counted as processed*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/17/90

b7c Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] was contacted at the Miami Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He was advised of the identities of the Agents conducting the interview and the nature of the inquiry. He provided the following information:

b7c He is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and entered on duty with the FBI [REDACTED]. He is presently assigned White Collar Crime investigative matters and has been since [REDACTED].

b7c On December 3, 1989, at 12:00 a.m., SA [REDACTED] was assigned to a security detail regarding an alleged witness to the murder of six Jesuit Priests in El Salvador. The witness' family consisted of her husband and her young daughter. They were being housed at the Raddison Hotel in Miami, Florida.

b7c He relieved SA [REDACTED] at 12:00 midnight. Upon arrival he was briefed by SA [REDACTED]. SA [REDACTED] advised him that the room in which he was to be during his tour of duty was also occupied by DEBORAH ANN MCCARTHY, a representative of the United States Department of State. SA [REDACTED] advised him that the witness and her family were staying in the accompanying room with a Jesuit Priest, JOSEPH BERERA. Occupants of both rooms were asleep at the beginning of the shift.

b7c At approximately 8:00 a.m., he was relieved by SA [REDACTED]. Shortly thereafter, the CERNA family was escorted downstairs for breakfast to the hotel cafeteria. During breakfast, MCCARTHY informed the Agents that attorneys for the Jesuits were going to come by later in the morning to interview the witness. Additionally, they would probably request authority to interview the FBI Agents on duty.

b7c At approximately 9:30 a.m., Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED] was telephonically advised of the situation concerning the attorneys. He advised that no interview of the FBI Agents were to be conducted. He requested that MCCARTHY call him as soon as she was available. A few minutes later, MCCARTHY telephoned SSA [REDACTED] from the hotel room.

b7c At about 10:00 a.m., Father PAUL TYPTON, President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and R. SCOTT GREATHEAD, an attorney with the Lawyers Committee on Human Rights, also arrived at the hotel. The latter was accompanied by a female attorney whose name SA [REDACTED] could not recall. GREATHEAD handed the writer a business card which read as follows:

Investigation on 1/17/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/17/90

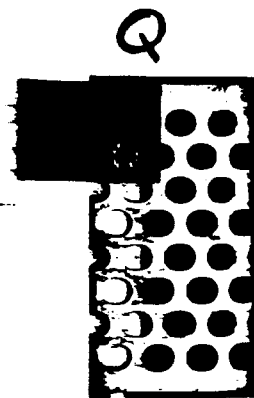
"State of New York  
Office of the Attorney General  
ROBERT ABRAMS  
R. SCOTT GREATHEAD  
First Assistant Attorney General  
120 Broadway  
New York, NY 10271  
(212) 341-2525"

b7c  
GREATHEAD requested to take the witness and her family to Suite 1115 in the Raddison Hotel for extensive interviewing. His request was put off momentarily while Father TYPTON and MCCARTHY worked out the release of custody of the witness and her family from the United States Government to the Jesuits. Meanwhile, GREATHEAD began interviewing the witness in an adjacent room. Father TYPTON drafted a statement accepting custody and responsibility for the witness and her family. The document was signed by TYPTON, MCCARTHY, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]. This document remained in the custody of the U.S. Department of State. The Agents did not receive a copy of the document because there was no photocopying facility available. After this, both Agents departed.

Contact with the witness and her family during this period was minimal and consisted of occasional small talk. The relationship with the witness, her family, the priests, and the attorneys remained cordial and professional.

b7c  
During the course of his dealings with the witness and her family, SA [REDACTED] recalls only limited casual conversation. He remarked on one occasion, it was too bad they were not going to be in Miami much longer for it was a beautiful city and there was much to be seen. His impression of the family was that they were comfortable and at ease while they were at the Raddison Hotel.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] indicated he could recall no additional pertinent information regarding this matter at this time.



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created or processed*

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH  
MOAKLEY PAPERS  
MS 100

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/17/90

Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] was advised of the identity of Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED] and of the fact that he was being interviewed in connection with an inquiry being conducted into the interview of two witnesses from San Salvador, El Salvador. SA [REDACTED] furnished a copy of a memorandum dated 1/16/90. The memorandum reports the events that took place while SA [REDACTED] was providing security for the Salvadorian Nationals on 11/25/89. In addition to the memorandum, SA [REDACTED] provided the following information:

SA MONERO stated that he has been a SA of the FBI since [REDACTED]. Following training he was assigned to the Miami Division of the FBI and is currently assigned to the Major Case Squad designated as C-3. SA [REDACTED] advised that on Friday, 11/24/89, he was notified to report to the RADDISON HOTEL on Saturday, 11/25/89. He said he was contacted by the case agent, SA [REDACTED]. He said his assignment was to provide protection for two Salvadorian individuals who had been relocated to the Miami area. He stated that as reflected in his memorandum he relieved SA [REDACTED] at about 4:00 PM. Present at the time he made his relief were RICHARD CHIDESTER and [REDACTED] of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS). He said at approximately 4:15 PM he was introduced by the DOS official to the Salvadorians and was told that later that evening they had intended to meet with a Jesuit Priest, Father ESQUIVEL.

At approximately 5:30 PM SA [REDACTED] said that he left the RADDISON HOTEL and drove to the residence of Father ESQUIVEL's sister at [REDACTED] Miami, Florida. He said that Father ESQUIVEL provided the Salvadorian witnesses with some type of medicine and clothing. He said that Father ESQUIVEL commented that he could not get the specific brand of medicine that the female Salvadorian needed but he believed it was related to her hypertension condition. He said that the pills provided to the Salvadorian witness were yellow capsules which were packaged on a board with clear plastic covering.

SA [REDACTED] said that the clothing consisted of one shopping bag filled with clothes and a second bag which was dark in color. He stated that Father ESQUIVEL told the male Salvadorian that the only clothes he could locate for that individual was clothing from another priest. Father ESQUIVEL stated that these clothes should fit because the man was approximately the same size as the priest from whom he had obtained them. Father ESQUIVEL said that he would get back to the Salvadorians with whatever else they needed. SA [REDACTED] said that Father ESQUIVEL told the

Investigation on 1/17/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055

by SSA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/17/90

Salvadorians that they were in good hands here in the United States and they need not worry.

*h7c*  
Following this meeting, SA [REDACTED] stated that he was requested by CHIDESTER to drive through the area known as Calle Ocho in order to show the Salvadorians the types of neighborhoods as well as the Spanish residents who live in the Miami area. He said that in addition to Mr. CHIDESTER, JAMES FOSTER accompanied the party. He said the FOSTER guided their party to a Honduran restaurant in the vicinity of 1351 N.W. 12th Street. He said that the party had an evening meal at this Honduran restaurant. He said that he was seated next to the Salvadorian male and he explained some of the Cuban plates which were listed on the menu. He said that the Salvadorians asked about the types of steaks that were on the menu, however, eventually settled on chicken dinners with beans and rice. From his discussion with the Salvadorian male, he believed that the individual was an intelligent person, was fully aware of what was going on and appeared to be satisfied with their meal that evening. He said upon conclusion of their dinner they returned to the hotel at approximately 9:00 PM.

*h7c*  
He said that he remained on duty until approximately 11:00 PM, when he was relieved by SA [REDACTED]

*h7c*  
SA [REDACTED] advised that he had left his business card with Father ESQUIVEL and he believed that the following Tuesday he had a call from one of Father ESQUIVEL's associates. He said he believed it was Father GARCIA who called him and told him that the Salvadorian female's mother requested to know how she and her family were doing in the United States. He said Father GARCIA asked if the FBI could have this woman write a brief note to her family. SA [REDACTED] said that he advised Father GARCIA that he would determine whether or not that would be feasible and he would call him back.

*h7c*  
SA [REDACTED] discussed this request with the case agent, SA [REDACTED] who told him that he believed it would be no problems for a communication to be prepared, however, he would have to be careful so that no addresses would be revealed because of security concerns. He said later during that day he gave the Salvadorian female a blank piece of white paper, explained that her mother had requested a note and asked if she would please prepare a note for her mother.

*h7c*  
SA [REDACTED] said the next day she gave him her note which he took to the teletype room and attempted to facsimile it to a telephone number that Father GARCIA had previously given him. For some reason or other, the note could not be successfully transmitted. He stated he decided to mail it to the Jesuits and did so. He said it was a brief note and he looked at it simply to ensure that no indication as to the current location of the Salvadorian family was given to the woman's mother.

Continuation of FD-302 of SA [REDACTED]

On 1/17/90

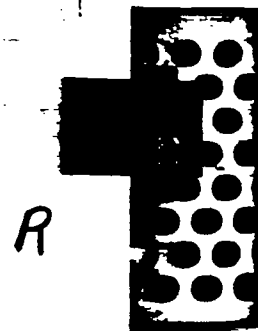
Page 3

He said that he recalled that the day he received the request for a note from the Salvadorian woman, he stopped by the interview rooms on a couple of occasions. He said that he had also purchased the young girl accompanying the Salvadorians several boxes of candy. He said the candy was M & M's and that the family appeared grateful for these candies. He characterized the family as very well-mannered and decent people.

He said it was his opinion that the family was pleased with the attention provided to them and felt that their experience with the FBI in the Miami Division was very positive.

He said he recalled one other contact with the Jesuits between the period of time 11/25/89 to 12/1/89. He said a priest telephonically inquired how the family was doing. He responded that they did not have any specific requests of the Jesuits and that they were doing fine.





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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 1/21/90

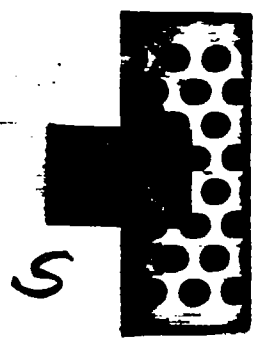
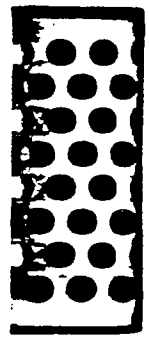
b7c  
Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] Squad F-3, was contacted by Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [REDACTED]. SA [REDACTED] was advised that he was being contacted for any information he could provide concerning the treatment of two witnesses in connection with a Foreign Police Cooperation matter.

