

Questions for Major Buckland

1. Can you please tell us when you were assigned to El Salvador and what the nature of your duties were?

2. Could you describe the relationship between you and Col. Aviles? Were you close friends or just acquaintances? Was he a man you trusted? If so, why?

3. Could you please describe as clearly and completely as possible the substance of your conversation on around around December 20 (was it Dec. 20th?) with Col. Aviles about the investigation into the Jesuits case?

a) In your written statement which was given to General Larios, you state that Aviles repeated that you were to only use this information for "Break in Case of Emergency." What does that mean?

4. Was it your understanding that the alleged conversation between Col. Benavides and Lt. Col. Rivas took place early in the investigation, perhaps only a few days after the killings occurred?

5. Did you get from Col. Aviles any indication as to why Col. Benavides might have decided to confess his involvement in the killings to Lt. Col. Rivas?

6. Did Aviles tell you how Lt. Col. Rivas reacted to his conversation with Col. Benavides or what effect the conversation between them had on the subsequent investigation?

7. It's your understanding that Col. Aviles learned about the Benavides-Rivas conversation from Col. Lopez y Lopez, is that correct? Did Col. Aviles tell you when he had been informed by Lopez y Lopez about this conversation?

8. Under what circumstances did your conversation with Col. Aviles take place? Had he been drinking, for example? What, in your judgement, prompted him to tell you what he did? 9. In the past, had you found Col. Aviles to be honest? Was he the type to pass on gossip or hearsay or did you find him to be pretty careful about what he said?

10. I have a series of questions about your own actions and reactions after your conversation with Col. Aviles.

* First, how did you react when Aviles told you his story? Were you surprised? Did you immediately believe him? What did he say that made you believe his story?

* Had Aviles ever discussed the Jesuits with you prior to Dec. 20? If so, what did he say? (Was there any talk of who gave the orders or anyone else in the Salvadoran military who might have known who was responsible?)

* Did anyone else in the Salvadoran military ever discuss this case with you before you went to the Embassy on January 2?

* Did you and Col. Aviles discuss the investigation again prior to January 2nd, when you went to Major Hunter? If so, what was the substance of those conversations?

* Was it your impression from Col. Aviles that Col. Ponce knew that Benavides had apparently confessed his guilt to Col. Rivas or that he did not know?

* Why did you decide to talk to your superiors at the Embassy?

* Do you believe that anyone else at the Embassy knew about the involvement of Col. Benavides or the military prior to January 2nd, when you came forward?

* What was the reaction of your superiors at the Embassy when you told them of your conversation with Col. Aviles?

* Other than Major Hunter and Col. Menjivar at the Embassy, did you tell anyone, or in any other way communicate with anyone, concerning the information that had been conveyed to you by Aviles? Did you have any contact with the CIA about this matter?

* You were polygraphed in San Salvador -- correct? When, where and by whom (was it done in the Embassy or the Salvadoran military headquarters...was it done by US personnel or by Salvadorans?)

* You were polygraphed again in the United States --correct? When, where and by whom?

* How many times, in total, were you polygraphed? Were you informed of the results? If so, please describe them.

* Were you informed of the results of the polygraph tests of Col. Aviles? If so, please describe them. (If he says he failed-- ask him why he thinks he failed).

* As you know, Col. Aviles has denied having this conversation with you. Given your knowledge of El Salvador and the Salvadoran military, why do you think he feels unable to tell the truth?