

On a day approximately 10 days prior to the killings (around Nov. 6, 1980) I rode with Col. Aviles to the Military School on the southwest side of San Salvador, approx. 800 yards from the UCA (University of Central America). Col Aviles stated that Chief of Staff Ponce, of the El Salvadoran Armed forces, sent him there to solve a problem with Col. Benavidez. Aviles met with Col. Benavidez for approx. 15 min. Aviles appeared very uncomfortable about talking to Benavidez. Upon returning to the vehicle Aviles called me back to the vehicle (I was standing approx 75 yards away watching the trucks) and told me that he had to work something out; Col. Benavidez is from the old school, he liked to handle things in his own way, in the old style. Benavidez stated to Aviles that he wanted to do something about the priests and things coming out of UCA. Benavidez told Aviles that Ella Caria was a problem. Aviles told me they wanted to handle it the old way by killing some of the priests. I asked what happened when you (Aviles) talked to him. ^{EWB} Aviles said that he ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated} out of it. Aviles told me that Benavidez was old school and was still the "hammer". ^{EWB} And Aviles ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~aware~~ ^{was} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{of} ~~fact~~ ^{of} ~~that~~ ^{of} ~~there~~ ^{of} ~~was~~ ^{of} ~~some~~ ^{of} ~~talk~~ ^{of} ~~about~~ ^{of} the death squads which were run out of the military school & ^{EWB}

^{also}
I remember and I'm now

EWB

~~Remember~~ aware that I had knowledge
of the killings and was told that they were
planned by ~~Guerrillas~~ however at the time
it was told to me by ~~Guerrillas~~ I felt
unconcerned that it would happen because
other people were talking along those lines
and I didn't feel that the El Salvador
Armed Forces would do something about it.
Also because Chief of Staff Ponce assigned
a senior col. (Aviles) to address the
problem I felt that if there was any
validity to this talk it would not happen.

213 38

I didn't think they would do something that
foolish.