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] stated on Sunday, November 26, 1989, he was assigned to a protection detail at the RADDISON HOTEL. He advised when he reported for duty, he had relieved SA [REDACTED] at approximately 4:00 p.m. He stated that after about two hours, he was introduced to a woman, a child and a man by a Department of State employee named CHIDESTER. [REDACTED] stated he assisted the family in reviewing the room service menu and explained the items on the menu. He stated he then ordered steak dinners for the witnesses. After placing the order, he stated they returned to their room. When the food arrived, [REDACTED] advised he knocked on their door and allowed the waiter in. He recalled the woman stated, "This is so much; it is so wonderful".

b7c  
SA [REDACTED] recalled that before dinner, shortly after their introductions, CHIDESTER asked the Salvadorians how they were doing and stated that he knew a Salvadorian who was currently in the United States. CHIDESTER inquired if LUCIA BARRERA would like to talk to this individual. She agreed and in fact spoke to the Salvadorian male. He stated that the conversation lasted some time and he believed that the woman was put at ease by her discussions.

b7c  
Following dinner, SA [REDACTED] stated there were no further requests of the family and they retired.

Investigation on 1/18/90 at Miami, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055  
by SSA [REDACTED] b7c [REDACTED] dictated 1/18/90



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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 2, 1990

MEMORANDUM TO MESSRS: CLARKE  
REVELL  
BAKER ✓  
COLLINGWOOD

RE: FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF SIX JESUIT  
PRIESTS IN EL SALVADOR--11/16/89

Attached is a packet of material received on December 27, 1989, regarding the treatment of Lucia Cerna, the alleged witness to events associated with the murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. The material consists of a letter to President Bush and a report, commissioned by the National Offices of the Jesuit Conference, prepared by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

While I do not think an immediate reply directly from me is necessary at this time, I do believe that the FBI will be called upon at a later time to respond to the allegations contained in the Lawyers Committee report. In anticipation of that likelihood, I would like Mr. Baker to carefully examine the report and compare it to the FBI investigation. Appropriate responses to the allegations in the report should be readied, and additional investigation and inquiries, if needed, should promptly be conducted.

I also believe that this matter will become the topic of congressional hearings. I would like Mr. Collingwood to work closely with Mr. Baker to coordinate responses to the allegations raised in the Lawyers Committee report and to begin preparation for anticipated congressional testimony.

William S. Sessions  
Director

Enclosure  
WSS:aga

# JESUIT CONFERENCE

the Society of Jesus in the United States

December 21, 1989

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On December 3, 1989, the U. S. Department of State delivered into the protection of the American Jesuits a witness in the case of the recent brutal murders of six Jesuits and two members of their household staff in El Salvador. Prior to her arrival in the United States, that witness, Sra. Lucia Barrera de Cerna, provided testimony to the investigating judge in El Salvador that on the night of the murders she heard loud voices and shots and observed armed men wearing camouflage uniforms at the scene of the crime. On November 23, Sra. de Cerna, her husband, and their four-year-old daughter were flown to the United States for their personal security.

Following the Cerna family's arrival in the United States, and during the period that they were in the exclusive custody and control of the Department of State, the witness and her husband were subjected to four days of intensive incommunicado interrogation by two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a Salvadoran Lieutenant Colonel. On the third day of her interrogation, frightened, confused and convinced that her three interrogators did not believe her testimony of what she had seen on the night of the murders, the witness decided to stop cooperating with the investigators and told them that she had seen nothing. We have been reliably informed that the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, William Walker, and other members of the Embassy staff thereafter asserted to reporters and others in El Salvador that the testimony of the witness is of no value. On December 9, the President of El Salvador asserted at a press conference that the witness lied in her original testimony to the investigating judge.

On December 10, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State objecting to Ambassador Walker's statements. On the same morning in El Salvador,

Archbishop Rivera y Damas accused United States investigators of mistreating the witness during her interrogation and forcing her to recant her testimony. The following day, December 11, you stated publicly that you had personally inquired into allegations that the witness had been mistreated and had been assured that she was not. As reported in the Washington Post on December 12, you stated:

"I have confidence that our Attorney General would not permit the kind of inquisition process that was alluded to in the papers today...I've already guaranteed to my satisfaction that she is not being mishandled. And I don't think that people would tell me something that's not true there because there would be a price to pay for that."

Knowing that you are concerned about the treatment of Sra. de Cerna, enclosed is a copy of a report that was prepared at the request of the Jesuit Conference of the United States, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and Jesuit Secondary Education Association by the highly respected Lawyers Committee on Human Rights. Based upon three days of interviews with Sra. de Cerna, the Lawyers Committee has concluded that she is a forthcoming and highly credible witness to the events she has testified to observing in El Salvador on the night of the murders and to the treatment she received after arriving in the United States. The Lawyers Committee found her testimony as given to the investigating judge in El Salvador to be trustworthy and consistent with all known facts relating to the murders. Finally, the report documents that the witness was mistreated and abused during four days of intensive incommunicado interrogation in the United States, and concludes that the United States and Salvadoran investigators "treated an obviously frightened and traumatized woman more like a criminal suspect than a potential cooperating witness with useful information."

The Lawyers Committee's report raises extremely serious questions about the manner in which United States and Salvadoran authorities are investigating the murders of our brothers in El Salvador. Specifically, we would like to know why these authorities found it necessary to subject the witness to four days of abusive incommunicado interrogation, and thereafter discredit her testimony in public. We would also like to know what steps the authorities have taken to pursue the important lead offered by the witness' testimony.

Finally, we must inform you that the insensitive and apparently abusive manner in which this witness was treated and the apparent lack of progress

December 21, 1989

to date in investigating the murders, has caused Jesuits in the United States and El Salvador to question the commitment of the United States government officials who have been assigned responsibility for this case. The Secretary of State has not yet responded to the earlier letter to him expressing some of these concerns. We remain willing to discuss with him and other appropriate officials the steps which must be taken to assure that justice is accomplished and that this terrible crime will not go unpunished.

Sincerely yours,

*Patrick J. Burns, S.J.*

Patrick J. Burns, S.J.  
President, Jesuit Conference

*Paul S. Tipton S.J.*

Paul S. Tipton, S.J.  
President, Association of Jesuit Colleges  
and Universities

*Charles P. Costello S.J.*

Charles P. Costello, S.J.  
President, Jesuit Secondary Education Association

Enclosure

cc: James A. Baker, III  
Secretary of State

Richard L. Thornburgh  
Attorney General

✓ William S. Sessions  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Bernard Aronson  
Assistant Secretary of State

Thomas S. Foley  
Speaker, U. S. House of Representatives

Joe Moakley  
Member of Congress

# JESUIT CONFERENCE

the Society of Jesus in the United States

PRESS RELEASE: ~~Friday, December 15, 1989~~ 

## LAWYER'S REPORT ON INTERVIEWS OF KEY WITNESS IN SALVADORIAN MURDERS INVESTIGATION

The attached pages report the results of several lengthy interviews with Lucia B. Barrera de Cerna and her husband Jorge Cerna.

The interviews were conducted on December 3, 1989, and December 9-10, 1989, by Attorney Scott Greathead, First Assistant Attorney General of the State of New York and Member of the Board of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and Ms. Martha Doggett of the same group.

The interviews were conducted on behalf of the Jesuits of the United States, represented by Rev. Patrick J. Burns, S.J., President of the United States Jesuit Conference, and on behalf of the educational institutions sponsored by the Jesuits in the United States, represented by Rev. Paul S. Tipton, S.J., President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and Rev. Charles P. Costello, S.J., President of the Jesuit Secondary Education Association.



In Attorney Greathead's judgment, the interviews reveal that Lucia Barrera de Cerna is an important and reliable witness to the presence of armed men in military garb in the courtyard of the Jesuit residence in San Salvador shortly before six Jesuit priests associated with the University of Central America, together with their cook and her teen-aged daughter, were brutally murdered in the early hours of November 16, 1989.

In addition, Attorney Greathead's report describes in some detail the type of questioning and pressures Lucia and her husband were subjected to while they were in State Department custody in Miami and before they were released into the care of the Jesuits. The questioning was carried on by agents of the F.B.I. and the Salvadorian government.

On behalf of the Jesuits of the United States we are making this report available to officials of the U.S. Government, members of Congress, and others to attest to the reliability of the testimony of Lucia Barrera to the investigating judge in the Court of El Salvador. We earnestly desire a fair and timely investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the assassination of our Brother Jesuits in the hope it can be a part of bringing peace to El Salvador.

# Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

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Michael H. Posner, Executive Director  
William G. O'Neill, Deputy Director  
Arthur C. Melton, Director, Refugee Project

## THE JESUIT MURDERS: A REPORT ON THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS

A report by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights  
to  
The Jesuit Conference  
The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
and  
The Jesuit Secondary Education Association

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### COUNSEL

Susan Berkwitz-Malelakis

THE JESUIT MURDERS:  
A REPORT ON THE TESTIMONY  
OF A WITNESS

INTRODUCTION

In the early morning hours of November 16, 1989, six Jesuit priests, their cook and her fifteen-year-old daughter were brutally murdered in the Oscar Romero Pastoral Center of the University of Central America Jose San Simeon Canas in San Salvador. To date, only one person has stepped forward to provide eye witness testimony relating to the crime. That witness, Lucia Barrera de Cerna, gave a declaration to the investigating judge in San Salvador on November 22, and was immediately flown to Miami, Florida for her personal security.

