

0050 001 0027

PP HX FBIM

DE RUEHFB 00198 2472314

ZNY 00598

P 00301 DEC 89

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY/PRIORITY


FBI MEX/PRIORITY

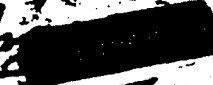
BT

~~SECRET~~

SECTIONS ONE OF TWO

CITE: //0028//

PASS: SAC MIAMI; PERSONAL ATTENTION  LEGAT MEXICO CITY FOR LEGAT LANG.

DECLASSIFIED BY 
ON 2-11-94
BY 94-262

(X)
M

SUBJECT: JESUIT MURDERS; INVESTIGATIVE PROGRESS REPORT.

~~E.O. 12958: DECLASSIFIED~~

TAGS: PREL, PINS, POOV, ES


1. ~~SECRET-ENTIRE TEXT~~
2. THIS CABLE INITIATES A PROCESS OF PERIODIC REPORTING ON PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JESUITS MURDER CASE.


12-13-89

SSA  P

C.S.J.

7637-82-055-10

| | |
|---|---------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| DEC 13 1989 | |
|  | |

A POST TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED ON NOVEMBER 30 TO COORDINATE AN ALL SOURCE EFFORT INTO THE JESUITS MURDERS. MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE ARE THE LEGAL OFFICER, DATT, MILGP, NICO, POL AND DEA SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] WHO IS AT POST FOR THIRTY DAYS TO COORDINATE ON SITE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF TASK FORCE EFFORTS THROUGH DECEMBER 4.

3. MILITARY PERCEPTIONS:

ESAF [REDACTED] AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ESAF HIGH COMMAND HAVE MET WITH US SOUTHCOM COMMANDER GENERAL THURMAN AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE JESUIT MURDER INVESTIGATION. IN BOTH WORDS AND ACTIONS THE MILITARY AS AN INSTITUTION AND THE OFFICERS INDIVIDUALLY HAVE SHOWN COMPLETE COOPERATION TO PURSUE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED] HAS DEVELOPED A GRAPHIC SHOWING THE LOCATION OF ALL MILITARY UNITS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE UCA ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION AND ACTIONS THAT WERE REPORTED DURING A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD FROM 1200 NOV 15 TO 1200 NOV 16. US OFFICIALS MET WITH [REDACTED] THE OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE ZONE WHERE THE UCA IS SITUATED, AND THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE MILITARY UNITS CLOSEST TO THE UCA THE EVENING OF NOV-15. THEY REPORTED THAT MOST OF THE ZONE INCLUDING THE AREA OF THE UCA WAS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY SINCE DUSK THE EVENING

OF THE 15TH. THEIR ORDERS WERE TO MAINTAIN FIXED POSITIONS AND NOT SEND OUT PATROLS. CONTACT WAS REPORTED WITH THE GUERRILLAS AT APPROXIMATELY 0200 HRS ON THE 16TH IN ANTIGUO CUSCATLAN. AT APPROXIMATELY 0230 SHOTS WERE HEARD COMING FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE NCA. THE SAME UNITS THAT ENGAGED THE GUERRILLAS AT 0200 BEGAN TO RESPOND TO THE FIRE BUT HALTED WHEN THE SHOOTING STOPPED. THE COMMANDER INQUIRED IF ANY OF THESE UNITS WERE ENGAGING THE GUERRILLAS AND WHEN NO POSITIVE RESPONSES WERE MADE HE RETURNED TO HIS ORIGINAL POSITION. ANOTHER FORCE OF EIGHTEEN MEN FROM THE TREASURY POLICE WAS STATIONED AT THE DEMOCRACY TOWER BUILDING. BENAVIDES OFFERED TO MAKE THESE SOLDIERS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS WITH U.S. AND SALVADORAN INVESTIGATORS. A LETTER HAS SURFACED ALLEGEDLY FROM A GROUP OF YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS ACCUSING [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] OF ORGANIZING THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS. [REDACTED] HAS PUBLICLY REQUESTED AN INVESTIGATION TO CLEAR HIM OF WRONG DOING AND WILL PROVIDE A STATEMENT TO THE SIU. [REDACTED] HAS ALSO DIRECTED THAT [REDACTED] COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

4. AMBASSADOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI AND MET WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PRESIDENT CRISTIANI TO INTRODUCE DEA SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] AND DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS. CRISTIANI ATTACHED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE INVESTIGATION, WELCOMED THE PRESENCE OF [REDACTED] AND SUGGESTED THAT INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS FIRST SHOULD FOCUS ON THE MILITARY. HIS RATIONALE IS THAT AS THE INSTITUTION OF THE MILITARY IS BEING BLAMED, AND WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE UNTIL IT CAN PROVE ITS INNOCENCE OR FIND THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY, IT SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE INVESTIGATION. CRISTIANI HAS DECIDED TO FORM A COMMISSION CHAIRED BY A RESPECTED JURIST AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERAMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION [REDACTED]. THE COMMISSION IN ADDITION TO [REDACTED] WILL CONSIST OF THE SIU, THE FISCAL AND JUDGE ZAMORA, PRESIDING JUDGE IN THE JESUIT MURDER. CRISTIANI ALSO ACCEPTED THE SUGGESTION OF NAMING AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN WHO WILL PROVIDE PERIODIC BRIEFINGS ON PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION. WHO THAT SPOKESMAN WILL BE WAS NOT CLEAR.

