

DENIED IN FULL

PAGE 1

DOCUMENT DATED  
MAY 1995

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IOB 28  
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Approved for Release  
Date JUNE 1946

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release  
Date June 1996

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(b)(2)  
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1.5 (E)

[REDACTED] SAID  
THAT IT IS HIS BELIEF, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THAT THE GUATEMALAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS SEARCHING FOR  
A SACRIFICIAL LAMB IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASE  
OF U.S. CITIZEN MICHAEL (( DEVINE)). ( GUATEMALA CITY FIELD  
COMMENT: DEVINE WAS KILLED IN JUNE 1990 NEAR POPTUN (16-21N,  
89-26W). CAPTAIN HUGO ROBERTO (( CONTRERAS)) ALVARADO AND SIX ARMY  
SPECIALISTS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF THE CRIME. CONTRERAS ESCAPED  
SHORTLY AFTER HIS MAY 1993 CONVICTION WITH PROSPECT OF 20 YEARS IN  
PRISON FOR THE MURDER, AND REMAINS AT LARGE.) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT COLONEL JULIO ROBERTO (( ALPIREZ)), AND TO A  
LESSER EXTENT COLONEL MARIO ROBERTO (( GARCIA)) CATALAN ARE THE  
SCAPEGOATS THAT ARE BEING OFFERED UP BY THE GUATEMALAN MINISTRY OF  
DEFENSE IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT RETIRED SENIOR OFFICERS, AND BRING  
AN END TO THE CURRENT CRISIS. (GUATEMALA CITY FIELD COMMENT:  
COLONEL GARCIA WAS THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY ZONE 23 (SANTA ELENA,  
THE PETEN) AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER. CONTRERAS WAS THE ASSISTANT  
D-2 UNDER HIS COMMAND. COLONEL ALPIREZ WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE  
GUATEMALAN SPECIAL FORCES ("KAIBIL") BASE IN POPTUN, AND MAY HAVE  
GIVEN LODGING TO THE SQUAD THAT KILLED DEVINE AND ASSISTED IN THE  
SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP OF THE MURDER.)

[REDACTED] BELIEVE THAT ALPIREZ DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE KILLING OF DEVINE UNTIL AFTER THE FACT, AND THAT ALPIREZ ONLY ASSISTED IN THE COVER-UP OF THE MURDER ON ORDERS FROM MORE SENIOR OFFICERS. [REDACTED] WHILE MANY OFFICERS HAVE MIXED FEELINGS TOWARD ALPIREZ, MOST ARE EXTREMELY UPSET BY THE ACCUSATIONS LEVIED AGAINST HIM AND ARE UNANIMOUS ON THEIR VIEW THAT ALPIREZ IS BEING MADE A SCAPEGOAT. THEY ONLY WANT THE TRUTH TO BE REVEALED.

3. IN ADDITION, [REDACTED] STATED THAT CAPTAIN CONTRERAS DID NOT KILL DEVINE. [REDACTED] CONTRERAS TOLD [REDACTED] THAT ONE OF THE ARMY SPECIALISTS HAD PERFORMED THE KILLING.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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