After the witness' arrival in Miami, the Society of Jesus in the United States assumed responsibility for her safety and well-being. U.S. Jesuit officials also took steps to assist their brothers in El Salvador in obtaining a vigorous and effective investigation of the murders by Salvadoran authorities. To that end, the Jesuit Conference, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and the Jesuit Secondary Education Association asked the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights to interview the witness and provide them with a report evaluating her testimony and its utility in the Salvadoran criminal proceedings.

This mission was undertaken by R. Scott Greathead, a member of the Lawyers Committee Board of Directors and First Assistant Attorney General of the State of New York, and Martha Doggett, the coordinator of the Lawyers Committee's Program on Latin America. Mr. Greathead has visited El Salvador twelve times on behalf of the Lawyers Committee since 1982, and assisted in the representation of the families of the four U.S. churchwomen who were murdered in El Salvador in December, 1980. Ms. Doggett has been a frequent visitor to El Salvador on behalf of the Lawyers Committee and other organizations. She is the author of the Lawyers Committee's most recent report on human rights and the administration of justice in El Salvador, Underwriting Injustice: AID and El Salvador's Judicial Reform Program (April, 1989).

Mr. Greathead and Ms. Doggett interviewed the witness on December 3, in Miami, Florida, and on December 9 and 10 in another location where she is living under the care and protection of the Jesuits. They were accompanied on both occasions by Paul S. Tipton, S.J., the President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

THE LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

December 15, 1989

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH  
MOAKLEY PAPERS  
MS 100

I. The Murders On November 16.

The campus of the Central American University Jose Simion Canas (UCA) is built into a hill which backs onto a comfortable middle class residential neighborhood known as Jardines de Guadalupe. The main entrance to the campus is along the highway leading south out of the city called Autopista Sur. Across the highway is the Colonia Militar Manuel Jose Arce, a neighborhood inhabited by military officers and their families. Within one mile is the headquarters of the High Command of the Armed Forces, the Estado Mayor. One block from the location where the priests were killed is Torre Democracia, a high-rise glass office tower situated on a corner at one edge of the campus. The tower has been attacked by the FMLN in the past and is often guarded by soldiers. There are two additional gates to the university. One block up the hill a small gate leads directly into the grassy area where the Jesuits were killed. A second entrance is off Calle Cantabrico, and is generally where students enter on foot.

On Saturday, November 11, the evening the FMLN offensive began, one of the first places fighting broke out was at the Torre Democracia. A chronology of events surrounding the killings prepared by the Jesuit Province of Central America\*,

\* Cronologia de Acontecimientos Relacionados con el Asesinato de los Seis Jesuitas de El Salvador, Provincia Centroamericana de la Compania De Jesus, November 1989.

indicates that guerrillas fled through the campus near the priests' residence after exploding a small bomb in order to open the gate. According to the chronology, members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces were on the scene within ten minutes and "controlled the situation."

From Saturday evening soldiers were posted at the Torre Democracia and at the main gate to the UCA. From 8:00 p.m. Sunday, November 12, San Salvador was placed under curfew. That curfew was extended from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Monday, November 13. Areas of the city where the heaviest combat was occurring were under a 24-hour curfew.

On Saturday evening, November 11, at 11:00 p.m. most Salvadoran radio stations were forced onto a nationwide hook-up, which later was revealed to be Radio Cuscatlan, the radio station of the Armed Forces of El Salvador. News of the fighting ceased and in its place were propaganda spots from the government and military. People called in seeking relatives, while others delivered impassioned tirades against the FMLN. Some callers made threats against the lives of Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas and Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, against the Jesuits in general, and against Father Ignacio Ellacuria in particular.

On Monday, November 13, Father Ellacuria, the UCA Rector, returned from Spain where he had been given a human rights award. He entered the campus by the main gate and, before preceeding up the hill, was questioned by soldiers.

At approximately 7:00 p.m. that evening, uniformed members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces arrived at the Oscar Romero Pastoral Center, where the priests had been living the last few months, and conducted a thorough search of the premises. Unlike earlier raids of the university, the soldiers took no interest in books, files, or other written materials, instead focusing exclusively "on the place and the people," according to a source familiar with the raid who was interviewed by the Lawyers Committee. The source added that the soldiers took notes. Though Father Ellacuria invited the soldiers to return to the campus during daylight hours to search the rest of the instituiton, the men seemed only interested in the Pastoral Center and did not return to the UCA the following day.

On Wednesday, November 15, the military continued to patrol the area surrounding the UCA. That morning an officer told one of the Jesuits that in the afternoon or evening there would be "a lot of movement."

Members of the U.S. - trained Atlacatl Batallion were patrolling part of the area surrounding the UCA on the evening of November 15.

At about 1:00 a.m. on November 16, area residents say uniformed men entered the UCA campus by all three entrances. Residents of Jardines de Guadalupe heard loud shooting between 2:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., and later heard two explosions.

The six Jesuits were killed outside the Pastoral Center on the lawn at the eastern end of the building. The first killed was Father Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, a 71-year old Salvadoran, who was the only victim not shot through the head. Father Juan Ramon Moreno, 56, received a bullet through the right eye and other wounds in the lower body. These two men were dragged back into the residence where their bodies were found in rooms where they were not known to have been sleeping. The other four victims were Father Ellacuria, Father Amando Lopez, Father Ignacio Martin-Baro and Father Segundo Montes. These four were apparently ordered to lie face down and shot one by one in the back of the head. The killers next went below and executed Julia Elba Ramos, a cook for the Jesuits, and her daughter, Celina Marisette Ramos, age 15. The women's bodies were found on the floor near the sofa where they were sleeping.

While the exact sequence of events is not known, the attackers also ransacked and burned several offices on the opposite side of the Pastoral Center. The facade of the building was sprayed with machine gun fire and cars parked in the area were also hit with bullets.

Residents say that the uniformed men withdrew from Calle Catabrico at 4:45 a.m. The last of the uniformed men on the UCA campus left at 5:45 a.m., that is, fifteen minutes before the end of curfew at 6:00 a.m.

II. What The Witness Saw and Heard On November 16.

Lucia Barrera de Cerna and her husband, Jorge Alberto Cerna Ramirez, live with their four-year-old daughter, Geraldina, in Soyapango, a working class suburb of San Salvador. Jorge is a baker, and Lucia has worked since 1981 as a house keeper for the Jesuits attached to the University of Central America.

Soyapango was the scene of heavy conflict during the recent guerrilla offensive in San Salvador. On Wednesday, November 15, Lucia, Jorge and their daughter fled their home under a white flag. Upon reaching a safer location in the city, they telephoned Father Ignacio Martin-Baro, whom Lucia refers to as Padre Nacho, to ask for assistance. Padre Nacho offered them a place to stay in a former Jesuit residence at the UCA, known as Casas 15 and 16, on the Calle Cantabrico. The houses are adjacent to the Oscar Romero Pastoral Center. On their arrival at the UCA, Padre Nacho set them up for the night in Casa 16, where they could spend the night on the floor of a small room. There was no electricity, but Padre Nacho brought them blankets to make them comfortable for the night.



Sometime during the night - they believe it was about 1 a.m. - Lucia and Jorge were awakened by the sound of gunfire. Lucia believed it was coming from a wooded area called "el bosque," located to the west of Casa 16. They also heard shouting and loud voices from the Pastoral Center. Lucia crept to the window in an adjacent room which had a view of a portion of the residence. Jorge stayed with Geraldina, who was sleeping between them on the floor; he was afraid that she would awake and call attention to them by crying out. Peeking through the curtains on the windows, Lucia observed five men standing by a gate that leads to the Pastoral Center. Three of the men were in shadows, but two were standing in the moonlight and she could see that they were wearing camouflage uniforms. They were carrying rifles, and wore caps with visors. At about this time she heard Father Nacho saying in a very loud voice:

"This is an injustice! This is an abomination!"

("Esto es una injusticia! Son una carroña!")

She then saw the men running, and heard shots, the noise of doors slamming and what sounded like glass being broken. She returned to the bedroom trembling and very afraid. Jorge estimates that she was not out of bed longer than twelve minutes.

When she returned to the bedroom, Jorge was peeking out of the window in that room. He reports that he observed seven or eight men walking swiftly (with long strides, but not running) from the direction of the Pastoral Center around the

west end of the chapel and toward a road that leads to a back entrance to the UCA. He could not see them well, but believes they were wearing dark clothes and caps with visors.\*

Jorge and Lucia resumed their positions on the floor on either side of their daughter, and tried to sleep. They awoke at first light, around 5:30 a.m. Looking out the window in the adjoining room, Lucia noticed that an iron gate on a passageway leading from the chapel to the Pastoral Center, which was normally locked, was open.

A short time later, while Lucia was in the bathroom, Jorge heard a tapping at the window and someone calling, "Padre, Padre." Responding to the tapping, Jorge encountered four night watchmen (vigilantes) from the UCA, who assumed there was a priest staying in the house. The watchmen told Jorge that there had been "a lot of shooting" (una gran balacera), that it had come very close to them, and that they were all lucky to be alive. They reported seeing what looked like bundles in the area of the Pastoral Center. Jorge accompanied one of the watchmen to inspect the area. Lucia and their daughter followed. Upon approaching the Pastoral Center, Jorge saw the bodies of the cook and her 15-year-old daughter, and then glimpsed the head of one of the murdered fathers. Lucia, having seen the priest's head, did not want to see more, and returned to Casa 16 with their daughter. Jorge and the watchman went to

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\* Jorge decided not to relate what he saw to investigators. See, infra, pp.19-20.

the lawn outside the Pastoral Center, where they saw the bodies of four of the murdered priests.

Jorge returned to where Lucia and Geraldina were waiting. Leaving Jorge with their daughter, Lucia hurried west on Calle Cantabrico to another Jesuit residence at Calle Mediterraneo 50. Father Pedroza met her at the door, and she told him to prepare himself for terrible news. Inside the house she saw Father Estrada and Father Ibisate. The husband of the slain cook was already there, apparently relating what had happened. This man had been sleeping nearby but had escaped detection by the murderers.

