

CONFIDENTIAL

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED DURING MAY, 1991 STAFF TRIP

1. CAPTAIN BONILLA-- Capt. Bonilla of the SIU reportedly told Stu Jones of the Embassy that two soldiers, Capt. Vides Lucha and Capt. Castillo, had told the SIU more than they were willing to admit to in writing. Both Vides and Castillo were on duty at the Military School on the night of the murders. Reportedly, they told the SIU that they had seen Col. Guzman Aguilar, the head of military intelligence, at the military school on the night of the 15th.

Stu Jones told Walker. They found out that Bonilla had not informed his superior at the SIU, Lt. Col. Aguilar, about what the two officers had said. Walker told Cristiani. Cristiani responded by calling a meeting that included his wife, Ponce, Lt. Col. Aguilar, the Ambassador, Stu Jones and Bonilla at which Bonilla denied saying anything to Stu Jones.

We were told by an assistant to Cristiani that Bonilla's career is now ruined.

2. RADIOS. There is a disagreement over whether the military school was given mx radios. Capt. Parada says it was; Col. Aguilar says it was not.

3. BUCKLAND. Rick Chidester pointed out that, in his latest FBI de-briefing, Buckland had said repeatedly that Col. Aviles was out of the country on Nov. 15th and therefore he could not have told Buckland what Buckland had previously said Aviles told him that day, i.e., that something was going to go down at the UCA that night. The fact is that Aviles returned to El Salvador on the 14th. Chidester speculated that Aviles might, in fact, have said something to Buckland.

4. LOBO. LG said offhand that Lobo could confirm statement re

Bustillo on the night of the 15th.

5. MEMO FROM SEDILLO. This memo points out that Lt. Espinosa was instructed on the 13th to report to the military school and then to report directly to the general staff, where he was immediately ordered to go search the UCA. Sedillo wonders whether other units assigned to the military school were also required to report directly to the general staff upon their arrival.

6. PREZA RIVAS. Preza Rivas has been with the SIU throughout the process. He said that the SIU continued to interview Atlacatl soldiers after the honor commission board was appointed on January 5. He said that they succeeded in narrowing down the guilty soldiers during this time. The Scotland Yard chronology, on the other hand, indicates that the SIU did not interview any Atlacatl people between January 5 and January 11, when they received a letter from the Honor Board telling them who the guilty people were. Preza Rivas says that they were told by an informant that someone from the military school had accompanied the Atlacatl on the operation against the UCA, but they were not told who. They told this to the Honor Board and the Honor Board came up with the name of Yusshi Mendoza.

7. MARIA JULIA. Maria Julia was asked to provide grand jury testimony in the U.S. to make it possible to bring indictments against the FMLN guys in the helicopter case. She had investigated the case herself and received admissions of guilt from those who had committed the crimes. She refused to comply with the request.

8. RIGHTWING. We asked if the Embassy knew who was responsible for the rightwing threats and propaganda that had appeared in the newspapers and pamphlets recently. We were told that it was a group that includes Bustillo's wife and other people with close military ties.

9. FMLN CAR BOMBS. The FMLN is apparently beginning to use remote

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detonated car bombs to carry out sabotage. This is an advance in their technology.

10. VIDES LUCHA AND PONCE. Reportedly, Major Vides Lucha told Ponce and the High Command to their collective face that they, and not the more junior offices now under questioning, were the ones responsible for the murders of the Jesuits.

11. BATTALION COMMANDERS MEETING. There was a meeting of battalion commanders in May that was addressed by Ponce and Cristiani. Reportedly, the younger officers attacked both of them bitterly for selling them out in negotiations and for trying to transfer the blame in the Jesuits case.

12. ILLOPANGO. We were told that a spectacular "FMLN" attack on Illopango air force base back in 1981 or 1982 was, in fact, a CIA operation cooked up with the Salvadoran air force to justify more US military aid. Four ES Air Force captains were publicly "disciplined" as a result of that incident. One of them is Lt. Col. Aguilar, who is now head of the SIU. Lt. Col. Aguilar and his family are reportedly very close to Ponce. His father reportedly fingered people for assassination by the Treasury Police a decade ago, when the police were run by Francisco Moran and Ponce.

13. MARK HAMILTON, the military attache said that younger military officers in El Salvador do not consider the high command their leaders. Instead, they see them as 'custodians' whose job it is to make certain that the money and the privileges are still there for the younger guys coming up. That's why they're so mad about the negotiations.

14. BUSTILLO. It is LG's theory that Bustillo has a hold over the CIA because he was called to testify before the Walsh grand jury on Iran-contra. For this reason, the agency may be protecting him.