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29 March 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: LAD/ALA Briefing of HPSCI Staff on Alpirez Case

1. C/LA [redacted] DC/LA [redacted] and DI/ALA officer [redacted] briefed approximately a dozen staffers on 28 March at their request, as a prebrief to the 7 April members brief. The meeting was cordial, and the staffers asked a wide range of questions. They seemed to focus on several issues, where they have asked for follow-up information. These issues are likely to figure prominently in the 7 April session.

2. C/LA [redacted] walked through the chronology of our relationship with Alpirez, noting the key elements of the Devine and Bamaca cases. There were frequent interruptions for questions.

[redacted]

[redacted] the August 1990 information implicating the Guatemalan military in Devine's death, [redacted]

3. Staffers asked a series of questions about who had received the intelligence on Devine and when. We provided clarification on the dissemination process and reviewed our actions with DoJ on the October 1991 report. There were several questions on the actions of the Administration based on these reports, and we referred them to State. They wondered why we had not provided information on our relationship with Alpirez to the State Department in the October 1991 timeframe, and C/LA [redacted] replied that she did not know whether this had been discussed with State or not. It did not, in fact, seem germane to State's diplomatic efforts, for which she had the October 1991 dissem.

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4. There were a series of questions on the nature of our liaison relationship with Alpirez, as well as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that we should be prepared for lengthy questions from the members on why we are in Guatemala, what are the U.S. strategic interests there, and what do we get out of the liaison relationship. He noted that the Guatemalans are notorious for human rights, so I can anticipate detailed inquiry into our human rights policies. I advised that the Division is doing a detailed review of human rights cases, and that we will have that finished in the near future. [REDACTED]

5. DC/LA [REDACTED] reviewed the evidence that we had linking Alpirez to the Banaca case, and we emphasized that we had only the 25 January report which indicated he was the killer, earlier reporting only places him at the interrogation. We emphasized that we still do not know how, where, or when Banaca died. [REDACTED]

6. We were asked about the IG report and [REDACTED] withdrawal from Guatemala City. C/LA [REDACTED] walked them through the outline of these events since April 1994. There were no significant questions. There also was a short discussion on what we had told Harbury and what we could not tell her. We discussed sources and methods concerns, but did not seem to make much headway. This is also going to be a major issue for the HPSCI.

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