Several of the priests quickly left Mediterraneo 50 and ran to the Pastoral Center to see what had happened. Father Estrada told Lucia that the Jesuits could no longer protect her or her family, and advised her to seek safety elsewhere. Lucia related to some of the priests what she had seen and heard the preceding night. She recalls being extremely upset and crying, and that the priests tried to calm her down.

Lucia returned to Casa 16, where she and Jorge packed their belongings. They departed with Geraldina on foot to the home of Lucia's mother in nearby Antiguo Cuscatlan. They did not tell any of the Jesuit fathers where they were going, but on the way they encountered Lucia's aunt, who also works for the Jesuits, and informed her.

Lucia, Jorge and their daughter remained at her mother's house from Thursday, November 23, through Sunday, November 27. On Monday, fighting in the city appeared to have subsided, and Lucia decided to return to work at the UCA. She left her mother's home about 8:00 a.m., and walked to the Curia, the Provincial's headquarters, which is down the street from Mediterraneo 50.

When she arrived, she saw Brother Francisco, who was talking on the telephone. Lucia began cleaning up, emptying the wastebaskets, etc. Brother Francisco was talking to Lucia when Father Tojeira, the Jesuit Provincial, opened the door to his office and invited her in. Father Tojeira was with a woman that Lucia had never met, but recognized from seeing on television. Father Tojeira introduced Lucia to the woman, who was Maria Julia Hernandez, the director of Tutela Legal, the human rights office of the Archdiocese. He told Lucia that she could speak with confidence to Hernandez about what she might have heard or seen on the night of the murders.

Lucia told Hernandez what she had heard and what she had seen. Hernandez then suggested that they visit Casa 16. They went there, accompanied by Brother Francisco.

While they were at Casa 16, some men arrived who Hernandez appeared to know who were also investigating the case. Hernandez told Lucia that because of what she saw, she

needed protection and asked her to go to the Spanish Embassy. She told Lucia an Embassy car was there to transport her. Lucia told us that this was the first time she realized the gravity of her speaking about what she had witnessed.

Accompanied by Father Rogelio Pedraz, Lucia was taken to the Spanish Embassy in the car. Hernandez remained behind in Casa 16 with Brother Francisco.

Lucia arrived at the Embassy about lunchtime, and was taken to a bedroom on the second floor. Father Pedraz was still with her. Later, others arrived, including Father Tojeira and the Spanish Ambassador. The others were talking and she overheard Father Tojeira say that before she leaves she had to talk to the judge.

Lucia gave a priest who was present a note to Jorge telling him she was waiting for him. The note did not indicate where she was. Lucia's aunt delivered the note to Jorge. A short time later, Father Fermin Saenz arrived in a car at Lucia's mother's house. He told Jorge to pack their clothes and that he was going to take him and Geraldina to Lucia. The car proceeded to Mediterraneo 50, where they met Father Pedraz, changed to a Spanish Embassy car, and proceeded to the Embassy.

On arriving at the Embassy, Jorge and Geraldina were taken to the second floor, where Jorge was introduced to the

Spanish Ambassador. The Ambassador told Jorge that it was necessary to give his family security and protection until they could be transported to Spain or the United States, whichever country they preferred.

At about 5:00 p.m., the French Ambassador arrived and was introduced to Jorge. The French Ambassador told Jorge not to worry, and that he and his family had three options: they could go to Spain, France or the United States.

During this time, Lucia was in the kitchen of the Embassy warming a bottle for Geraldina. She was presented to the Embassy employees as the maid of a Spanish couple.

Lucia, Jorge and their daughter remained in the Spanish Embassy Monday night, and all day Tuesday, during which there was heavy fighting in San Salvador. On Wednesday, Hernandez arrived with a photographer to take their pictures. She explained that the photos were necessary for their passports.

Prior to this, Jorge and Lucia had discussed their options and decided to go to Miami, rather than France or Spain. Neither of them had ever been outside of El Salvador, and they were very unhappy to have to leave. They decided to go to Miami because it was closer to home.

On Wednesday afternoon, Lucia was taken to a room in the Embassy to make a declaration to the investigating judge.

Others were present in the room, including Hernandez, the Fiscal General, Dr. Mauricio Colorado\*, whom Lucia recognized from television, and a member of the Fiscal General's staff. The following is a translation of the pertinent portions of Lucia's declaration\*\*:

"The declarant committed herself to doing her chores, lying down at approximately 7:00 p.m. Since there was no electricity she heated up the water for a baby bottle with old newspapers that had been in the house. Then she fell asleep almost immediately because of the fatigue that she felt, waking up later at about one in the morning on Thursday the 16th, because of the shooting that could be heard inside the UCA. She said that firing was by the grove of trees [bosque] inside the UCA. Seconds later she heard the sounds of the doors of the Fathers' residence as if they were being opened and closed forcefully. Because of the intense shooting the declarant got up and without shoes on, she slowly went to the bedroom, locating herself in the window looking toward the interior of the Fathers' residence from where one could observe part of the corridor of said residence. She heard voices, without being able to distinguish what the voices were saying, only the voice of Father "Nachito" saying that it was an injustice, an abomination, at which point the declarant moved closer to the window and saw five subjects in front of the stairs that

\* The office of the Fiscal General is the equivalent of the Attorney General in the United States, and has the principal responsibility for prosecuting crimes in El Salvador.

\*\* The declaration is in the stilted language of Salvadoran legal documents. In the translation, we have corrected certain obvious typographical errors. The declaration suggests that Lucia saw a total of eight armed men, rather than five. In our interview, Lucia was firm in recalling seeing only five men. Lucia does not recall having read the declaration after it was completed. Whether she misspoke or the stenographer misunderstood her, we do not know.

face the lateral part of the Monsenor Romero chapel of said university. These subjects shot at the Fathers' residence. The declarant was able to observe that said subjects were dressed in camouflaged uniforms with dark headgear although she could not see their faces. Said subjects were so tall and robust that their shoes could not be seen. The declarant could see all this by the light of the moon, which made the early morning like daytime, adding moreover that she could not see the emblem nor any other identifying feature of said persons. There were three other subjects to the left of those who were firing and whom the light of the moon did not illuminate, but yes, she could distinguish that these individuals wore uniforms that were dark but not black. The others that she had seen were darker than these. They also had headgear like the others that have already been described. During all this time, the firing continued as well as the opening and closing of the doors. Later, the five subjects directed themselves to the small corridor of the Fathers' residence. The declarant could not see anything more because the wall that was found in this place was covered up. The declarant heard more shooting than before and that Father "Nachito" had stopped speaking. The declarant then heard no further voices; there was a silence that lasted approximately several seconds, but she did hear pieces of furniture being dragged around as well as glass being violently strewn about. The declarant also heard something being dragged around that she could not see. Still at the same window, she then withdrew toward the mattress where she sat down and her husband scolded her and told her that because of her meddling a bullet could have hit her. She tried not to cry upon



imagining what could have happened, because the father was no longer speaking. Moments later she listened to the explosion of the bomb also within the UCA compound and seconds later a second explosion also within the UCA compound, resulting later in total silence. The declarant slept until approximately 5:30 in the morning when she woke up because of a nightmare....

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"When she refers in this declaration to camouflaged uniforms she refers to uniforms of various colors that she has seen soldiers in the street wearing. The headgear [cachuchas] that she refers to had a short visor. When Father Nachito yelled she could tell from the sound that he was located in the house of the Fathers. She is not able to say whether said screams were inside or outside the house."

The declaration was taken down by a stenographer. Lucia believes it was also tape recorded. She answered questions put to her by the judge, as well as questions put by the assistant fiscal. The Fiscal General did not ask her any questions. During the portion of her declaration in which she described the men she observed wearing camouflage uniforms, the Fiscal General stared at her with what she took to be an angry expression.

Lucia did not complete her declaration on Wednesday. That night, she, Jorge and Geraldina were put up in the French Embassy, where the declaration was continued the next day. When it was completed, the family departed for the airport. The French Ambassador accompanied them. Lucia and Jorge understood

that he was traveling to France, and had agreed to take them to Miami on a French Government aircraft. On the flight to Miami they met for the first time Richard Chidester, the legal advisor of the United States Embassy in San Salvador.

III. Miami, Florida: November 23 to December 3

Upon their arrival in Miami, the Cerna family was ushered through immigration by representatives of the State Department. They were taken to several hotels and ultimately to the Raddison Hotel, near the Miami airport, where they were housed by the U.S. Government until Sunday, December 3. During this period, they were under 24-hour protection by agents of the F.B.I., who occupied an adjoining room in the hotel.

As soon as they learned of the family's arrival in Miami, U.S. Jesuit officials informed the State Department that they were prepared to take responsibility for the Cerna family as soon as they were released to their care. When Jesuit officials inquired when the family would be released to them, State Department officials informed them that the F.B.I. needed a period of time to perform a risk assessment so that the Jesuits would know how much protection Lucia and her family required.

The family remained under the exclusive charge and control of the State Department from Thursday, November 23, to

Thursday, November 30. During the first four days of this period, the family remained largely in the Radisson Hotel. As detailed below, each day from Monday, November 27, to Thursday, November 30, Lucia and Jorge were subjected to hours of intensive, incommunicado interrogation at an F.B.I. office in Miami by two agents of the F.B.I. and a Salvadoran military officer. On the third day of this interrogation, Lucia, who was frightened and intimidated by the harsh manner in which she was being questioned, concluded that the investigators did not believe her testimony. At this time, she changed her testimony and began telling the investigators that she had not seen anything on the night of the murders. She was then subjected to a series of polygraphs. The next day, Thursday, November 30, Jorge was polygraphed.

During the four days of their interrogation, Lucia and Jorge were not given any opportunity to consult with or obtain counsel from any priest, lawyer or other person they knew. During the entire eight-day period from November 23 to November 30, the only visitors who were allowed to see them were Spanish-speaking Jesuits living in the Miami area, with whom the family visited briefly on three occasions.

