



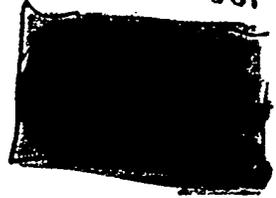
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Liaison
Washington, D. C. 20505
Telephone: 351-6121

27 March 1985

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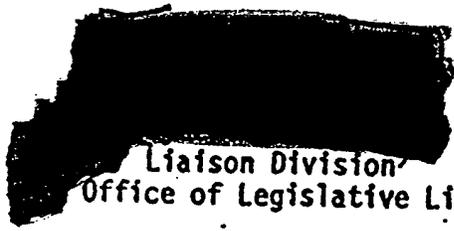
OLL 85-0988



TO: Mr. Richard Giza
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dick:

Per your request, please find the enclosed.



Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Enclosure

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

FORM 1533 OBSOLETE PREVIOUS EDITIONS 3-79

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LD/OLL [Redacted] (27 March 1985)

HAND CARRY *By NG - 27 March*

Approved for Release
Date JUL 00 2000

SUBJECT: Status Report re Investigation into Alleged Honduran/
FDN Human Rights Abuses

As a result of both the Committee's written inquiries and discussions with senior Agency officials concerning alleged Honduran/FDN human rights abuses, the Central America Task Force is according the highest priority to this investigation. While the Agency will not sacrifice quality to timeliness, all available resources are being devoted to this effort in order to respond as accurately and promptly as possible.

A thorough search of relevant Headquarters files has been conducted in order to furnish the Committee with information regarding

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The most laborious and time-consuming aspect of this investigation is determining the scope and validity of the human rights allegations. Since the majority of the charges are general, they cannot readily be confirmed or refuted. Several steps, however, are underway to define the extent and legitimacy of the accusations by surfacing as many specific cases as possible. This is being accomplished by reviewing all relevant Headquarters files as well as press items dating from 1 January 1981 to the present.

[REDACTED]

This information will be furnished to the Committee on an incremental basis as substantive details surface.

In addition to determining what proportion of these allegations is fact or fiction, a concerted effort is being made to ascertain who, if not the Honduran government or the

FDN, is responsible for these human rights violations. For instance, is there a connection between elements of the Honduran armed forces or the FDN and Salvadoran or Guatemalan right-wing extremists? To this end, we have examined the possibility of a link between Ricardo (El Chino) Lau and Roberto D'Aubuisson and have found no connection.

Responding to the question of possible FDN involvement in alleged Honduran/FDN human rights violations, [REDACTED] since mid-January, has reported extensively on this issue. While we cannot assure the Committee that no atrocity has ever been committed by any individual member of the FDN or of the Honduran armed forces, we believe the following: —

--We have no evidence of FDN complicity in alleged Honduran human rights violations. For the most part, the excesses cited in the press occurred prior to the establishment of the FDN Directorate in December 1982. The civil crimes of which we are aware occurred prior to 1981 and mainly consisted of robbery and cattle rustling.

--The FDN has clear, stated policies against mistreatment of civilians and enemy forces alike. As demonstrated in the case of Suicida, Krill, and Cara de Majo, whose criminal acts were committed against fellow members of the FDN and Honduran civilians, when the FDN does obtain information about punishable acts by any of its members, it acts swiftly and appropriately.

--Intense frustration with Honduras' archaic legal system-- which makes the prosecution and conviction of subversives, kidnappers, guerrillas, etc. almost impossible--has undoubtedly caused some individuals within the Honduran military and security services to disregard the principles of respect for human rights contained in the Honduran constitution.

[REDACTED] concur with the State Department's 1984 assessment that "allegations of human rights-related abuses are fewer than in previous years and the Honduran Government shows enhanced sensitivity to these complaints".

~~S E C R E T~~

The fifth portion of HPSCI's request concerns providing information on the Agency's relationship (or lack thereof) with specific individuals. Since this question deals with sources and methods, the information surfaced through our research will be processed for a decision on its release. The DCI reserves the option to pass this information only to the Chairman of HPSCI.

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DENIED IN FULL**