5. MEETING WITH JESUIT PROVINCIAL

BT

00198



0051 MRI 02277

PP MEX FBIMM

DE RUEHFB 00199 3472317

ZNY SSSSS

P 022339Z DEC 89

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO LEGAT MEXICO CITY/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

BT

~~SECRET~~

FINAL SECTION OF TWO

CITE: //0028//

PASS: SAC MIAMI; PERSONAL ATTENTION [REDACTED] LEGAT MEXICO
CITY FOR LEGAT LANG. P

SUBJECT: JESUIT MURDERS; INVESTIGATIVE PROGRESS REPORT.

U.S. OFFICIALS MET WITH FATHER JOSE MARIA TOJEIRA ON
DECEMBER 4 TO REPORT ON STATUS OF LUCIA BARRERA DE
CERNA, THE WITNESS WHO WAS TAKEN TO THE U.S. ON
NOVEMBER 23, AND TO REITERATE AMBASSADOR'S PLEA FOR
COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JESUIT

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| SEARCHED..... | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED..... | FILED..... |
| DEC 13 1989 | |
| FBI - MIAMI | |

MURDERS. FATHER TOJEIRA WAS ADVISED THAT LUCIA BARRERA HAD CHANGED HER TESTIMONY NOT ONCE BUT TWICE FROM WHAT SHE DECLARED TO THE JUDGE AND THAT SHE IS OF LITTLE VALUE TO THE INVESTIGATION. FATHER TOJEIRA WAS ALSO TOLD THAT BARRERA CLAIMED THAT MARIA JULIA HERNANDEZ, DIRECTOR OF TUTELA LEGAL, HAD COACHED HER IN HER TESTIMONY. TOJEIRA WAS UNRESPONSIVE. FATHER TOJEIRA RECOUNTED THE EVENTS OF THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MURDER AND AFTER AND HIS BELIEF THAT SOLDIERS WERE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE. HE ADMITTED THAT HE DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHT WING DEATH SQUADS AND THE MILITARY. HE TOLD OF THE RAID ON UCA ON MONDAY, THE WEEK OF THE MURDERS, AND HOW SOLDIERS WHO WOULD NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES SEARCHED THE OFFICES AND QUARTERS OF THE PRIESTS. ONE OF THE PRIESTS WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE SEARCH IS NOW IN NICARAGUA. TOJEIRA PROMISED TO CONTACT HIM AND SEE IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION. WE REPEATED OUR REQUEST FOR COOPERATION INTO THE INVESTIGATION INSISTING THAT MANY POTENTIAL WITNESSES WOULD NOT CONFIDE TO GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS WITHOUT

THE APPROVAL OF THE PRIESTS. WHILE UNDERSTANDING THE RELUCTANCE OF CHURCH AUTHORITIES TO COOPERATE WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT THEY HAVE PUBLICLY ACCUSED OF BEING INVOLVED IN THE MURDER, HE OFFERED TO COOPERATE; MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCES, AND IF NECESSARY PROVIDE FOR THE SECURITY OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD COME FORWARD.

6. MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

US OFFICIALS MET WITH [REDACTED] ON DECEMBER 4 IN A MEETING SET UP BY PRESIDENT CRISTIANI. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO ELICIT HIS PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS. [REDACTED]

IMMEDIATELY RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE. HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NOT HAD ANY MEETINGS WITH HIS PEOPLE DURING THE WEEK OF THE MURDERS AND THAT HE OF ALL PEOPLE HAD THE MOST TO LOSE FROM THE MURDER OF THE PRIESTS. THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE MURDERS DID SO TO UNDERMINE THE CRISTIANI GOVERNMENT. HE SUPPORTED QUESTIONING ALL THE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME AND AGREED THAT POLYGRAPHS SHOULD BE

USED. WE EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED WITH THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION IS COORDINATION BETWEEN THE JUDGE WHO HAS SUPREMACY OVER THE FBI AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF FORMATION OF A COMMISSION BASED ON THE MODEL OF OUR GRAND JURY SYSTEM. HE PLEDGED TO SUPPORT THE INVESTIGATION UNDERSTANDING THAT HE IS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE ONE OF THE PRIME SUSPECTS.

7. COMMENTS: THE MILITARY HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE AND RESPONDED WELL TO ALL OF OUR REQUESTS. THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MURDER INVESTIGATION AND HAVE PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT. THE CHURCH IS NOT AS COOPERATIVE.

8. THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE 363731 ARE ADDRESSED IN THIS AND THE NEXT PROGRESS REPORTS.

WALKER

~~BY OST DECL ON OADR~~

BT

*0177

NINON