Late on the afternoon of Thursday, November 30, after Lucia had broken and changed her story, State Department officials informed the Jesuits that they could take the family into their care. When Jesuit officials asked the State

Department about the results of the F.B.I.'s lengthy risk assessment, they were told that the F.B.I. was in fact not in a position to perform a risk assessment for a person in Lucia's category as a witness.

On December 2, two Jesuits, Father Paul Tipton and Father Joe Berra, flew to Miami, to be with the family. That night, Father Berra, who had known Lucia in Salvador, slept on the floor of their hotel room. On Sunday, December 3, after the Jesuits had made arrangements for transporting the family to a secure and comfortable location in another state, the State Department formally turned the Cerna family over to the Jesuits.

#### The Interrogation

(i) Monday, November 28.

At about 8 a.m. on the morning of November 27, Chidester picked up Lucia, Jorge and Geraldina at the hotel and took them by car to an office in Miami. They were accompanied by a Spanish-speaking man named Sanchez, who apparently is a special agent of the F.B.I. Jorge and Lucia believe the place to which they were taken was an F.B.I. office.

At the office, they met Fred Rivero, a special agent of the F.B.I.\* At about 10 a.m., Jorge was left in a waiting

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\* Jorge and Lucia recall being questioned briefly in the hotel by Sanchez and Rivero on the preceding Friday or Saturday.

room with Geraldina, and Lucia was taken to another room by Sanchez and Rivero.

Inside the room, the investigators asked Lucia to relate the details of the events beginning with the family's departure from their home in Soyapango on November 15. Lucia did so. She recalls that she talked for what seemed to her a very long period of time, relating the events of November 15 and 16. The two investigators listened and asked few questions.

At about 1 p.m., Lucia was brought back to the room where Jorge and Geraldina had been waiting. Hamburgers were brought in for the family's lunch, which they ate in the waiting room.

Jorge was then taken to a room for questioning, leaving Lucia alone with Geraldina in the waiting room. In the room, Jorge was asked by the two investigators to relate everything that had happened after leaving home in Soyapango on November 15. Jorge believes his interrogation was tape recorded.

Jorge had not previously disclosed to anyone that he too had looked out a window on the night of the murders and observed armed men. Like most Salvadorans who have witnessed crimes implicating the military or security forces, he was

reluctant to discuss what he saw and has a natural distrust of government investigators.\* The alien setting and disbelieving manner in which Sanchez and Rivero questioned Jorge only reinforced this feeling of distrust, and he decided not to tell them what he had seen. He did, however, tell them that he had heard gunfire and voices, and confirmed Lucia's testimony that she had seen five men in camouflage uniforms from the window of the room adjoining the bedroom.

The questioning of Jorge lasted several hours. During this time, Lucia and Geraldina were in the waiting room. Lucia was growing increasingly anxious about the time it was taking to question Jorge. She was also worried about four-year-old Geraldina, who was still wearing the shorts and sandals she had on when they left San Salvador. The weather in Miami in November is somewhat colder than El Salvador.

Jorge believes it was about 6 p.m. when his interrogation ended and the family was driven back to the hotel.

(ii) Tuesday, November 28.

On the morning of November 28, Chidester called sometime prior to 7 a.m. and told Lucia and Jorge that they had

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\* With the exception of the case of the four American churchwomen, which resulted in the conviction of five National Guard enlisted men, no significant human rights case involving the military or the security forces has ever been successfully prosecuted in El Salvador.

to be ready to leave the hotel at an even earlier hour than they had the day before. They ate breakfast and were put into a car for the trip to the F.B.I. office at about 7:30 a.m.

On the way, they stopped at another hotel to pick up a Salvadoran whom Chidester introduced to them as "Doctor." Chidester told Jorge and Lucia that "the Doctor" was a man they could speak to with confidence.

Later, Jorge overheard the man addressed as "colonel." He is in fact Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia, a Salvadoran army officer assigned to the Special Investigative Unit, or "S.I.U.," a Salvadoran investigatory agency established with U.S. assistance in 1985 to investigate significant human rights cases.\*

Upon arriving at the office, Jorge was the first to be questioned. Lucia was left in another room with Geraldina. Rivas joined Sanchez and Rivero in questioning Jorge. Jorge was

\* The Special Investigative Unit, known in Spanish as the Comision de Investigacion de Hechos Delictivos, is one of four components of the U.S. - funded Administration of Justice program attempting to reform the Salvadoran justice system. The SIU, staffed by members of El Salvador's security forces, has recieved \$5.5 million in U.S. funding since 1985. The unit was originally trained by instructors on loan from the FBI and continues to receive extensive U.S. training. Mandated to tackle the most sensitive human rights cases in which the military or prominent civilians are implicated, the SIU has instead focused on common crime and corruption cases. A Lawyers Committee study conducted in 1988 and early 1989 found the SIU's record "undistinguished" in solving the kinds of human rights cases it should be investigating. See Underwriting Injustice: AID and El Salvador's Judicial Reform Program, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (April, 1989).

asked to relate again everything he had testified to on the preceding day. He was frequently interrupted with questions, many of which Jorge took to be insulting.

Sanchez told Jorge he could not believe that a real Latin man would have let his wife get out of bed and look out a window during a gun battle. Sanchez expressed disbelief and said to Jorge, "You have sideburns and a mustache, I can't believe you are that effeminate," or words to that effect. Jorge was angered and insulted by this, but insisted that Lucia had looked out the window and had seen what she said she had seen. At some point in the interrogation, Sanchez asked Jorge whether he had any relatives with the guerrillas, and whether he was political. Jorge answered "no" to both questions, and told them that he had two brothers who had served in the Salvadoran army.

Rivas questioned Jorge in a manner he found particularly rude and demeaning. Rivas' questions were put harshly and in a tone of disbelief. He persisted in addressing Jorge in the "vos" or familiar form of Spanish, a form which in Salvador is limited to use between close friends or parent and child, or when speaking harshly or contemptuously to another person.



Jorge was offended by many of the questions put to him. One of the investigators asked Jorge how long Lucia had known the Jesuits and how she earned money. When Jorge responded that she had worked for eight years for the Jesuits as a cleaning woman, Sanchez asked, "Are you sure that's what she was doing for them?"

Jorge's interrogation lasted a number of hours. Lucia, waiting in another room with Geraldina, again became worried and apprehensive. When a man passing by said in Spanish, "Yes, there is extradition," she was terrified that they were thinking of sending Jorge back to Salvador.

Jorge believes his interrogation ended at about 12:30 p.m. He was taken to the room where Lucia and Geraldina were waiting. Before Jorge left the room, Rivas said to him, "don't talk about this with your wife."

Lucia recalls that Jorge was white and shaking when he joined her. Jorge wanted to talk to Lucia about what he had experienced, but during the entire time they were together waiting for the next interrogation session there was an investigator sitting with them.

Between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Sanchez, Rivero and Rivas went out together for lunch. For these two hours, they left Lucia, Jorge and four-year old Geraldina sitting in the

F.B.I. office. Once again, hamburgers were brought in for the family to eat.

At 3:00 p.m., Lucia was taken in to be questioned. The investigators told her to relate once again everything that had happened after her family had fled Soyapango on November 15 for the relative safety of the U.C.A. The investigators occasionally interrupted her with questions.

At about 5:00 p.m., the investigators told her it was time to go. Chidester drove the family back to the hotel.

(iii) Wednesday, November 29.

The next morning, November 29, Chidester woke the family at 6:30 a.m. They were driven to the F.B.I. office at 8:00 a.m. Lucia was the first to be questioned.

She was told once again to describe everything that had happened after the family left Soyapango on November 15. This time the investigators peppered her with questions. At the point in her testimony where she describes calling Padre Nacho for assistance, the investigators, principally Rivas, began repeating questions that had already been asked.

After three days of interrogation, Lucia was frightened and confused. She did not understand why she was

constantly being asked to tell the investigators over and over again about events she had already described in the first two days of questioning. She was a long way from the only home she had ever known, in a foreign country being questioned incessantly by strange and intimidating men. She was worried about her four-year old daughter, who had spent seven days cooped up in hotel rooms and an F.B.I. office. She wanted the questioning to stop, but had no idea when it would end or what these men would ultimately do to her family. She was especially concerned about Jorge, and what they would do to him. She remembered hearing the man on Tuesday say the word "extradition," and she was terrified they would send him back to Salvador.

Lucia did not think the investigators believed what she was telling them. She recalls that at one point, when she was describing once again what she had seen from the window, one of the investigators asked her what priest had told her to say these things. The investigator stared at her, and she was very frightened. She replied that no one had told her to say these things. A short time later, she was asked again to describe what she had seen from the window. Lucia recalls that Rivas was staring hard at her, and that she was very frightened. She told us that "she was afraid they were going to make me tremble the way they made Jorge tremble." At this point she decided to tell them she had seen nothing.

The investigators wanted to know who had told her to say she saw soldiers. They pressed her. Rivas said, "Tell us the name of the priest.... If you tell us the name of the priest, we'll give you some whiskey to celebrate. Which priest said this?" Lucia was afraid and felt she had to say something. She did not want to say it was any of the priests she knew, for whom she felt great loyalty and affection. She decided to give them the name of someone who was not a priest and whom she did not know personally. She gave them the name of Maria Julia Hernandez, the director of Tutela Legal.

Lucia was tired, confused and frightened, and has difficulty remembering with precision Wednesday's interrogations. She remembers that she was asked to start again from the beginning, and that she told the investigators that she had heard things - shots and voices - but had seen nothing. She remembers the investigators asking whether any priest told her to say things, whether she was collaborating with the guerrillas, or with the priests. She remembers the name of a particular Jesuit being mentioned, and one of the investigators telling her he was a guerrilla. Lucia defended the Jesuits and insisted that they were good people and that she didn't know anything about politics.

The questioning continued until lunch time. Hamburgers were brought in and the family was allowed to eat them in the room where Jorge and Geraldina had been waiting.

