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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE//FOR INR, DIA WASHINGTON DC, DA WASHINGTON DC, CNO WASHINGTON DC, CHC WASHINGTON DC, CSAF WASHINGTON DC, TREASURY DEPT, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PH.

[REDACTED]  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DIST: 28 OCTOBER 1994

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA

SUBJ: COMMENTS BY A [REDACTED] GUATEMALAN [REDACTED] THAT INSURGENT LEADER EFRAIN BAHACA DIED OF WOUNDS SHORTLY AFTER HIS CAPTURE IN MARCH 1992

DOI: MARCH 1992 - [REDACTED] 1994

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

SUMMARY: NONE.

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] GUATEMALAN [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT THE MARCH 1992 CAPTURE BY THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES OF EFRAIN ((@BAHACA)) @VELASQUEZ, AKA "COMANDANTE EVERARDO" OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA), WAS VIEWED AS A GREAT SUCCESS BY THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE AT THAT TIME BAHACA WAS THE ONLY IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS GUERRILLA LEADER, ALL THE REST BEING "LADINO" OR OF MIXED SPANISH-INDIGENOUS DESCENT. [REDACTED] SAID FOR THIS REASON, THE ARMED FORCES BELIEVED BAHACA'S CAPTURE REPRESENTED A SEVERE BLOW TO THE MORALE OF THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNION (URNG). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS NOT ASSIGNED TO SAN MARCOS DEPARTMENT AT THE TIME OF BAHACA'S CAPTURE. HIS INFORMATION ON THE CASE IS DERIVED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER GUATEMALAN [REDACTED] OFFICIALS.)

2. [REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT BAHACA SUSTAINED SERIOUS WOUNDS DURING THE FIREFIGHT WITH GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS THAT RESULTED IN HIS MARCH 1992 CAPTURE. HE SAID THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, BAHACA DIED OF HIS WOUNDS SHORTLY AFTER HIS CAPTURE [REDACTED]

3. THE [REDACTED] MENTIONED THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT FIRST REALIZED BAHACA'S CAPTURE AND DEATH

WOULD BECOME A POLITICAL PROPAGANDA ISSUE FOR THE URNG WHEN TWO ESCAPED GUATEMALAN GUERRILLAS APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 1993 BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA AND CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN BAHACA ALIVE IN A CLANDESTINE PRISON INSIDE GUATEMALA. HE SAID AT THAT TIME, SEVERAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS RECOMMENDED TO PRESIDENT SERRANO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WORK TO PREVENT THE BAHACA CASE FROM BECOMING A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BY GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE AND MAKING PUBLIC DETAILS OF NUMEROUS CREDIBLE REPORTS OF THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN ADVISORS, INCLUDING AMERICANS, WITH GUERRILLA COMBAT AND POLITICAL FRONT GROUPS OF THE URNG. SAID PRESIDENT SERRANO REFUSED. IN HINDSIGHT, THE SUGGESTED, SUCH AN OFFENSIVE MAY HAVE FORESTALLED SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL PROPAGANDA EFFORTS TO MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THE BAHACA CASE BY PERSONS SUCH AS BAHACA'S ALLEGED WIFE, U.S. CITIZEN JENNIFER ((HARBURY)).

04. COMMENT: HARBURY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A HUNGER STRIKE SINCE 11 OCTOBER 1994 IN FRONT OF THE GUATEMALAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN GUATEMALA CITY IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE BAHACA, WHO SHE BELIEVES IS STILL HELD CAPTIVE BY THE ARMY IN A CLANDESTINE PRISON.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]