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NOTE FOR:

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FROM: [REDACTED]
DATE: 03-22-95 08:45:13 PM
SUBJECT: Bamaca Case Developments

[REDACTED] DC/LA [REDACTED] called at 1730 to request that I accompany him and [REDACTED] to a briefing for Congressman Torricelli on the Bamaca case. The briefing was precipitated by an article which will appear in tomorrow's NY Times alleging that Col. Alpirez killed Bamaca, that he was an Agency asset, and that the US government was covering up his involvement.

On arriving at Torricelli's office, we found that Richard Feinberg and an NSC congressional relations officer were also there to participate in the briefing. Torricelli was principally interested in [REDACTED] Alpirez and his role in the Bamaca and Devine cases. He said he had sent a letter to the President on these cases, and that he had shared the letter with the author of the NY Times article (Tim Weiner?) and with Jennifer Harbury. As the briefing progressed, it became clear that he did not have accurate information about either case. [REDACTED] ran through the Alpirez chronology [REDACTED] after the October 1991 report indicating Alpirez had been present at Devine's 1990 interrogation, which had resulted in Devine's death. I reviewed the evidence about Alpirez' role in the Bamaca case, noting that it was largely circumstantial and that we didn't have any first-hand reporting about Bamaca's fate. Torricelli said it appeared that the Agency had done the right thing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He also blasted unnamed "State Department officials" who he said had "lied to him" about the case (he didn't specify what these lies were, but I gathered that the State officers were vague about the evidence we had concerning Bamaca's likely demise.) Feinberg pressed the point that the Administration and the Embassy had made a major effort to get the Guatemalans to come clean on the Bamaca case and that they had been forthright in keeping Jennifer Harbury informed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

When we left Torricelli's inner office, the NSC congressional relations officer showed us a copy of Torricelli's letter to the President. It is an uninformed hatchet job, far different in tone from the amicable briefing: "I am writing concerning the involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in two murders in Guatemala in the early 1990s, and the deliberate attempt by the United States government to mislead the American public about the two cases..... It is also clear that the State Department and the NSA (sic) have known that the United States government was complicitous in these murders and continued to mislead the families and the American people.....The direct involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the murder of these individuals leads me to the extraordinary conclusion that the Agency is simply out of control and that it contains what can only be called a criminal element....." Feinberg sought to find Torricelli, who had left for a vote, to correct the record. Eventually, he got Tony Lake to talk to Torricelli, and he withdrew his letter. (I have a copy and will forward it to you tomorrow.)

Toricelli is scheduled to hold a press conference on Thursday at 1100 with Harbury and former Ambassador Robert White (who recently traveled to Guatemala to urge the government to conduct a more thorough investigation into the Bamaca case.) The title of the press release reads "Toricelli and American wife of missing Guatemalan make announcement regarding U.S. involvement in disappearance".

I am scheduled to accompany [REDACTED] to a SSCI briefing - on the record - on the Bamaca case tomorrow at

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Approved for Release
Date Aug 14 1998

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1400.

I am taking a printed copy of this note to [REDACTED] tonight for the DDI and ADDI.

CC: [REDACTED]

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