After lunch, one of the investigators asked Lucia whether she was ready for "la macuina." He was apparently referring to a polygraph. Lucia saw the apparatus, with its wires, tubes and electrodes. It made her think of an electric chair, and she was terrified. She told the investigators that doctors had told her she suffered from hypertension. They told her not to worry.

Lucia recalls being wired to the machine and being asked a series of questions. She was asked whether she had seen anything from the window, to which she responded "no", and whether Maria Julia Hernandez had asked her to say things, to which she responded "yes." She recalls being asked the same series of questions three separate times.

At one point in the process, the polygraph operator left the room and spoke to the investigators. One of the investigators came in and appeared agitated. He told Lucia that he did not understand, that she had said she had seen nothing from the window, but that the machine indicated that she was not telling the truth. He kept asking her to tell him what she saw from the window. Lucia told him she saw nothing. She does not think he believed her. Rivero said, "The macuina says you went to the window."

Lucia recalls being on the polygraph all afternoon, with one break which she was able to spend with Jorge and Geraldina. At about 4:30 p.m., after her second session on the

polygraph, Lucia was unstrapped from the machine and taken back to the room where Jorge and Geraldina were waiting. They stayed in the room until 6:30 p.m., and were driven back to the hotel.

That night in bed, Jorge and Lucia talked softly so the F.B.I. agent in the next room could not hear them. She told him that she had changed her testimony and was now saying that she did not go to the window. They decided that Jorge would support her in saying this.

(iv) Thursday, November 30.

On November 30, the family was driven to the F.B.I. office at about 8 a.m. Only Jorge was questioned this day. Jorge was asked whether either he or Lucia had seen anything on the night of the murders. He told them that they had not.

The investigators pressed Jorge on this point. One of them told Jorge, "Tell us the truth - what you tell us will determine whether you stay here or go back to Salvador." Jorge told them that neither he nor Lucia had gotten out of bed on the night of the murders. He was asked whether any priest had told him to say things. He told the investigators he didn't have access to any priests. Jorge told us: "All morning they were asking the same. I couldn't stand it any more....The suffering of my daughter....I wanted them to leave us in peace."

After an initial round of interrogation in the morning, Jorge was put on the polygraph. He was asked a series of questions and continued to deny that he or Lucia had seen anything on the night of the murders. After lunch, Jorge was polygraphed again.

Lucia, waiting in another room with Geraldina, continued to be distraught. Her anxiety deepened as the hours passed while Jorge was being questioned. At one point, an investigator came into the room, and she told him she wanted to call a Spanish speaking Jesuit from the Miami area who had visited with the family briefly after their arrival in the U.S. The investigator told her that they did not have the priest's telephone number.

In the afternoon, after his second session on the polygraph, Jorge was reunited with Lucia and Geraldina in the room where they were waiting. One of the investigators accused them of telling lies just to be able to come to the United States. The investigator warned them, "Tell us the truth, or go back to Salvador where death is awaiting you", or words to that effect. At this time, or on an earlier occasion when a similar threat was made to her, Lucia remembers telling the investigators: "If I'm here, it's out of necessity, because I would much rather be back in Salvador. We could get by, I could

work, even if it meant selling pupusas\*."

\* \* \*

On the afternoon of Thursday, November 30, the State Department informed Jesuit officials that it was prepared to turn the Cerna family over to the care of the Jesuits. Paul Tipton immediately began making arrangements to take the family to a safe and comfortable location in another state. He arranged for Father Joe Berra, a Spanish speaking Jesuit who had known Lucia in Salvador, to fly to Miami and spend Saturday night with the family.

On Friday, December 1, the family was once again taken to the F.B.I. office in Miami. There they were introduced to another Salvadoran investigator, who took elaborate notes on Jorge's and Lucia's physical features and characteristics. He took hair samples, asked for the addresses of family members, and took their fingerprints. No one clearly explained why this was being done. This was the family's last encounter with investigators.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Based on our three days of interviews with Lucia Barrera de Cerna and Jorge Cerna, we found them both to be

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\* "Pupusas are a popular Salvadoran food, often made and sold on the streets.



forthcoming and highly credible witnesses to the events they told us they observed in El Salvador and the treatment they received after arriving in the United States.

In our initial interview with Lucia, on December 3, she was in a highly emotional state, clearly traumatized by the days of interrogation she had undergone in the F.B.I. office. Before our interview of them, we anticipated that the family would be anxious and disoriented by the trauma of what they had experienced in El Salvador and the suddenness of their relocation to a new and alien country. For that reason, and because we were strangers to them, we asked Father Joe Berra, who knew Lucia during his residence in El Salvador, to sit with us during the interview on December 3. We also decided to delay the second interview for a week, to give the family an opportunity to rest and accustom themselves to their new surroundings.

Had the F.B.I. agents taken similar precautions and conducted their questioning with greater sensitivity to the emotional and physical needs of this frightened and vulnerable family, we are convinced that the results would have been different.

It is our firm conclusion that Lucia Barrera de Cerna's testimony of what she observed on the night of the murders is credible and trustworthy. Several factors support this conclusion. First, the declaration she gave to the

investigating judge in El Salvador and the statements she made to us are consistent with all facts known to us which relate to the murders.

Moreover, it was against Lucia's personal interest to have come forward to testify in the way that she has. It is well known in El Salvador that grave risks face witnesses, judges, lawyers and others involved with the investigation or prosecution of crimes in which the military or security forces are implicated. Many have been murdered, many more have been threatened with death. Lucia's decision to speak about what she had seen to the priests on the morning after the murders, and later to Tutela Legal, put her and her family at risk, and was made without any promises or commitments. She had nothing to gain by doing this, and a great deal to lose.

Finally, Lucia does not attempt to exaggerate what she reports seeing and hearing. For example, she does not purport to have seen facial characteristics, insignia, or other identifying features that could be used to identify individual suspects. Indeed, Lucia's testimony does not add a great deal to the substantial body of circumstantial evidence that already pointed toward military involvement in the murders.

The very same factors completely discredit the unsupported allegation made by certain representatives of the State Department that Lucia was induced to fabricate her

testimony. To believe this would be to believe that Lucia would have put herself and her family at grave risk by fabricating testimony that added very little to the large body of circumstantial evidence that was already known.

Lucia's brief recantation of her testimony on the third day of her interrogation by the F.B.I. was a completely understandable response to the manner in which she had been treated and the circumstances in which she found herself. She was gravely concerned about the safety and well being of her child and husband, and without any idea of what the future would hold for her family. Alone and uncounseled in a foreign country, subjected to days of intense interrogation at the hands of men she found rude, threatening and disbelieving, it is hardly surprising that she chose to stop cooperating with her interrogators.

State Department representatives have insisted that they had no intention of discrediting Lucia's testimony, and that their only intention was to obtain information about the crime. While this may be true, their efforts were greatly misguided, profoundly insensitive, and ultimately counterproductive.

The utility of Lucia's testimony in the Salvadoran criminal proceeding may well have been compromised by the manner in which Special Agents Rivero and Sanchez and Col. Rivas

conducted their interrogation. They treated an obviously frightened and traumatized woman more like a criminal suspect than a potential cooperating witness with useful information. Virtually any witness can be forced into contradictions and inconsistencies by non-stop, incommunicado interrogation. To have treated a witness in Lucia's circumstances this way made it inevitable that she would recant and stop cooperating. The authorities compounded this error by failing to maintain the confidentiality of the results of their examination, making it a virtual certainty that Lucia's temporary recantation will be available for impeachment purposes if this case ever goes to trial and she is a necessary witness. The President of El Salvador is now on the record as stating "that Cerna had admitted that she lied in her testimony." Washington Post, December 11, 1989, at A.24. This is clearly going to be a problem for the prosecution.

An even larger obstacle to a successful investigation has been created by the widely held perception that U.S. and Salvadoran investigators abused and tried to discredit the only witness who so far has stepped forward to testify. There are without doubt other witnesses to the events on the night of the murders, and some of them may have far more important evidence to offer than Lucia Barrera de Cerna. One of them is the husband of the slain cook, who apparently was on the scene and is now in hiding. A second is Jorge Cerna, who was already unwilling to testify. Knowledgeable individuals have told us

that other houses close to the scene of the crime were occupied by people who may well have eye witness or other evidence to offer. As we have said, witnesses to crimes such as this one in El Salvador face grave risks and are always reluctant to step forward. The record of Lucia's treatment will only make them more reluctant.

Finally, apart from the human trauma it caused, the most disturbing aspect of the handling of this witness by U.S. and Salvadoran authorities is what it may say about the manner in which the Jesuit murders are being investigated. While investigators were spending days in the United States interrogating a single witness about what she had seen during a period of less than twelve minutes, and ultimately compromising the value of her testimony, what was happening to the investigation in El Salvador? Was the lead presented by Lucia Barrera de Cerna's testimony being pursued? Were military personnel who were posted that night on the outskirts of the UCA campus being questioned about who may have passed through their lines and why they did not respond to the sound of gun fire at the Jesuit residence? Has the military unit that conducted a search of the residence on November 13 been identified, and its members questioned? Have fingerprints been lifted and bootprints photographed and analyzed? Are ballistics tests being performed? Has there been any effort to locate other witnesses?

The answers to these and similar questions are essential to determine whether the inexcusable mishandling of one witness' testimony was simply an unfortunate aberration or an early sign that the Jesuit murders will become yet another entry on the growing list of permanently unresolved human rights crimes in El Salvador.

December 15, 1989



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RICHARD CHIDESTER, Department of State, U.S. Embassy, San Salvador, telephonically contacted SSA [REDACTED] at the Miami FBI Office. CHIDESTER advised that the two Jesuit Priests which met the airplane at the airport on Thursday evening, 11/23/89, were Father MARCELINO GARCIAS and Father ESQUIVEL. He said that the Priests were contacted by him and provided the telephone number of the hotel at which they were first lodged. He stated that hotel was the EMBASSY SUITES in Miami. He said that none of the Jesuits appeared at the hotel. He said later on Friday, he called the Jesuits from the new hotel and later that day, the Jesuits appeared and held a meeting with the family. CHIDESTER said that he believed at the second meeting, arrangements were made to pick up some additional clothing and medicine for the witnesses from San Salvador.

