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THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE CASE OF MISSING AMERICANS NICHOLAS ((BLAKE)) AND GRIFFIN ((DAVIS)) IS CONTAINED IN [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO THOSE CABLES, THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH BLAKE'S TWO BROTHERS AND ADVISED THAT EVERY LOGICAL AND APPROPRIATE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO LOCATE THE MISSING AMERICANS, USING ALL ASSETS AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION.

[REDACTED] STATION QUERIED [REDACTED] ASSETS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF BLAKE AND DAVIS AS SOON AS THEY WERE REPORTED MISSING. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LOCATION OF BLAKE AND DAVIS, ALL REPORTED THROUGH APPROPRIATE [REDACTED] STATION HAS RECEIVED NO CREDIBLE INFORMATION ON THE CASE IN ADDITION TO THAT CONTAINED IN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ASSETS [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN QUERIED SEVERAL TIMES ON THE STATUS OF THE BLAKE CASE AND NONE OF THEM HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON BLAKE'S FATE. AS YOU KNOW SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BLAKE FAMILY HAVE ACCUSED THE GUATEMALAN ARMY OF EITHER HAVING KILLED BLAKE OR HAVING COVERED UP HIS DEATH SOMEHOW. IN THEIR MOST RECENT VISIT HERE TWO OF BLAKE'S BROTHERS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH THEY ACCUSED THE EMBASSY AND THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT OF NOT HAVING FOLLOWED UP ON THE CASE VIGOROUSLY ENOUGH, AN ACCUSATION WHICH THE FACTS DO NOT SUPPORT. THEY ALSO PARTICIPATED IN AN OCCUPATION OF THE MAIN CATHEDRAL HERE BY THE MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUP (GAM) AND THREATENED THAT THEY HAD ENOUGH CONTACTS WITH INFLUENTIAL U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMAN TO BLOCK RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO GUATEMALA-SHOULD THEY NOT BE GIVEN A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR BROTHER. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR SITUATION WE HAVE REPEATEDLY QUERIED OUR [REDACTED] ASSETS [REDACTED] RE THIS CASE SINCE BLAKE DISAPPEARED AND WE HAVE NEVER UNCOVERED

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ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN HIS
DISAPPEARANCE

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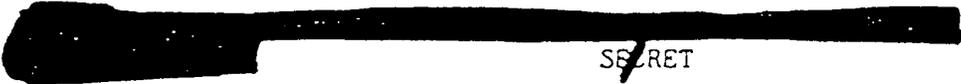
IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE GUATEMALAN ARMY COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT WITHOUT OUR KNOWING ABOUT IT. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER INCIDENTS HERE DURING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS ROAMING AROUND IN ISOLATED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY (ONE WAS EVEN PICKED UP BY AN ARMY PATROL WHILE HIKING UP TAJUMULCO VOLCANO WHERE THE MAIN BASE CAMPS OF ORPA ARE LOCATED). IN ALL OF THESE CASES THE MILITARY HAS FOLLOWED THE SAME PROCEDURE. THE AMERICAN IN QUESTION HAS BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE AREA, TURNED OVER TO THE NEAREST FIXED DETACHMENT, THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE NEAREST ZONE HQS. AT THAT POINT THE [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED AND THEY IN TURN HAVE NOTIFIED THE STATION OR THE CONSULAR SECTION. EVENTUALLY ALL OF THESE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN RELEASED, EITHER IN THE FIELD OR TO THE CONSULAR OFFICERS HERE. LOGICALLY SPEAKING WE SEE NO REASON WHY THE ARMY WOULD NOT HAVE FOLLOWED THE SAME PROCEDURE IN THE CASE OF BLAKE AND DAVIS HAD THEY INDEED BEEN APPREHENDED BY AN ARMY PATROL. CONTRARY TO THE PROPAGANDA OF THE INSURGENTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS THE GUATEMALAN ARMY SIMPLY DOES NOT SHOOT STRANGERS ON SIGHT AND WE DOUBT STRONGLY THAT A PATROL WHICH HAPPENED ON THESE TWO FOREIGNERS WOULD HAVE SIMPLY KILLED THEM. IN OUR VIEW THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY DEAD BUT NOT AT THE HANDS OF THE ARMY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BLAKE, A FREE LANCE JOURNALIST OF SOME SORT, HAD IN THE PAST CONTACTED THE GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR AND HAD REMAINED WITH THEM SOME TIME, WRITTEN ARTICLES ON THEM, AND EVENTUALLY BEEN RELEASED TO PUBLISH HIS ARTICLES. THE PURPOSE OF HIS FORAY INTO EL QUICHE WAS TO CONTACT THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) AND PRESUMABLY HE WAS EXPECTING SIMILAR TREATMENT FROM THEM TO THAT WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM THE SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS. WHAT HE PROBABLY DID NOT REALIZE, AND WHAT WAS PROBABLY HIS UNDOING, IS THAT THE GUERRILLAS OF THE EGP ARE NOT THE SAME SORT OF SOPHISTICATED, PUBLICITY SEEKING TYPES WHICH HE PROBABLY FOUND AMONG THE SALVADORAN INSURGENTS. ON THE CONTRARY THE EGP IN THE FIELD TODAY CONSISTS MOSTLY OF HALF-STARVED INDIANS WHO DO NOT SPEAK SPANISH AND WHO ARE CONSTANTLY ON THE RUN FROM THE PRESSURE OF MILITARY PATROLS. FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND BLAKE AND DAVIS CHOSE THEIR ROUTE INTO EL QUICHE DELIBERATELY TO AVOID THE ARMY AND HIKED INTO THE MIDDLE OF AN ISOLATED EGP-CONTROLLED AREA FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF CONTACTING THE EGP. AS WE HAVE STATED ABOVE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT THE ARMY HARMED THEM IN ANY WAY AND IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY IN OUR VIEW THAT THEY DID IN FACT MAKE CONTACT WITH AN EGP PATROL OF SOME KIND AND WERE KILLED BY THE EGP. THOSE OF US HERE WHO KNOW THE EGP, THEIR PRIMITIVE AND VIOLENT NATURE, AND THE ISOLATED AREA IN WHICH THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ARE UNANIMOUS IN THE CONCLUSION THAT THE EGP WOULD PROBABLY HAVE KILLED ANY TWO FOREIGNERS THEY CAUGHT IN THAT AREA, FOR THEIR WRISTWATCHES AND POCKET MONEY IF FOR NOTHING ELSE. FOR SOME REASON UNKNOWN TO US BLAKE'S BROTHERS SEEM UNWILLING EVEN TO THINK THAT THE GUERRILLAS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH BUT TO US IT IS ALL TOO PROBABLE. IN ANY CASE WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASK OUR SOURCES TO PROVIDE PERIODIC UPDATES ON THE FATE OF BLAKE SINCE WE ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN CONFIRMING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE TWO COMPATRIOTS. WE ALSO EXPECT THAT ENEMIES OF AID TO GUATEMALA WILL CONTINUE TO USE THIS ISSUE AS A CLUB WITH WHICH TO HIT THE GUATEMALAN ARMY. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS, AND THE TRUTH IS THAT IF THEY DID NOT

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HAVE THIS ISSUE THEY WOULD FIND SOMETHING ELSE, THERE IS IN OUR VIEW NOT A SINGLE BIT OF EVIDENCE LEADING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED IN THEIR DISAPPEARANCE OR KNOWS ANY MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM THAN WE DO.

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