CHIDESTER stated that he believed that the FBI was very helpful and fair in their handling of the witnesses and that he would gladly give a declaration to that effect. He stated that he could be contacted at telephone number 9-011-503-267-100, extension 302.





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counted as processed*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/19/90

On January 19, 1990, Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] of the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) drew a sketch of the area of interview rooms, polygraph rooms, and the adjacent restrooms on the second floor of the office of the FBI located at 16320 Northwest Second Avenue, North Miami Beach, Florida. The sketch attached hereto is not drawn to scale.

*ju 7c*

Investigation on 1/19/90 at North Miami Beach, Florida File # MM 163A-HQ-61055  
by SA [REDACTED] *ju 7c* Date dictated 1/19/90

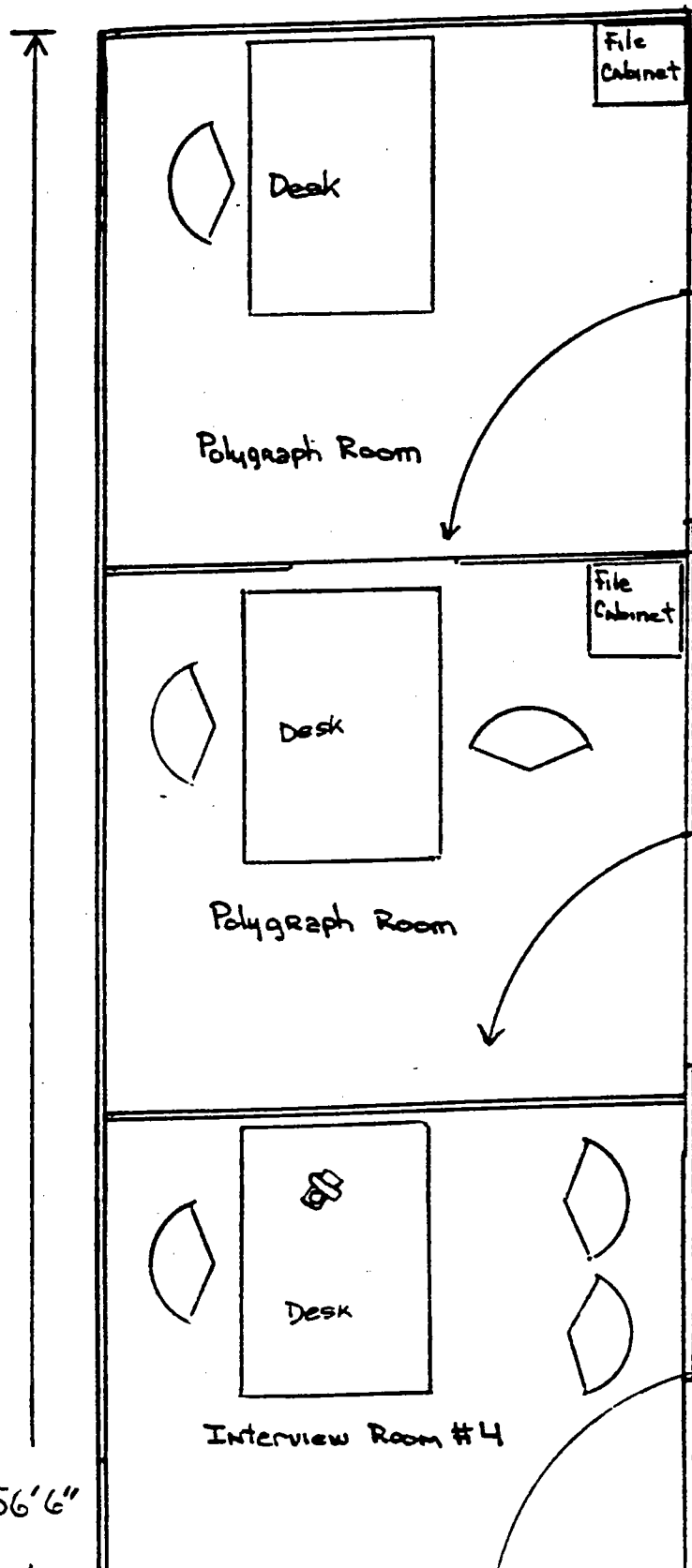
CASE NO. 163A-HQ-61052

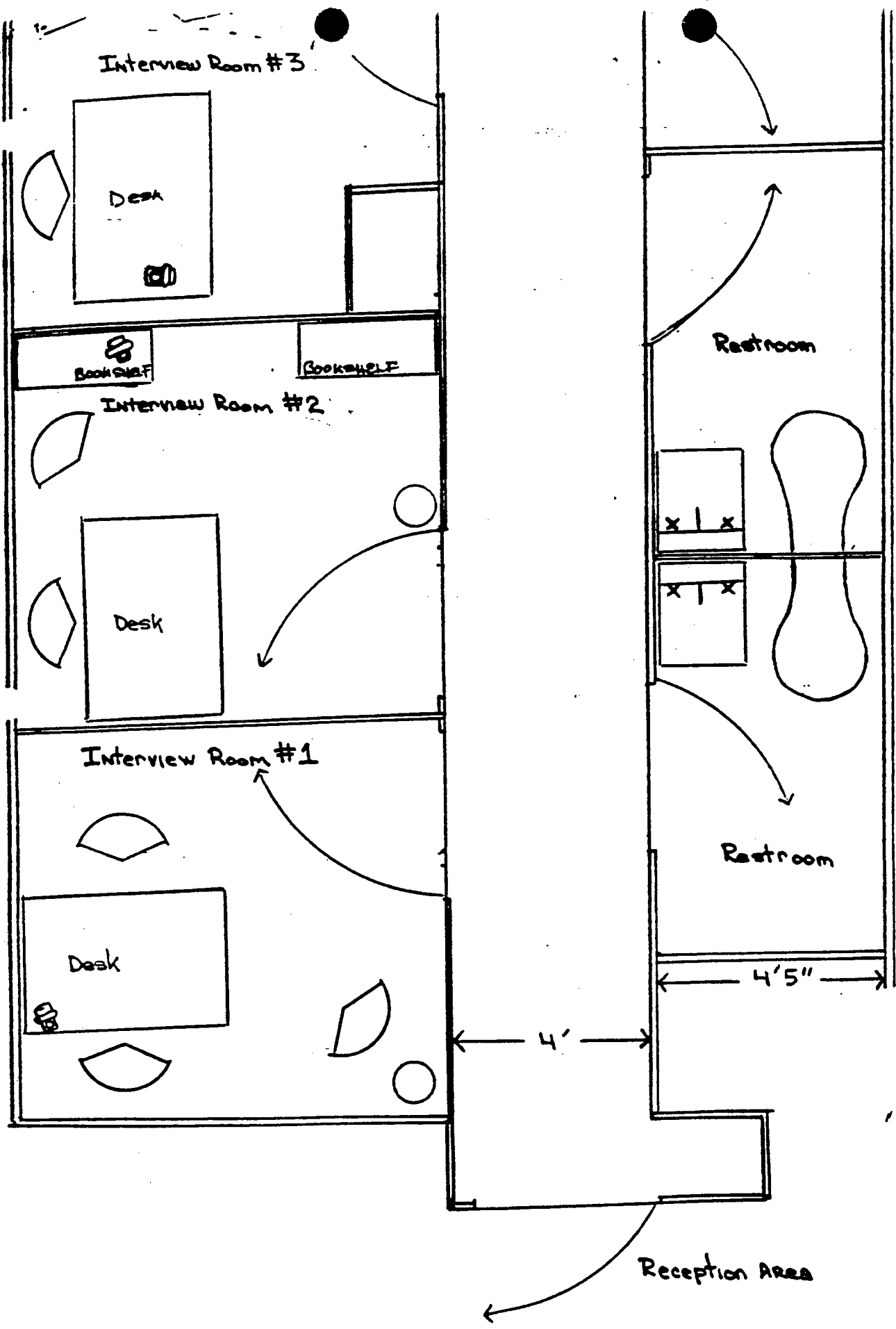
DATE OF SKETCH: 1/19/90

DRAWN BY: SA [REDACTED]

LOCATION OF SKETCH: 2ND FLOOR  
FBI OFFICE  
16320 NW SECOND W.E.  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE





Interview Room #3

Desk

Bookshelf

Bookshelf

Interview Room #2

Desk

Interview Room #1

Desk

Restroom

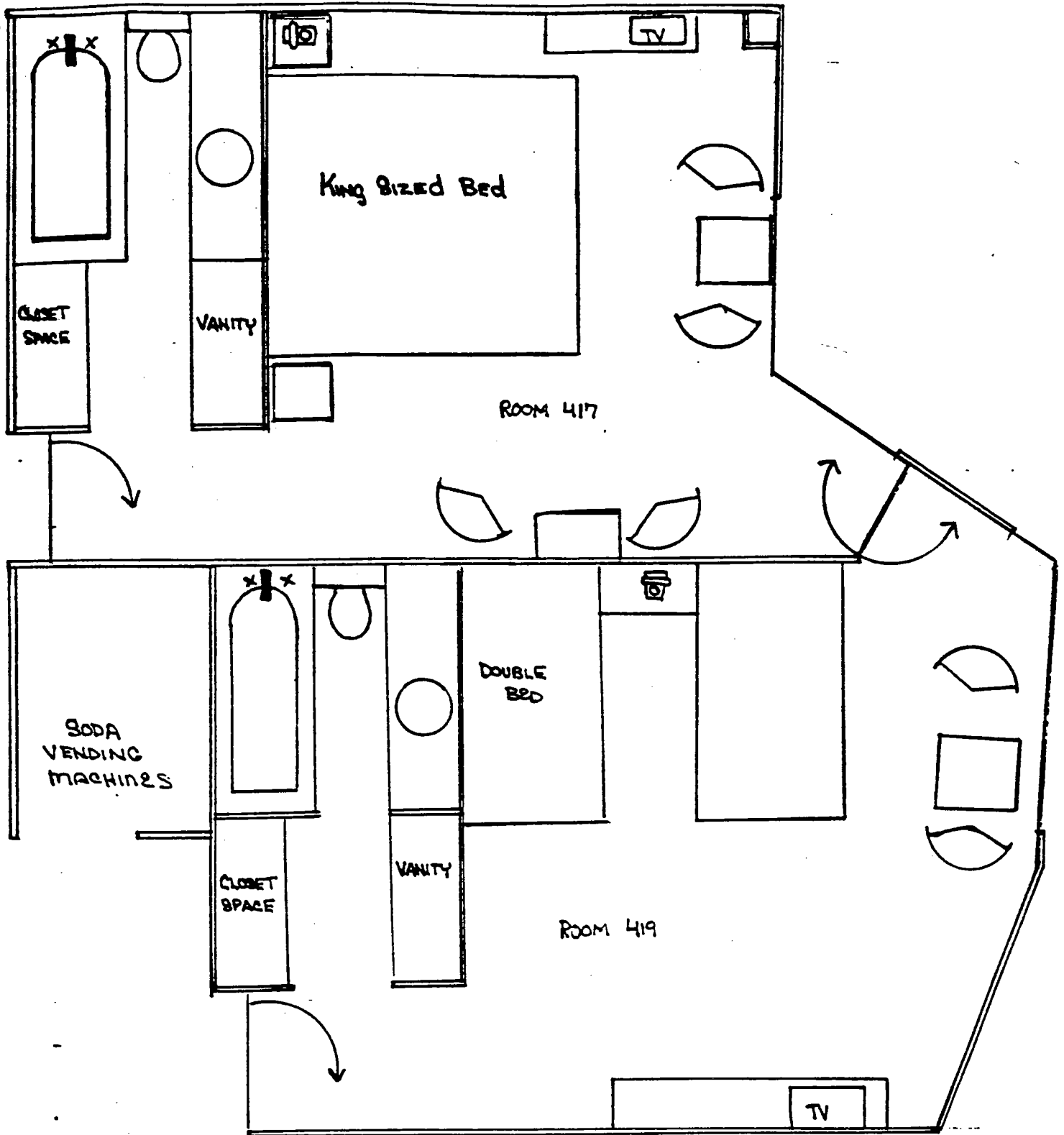
Restroom

Reception Area

4'5"

4'

Not Drawn to Scale



CASE NO: 163A-HQ-61055

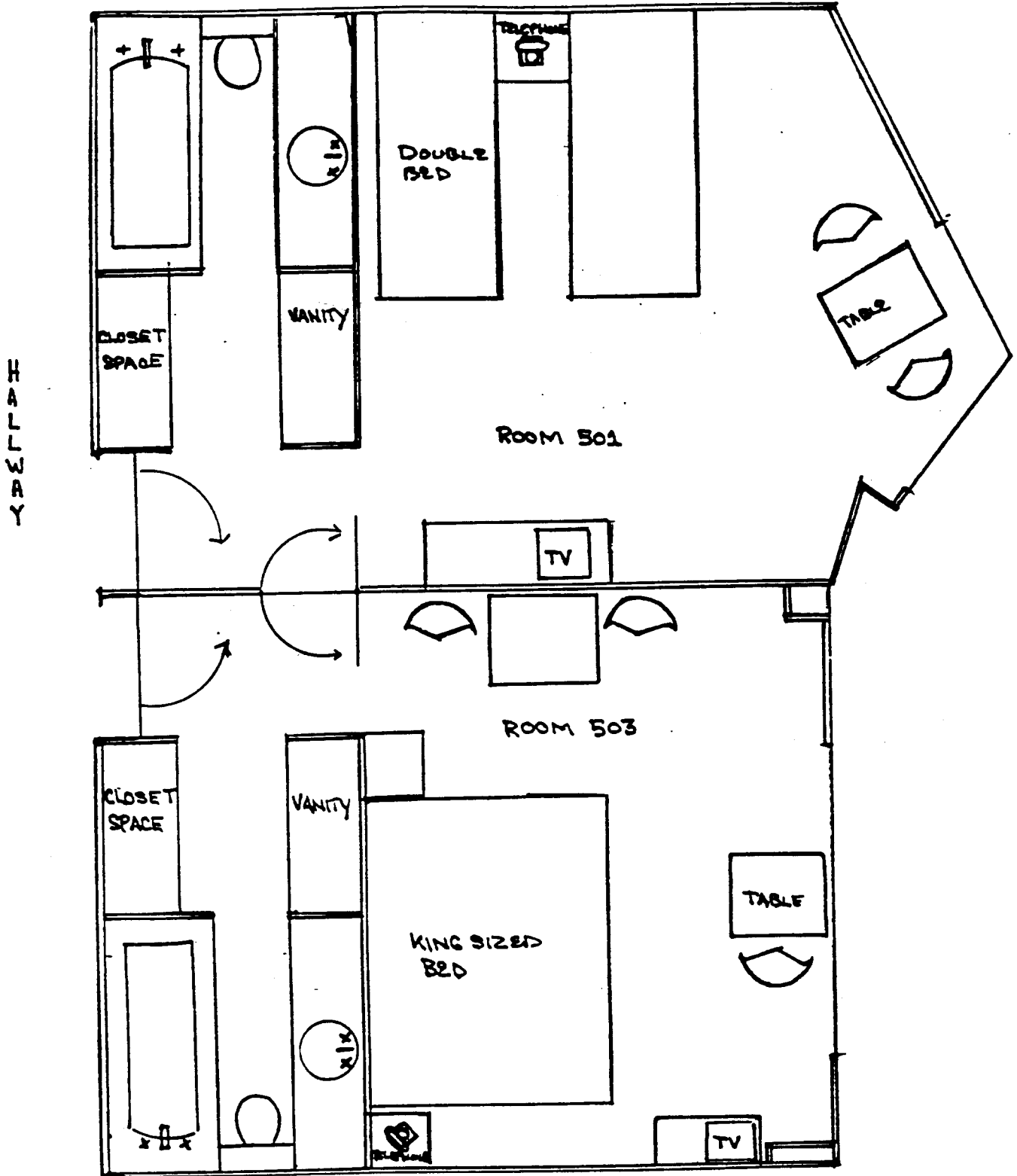
DATE OF SKETCH: 1/23/90

DRAWN BY SA [REDACTED]

*h 76*

LOCATION OF SKETCH: RADDISSON MART PLAZA HOTEL  
711 NORTHWEST 72ND AVE.  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

N ←  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



CASE NO: 163A-HQ-61055  
DATE OF SKETCH: 1/23/90  
DRAWN BY: SA [REDACTED] *luc*  
LOCATION OF SKETCH: RADDISSON MART PLAZA HOTEL

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*b7c* 163A/HQ-61055  
[REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted at Miami, Florida on November 26, 1989 by SA [REDACTED] *b7c*

On November 26, 1989, SA [REDACTED] was assigned a witness protection detail for a Salvadorian couple and child at the Raddison Hotel from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. During the course of this detail, SA [REDACTED] did not have any contact with the protected witnesses. *b7c*



MM 163A-HQ-61055  
[REDACTED] b7c

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b7c [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Miami, Florida on 11/30/89:

Security was provided to a Salvadorian couple and their daughter from Midnight to 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, 11/30/89 at the AIRPORT RADDISON HOTEL. There was no contact with the witnesses during the security detail.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/19/90 BY SP4 [signature]

163A-HQ-61055  
[REDACTED]

On 12/02/89, SA [REDACTED] provided security for two Salvadorian citizens and their daughter at the RADDISON HOTEL, Miami, Florida. Also present on this date at the hotel was a State Department official. The security detail provided by SA [REDACTED] was from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the only discussion that SA [REDACTED] had with the Salvadorian nationals was when they, along with the State Department official, had breakfast at the RADDISON HOTEL that morning. The Salvadorian citizens and their daughter all seemed content and seemed happy to be in Miami. Breakfast took place from approximately 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. and upon returning to the adjoining hotel rooms, there was no further discussion between SA [REDACTED] and the Salvadorian citizens.

163A-HQ-61055  
[REDACTED]

lwc  
| Regarding security for the Salvadoran witnesses, SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] was scheduled and worked third shift on Saturday December 2, 1989- 12:00am-8:00am.

lwc  
| During this shift SA [REDACTED] never had any contact with the witnesses as they were sleeping in an adjacent room. Upon my arrival for my scheduled shift, SA [REDACTED] had arranged a makeshift desk in a closet so as not to disturb Department of State personnel sleeping in the main portion of the hotel room. SA [REDACTED] spent in the entire shift in this same closet.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/19/90 BY SP4 [signature]

163A-HQ-61055 *bx*  
[REDACTED]

*bx* On 12/2/89, JORGE CERNA was introduced to SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, by DEBORAH ANN MCCARTHY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. He provided the following information:

CERNA felt very comfortable with us taking into consideration the situation they were in. He brought data with him, from El Salvador, and was concerned for his security. He felt comfortable with the agents that were providing security for him and his family. Everyone he had come in contact with had treated him well.

CERNA wished to go outside, but realized that they were in a different situation. Their freedom of movement was limited as they had brought certain data from El Salvador.

*bx* On 12/2/89, LUCIA BERRERA DE CERNA was introduced to SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, by DEBORAH ANN MCCARTHY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. She provided the following information:

CERNA felt scared with the situation they were in and did not want to go outside. She wants to wait and talk to the Jesuits, especially FR. JOE BERRA, because she has known and worked for them for years. CERNA stated that the Jesuits have similar lifestyles that she is familiar with. She would like to continue working for them. They do not discriminate against them because they are poor.