

INQUIRE=DOC9D
ITEM NO=00270772

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX796 MCN = 89293/03552 TOR = 892930200
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS6881 2930158-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 200158Z OCT 89
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE

R 200109Z OCT 89
FM FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PM
TO AIG 4673

AIG 4674

AIG 4677

RHEPAAB/TAC IDHS FACILITY LANGLEY AFB//IDHS//
RUCKDDA/TWO TWO MEU
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CEN/ES//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//ARA/CCA//
RUEHSE/US SECRET SERVICE WASHINGTON DC//ID-FIB//
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
RULGSAD/COMFAIRCARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS RQ
ZEN/USARSO COROZAL PM
ACCT FBPA-EWDK

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS 6F

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SERIAL: PA2010010989

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2 -- ARMY DEFECTOR ON DEATH SQUADS

SOURCE: HAVANA PRENSA LATINA IN ENGLISH 2128 GMT 19 OCT 89

TEXT:

(((REPORT BY CARMEN LIRA OF MEXICO CITY'S LA JORNADA FOR PRENSA
LATINA: "THE UNITED STATES AND THE SALVADORAN ARMY MAINTAIN THE
SQUADRONS" -- NO DATELINE AS RECEIVED)))

(((TEXT))) "YES, THE DEATH SQUADRONS DO EXIST... I BELIEVE I CAN SAY
AND REPEAT THAT AS I HAVE BELONGED TO ONE OF THEM FOR THE LAST TWO
YEARS, PERSECUTING AND ABDUCTING PEOPLE, DISLODGING THEM FROM THEIR
HOMES AND THEN EXECUTING MANY, MANY WHOM I HARDLY KNEW OR WHOSE NAMES

Approved for Release
Date 26 JUN 1991

I DID NOT EVEN KNOW".

AND IT IS THE SALVADORAN ARMY AND THE UNITED STATES' ADVISORS WHO ORGANISE AND PAY THESE SPECIAL CORPS, AS THEY ARE CALLED TO CAMOUFLAGE THEIR CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES... THEY WERE THE ONES WHO PAID ME AND MY COMRADES: THE WAGES CAME FROM THE ARMY. THE COMPENSATIONS, FROM THE AMERICANS.

PRESIDENT ALFREDO CRISTIANI KNOWS IT, HE KNOWS ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THAT INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS AS DID NAPOLEON DUARTE BEFORE HIM. I SAW HIM WITH MY OWN EYES AND KEPT AN EAR ON HIS TALKS WITH MY SUPERIOR OFFICERS TO WHOM HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS WHEN HE VISITED DEPARTMENT 2 OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE, WHICH IS NOTHING BUT A PLACE WHERE THE CRIMES ARE BEING PLANNED. IT IS NOT BY ACCIDENT THAT THE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED SINCE HE (CRISTIANI) CAME TO POWER IN MAY LAST. HE PERSONALLY ORDERED THE OPERATION THAT THE ATACATL TWO CARRIED OUT TWO DAYS AFTER HIS LAST VISIT WHICH I WITNESSED.

CESAR VIELMAN JOYA MARTINEZ, A 27-YEAR-OLD SALVADORAN, WH TWO MONTHS AGO BELONGED TO DEPARTMENT TWO (INTELLIGENCE) OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE (BASED IN THE SAN CARLOS GARRISON, IN SAN SALVADOR) OF HIS COUNTRY'S ARMY, FROM WHICH HE DESERTED IN JULY LAST, IS SPEAKING PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME, WITH 'LA JORNADA.'

THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME, AS THEY DID WITH ALL THE OTHER AGENTS AND INFORMANTS AT THE DEPARTMENT WHO CAME TO KNOW "TOO MUCH", THAT IS WHY I DESERTED... AND ALSO BECAUSE, TRULY, I CANNOT STAND IT ANYMORE, I FEEL ASHAMED, IT TURNS MY STOMACH.

EXILED IN THE U.S., IN WHOSE CAPITAL HE ARRIVED AFTER A HAZARDOUS ESCAPE FROM HIS COUNTRY, AGENT 'ALEX' FROM THE 'SPECIAL CORPS' - AS WE CALLED HIM DURING THE CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS - TELLS THIS DAILY ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES HE CARRIED OUT DURING HIS STAY IN THAT CORP: SHADOWING (PERSECUTION), ABDUCTION, ASSAULT, ARREST, IMPRISONMENT IN SECRET JAILS BELONGING TO THE SALVADORAN ARMY, NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE, ASSASSINATION OF THOSE BEING SUSPECTED OF BELONGING TO OR COLLABORATING WITH WORKERS', TEACHERS' OR STUDENTS' ORGANISATIONS AND, MAINLY, THE FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN) OF EL SALVADOR, AND BURIAL OF THEIR CORPSES IN EQUALLY SECRET CEMETERIES, OR THROWING THEM ON THE BEACH OF EL MAJAHUAL, AT THE PORT 'LA LIBERTAD', OR INTO THE ALCEHUATE RIVER.

DARK, SMALL, WITH AN ORIENTAL AIR IN THE SHAPE OF HIS FACE AND HIS FEATURED, 'ALEX' RECOUNTS THE NUMBER OF ASSASSINATIONS IN WHICH HE HAS PARTICIPATED OR WHICH HE HAS "SCRUPULOUSLY" COMMITTED BY HIMSELF - BY CUTTING THE VICTIM'S THROAT WITH A 'DIATAGAN' COMMANDO KNIFE, HANGING HIM OR INJECTING SULPHURIC ACID IN HIS VEINS - (A TOTAL OF 74) IS ALMOST THREE TIMES HIS AGE. HE SAYS HE NEVER USED FIRE ARMS TO KILL THEM, TO AVOID THE ARMY BEING ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THESE CRIMES.

HIS TESTIMONY, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN RECORDED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF CENTRAL AMERICA (CODEHUCA) AND BELIZE, AS WELL AS BY THE MEXICAN ACADEMY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF DEATH SQUADRONS IN EL SALVADOR, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT THAT COUNTRY'S ARMY AND THE U.S. ADVISORS, PRESENT IN SALVADORAN TERRITORY SINCE 1981, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECRUITMENT, ORGANISATION, TRAINING, MAINTENANCE AND MOBILISATION OF THESE GROUPS.

"WHEN I ENTERED DEPARTMENT TWO OF THE FIRST BRIGADE, I SPENT THREE MONTHS UNDER PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAINING PROVIDED BY U.S. ADVISORS, ONE OF

WHOM WAS ABOUT TO GO TO IRAN," AGENT 'ALEX' REVEALED IN WASHINGTON. "THEY GAVE US GASOLINE, MAINTENANCE FOR OUR VEHICLES, AND CASH MONEY TO PAY THE 'CONFIDENTS'. AFTER MAJOR HERNANDEZ CAME TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE ADVISORS ONLY GAVE US THE HONEY THAT THE TEAM NEEDED FOR HANDLING THE 'SOURCES' (INFORMATS), 19,000 COLONS A MONTH, WHICH HE SPENT ON (CIVILIAN) CLOTHES, TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES. ((NO CLOSING QUOTES AS RECEIVED))

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 002 *****/

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SERIAL: PA2010013689

REF: PA2010010989 HAVANA PRENSA LATINA ENGLISH 192128///AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.

TEXT:

((TEXT)) DURING THE INTERVIEW WITH 'LA JORNADA', HELD IN A MODEST HOTEL ROOM IN WASHINGTON, THE YOUNG AGENT REVEALED THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE CENTRAL AND PRIVATE OFFICES OF THE U.S. ADVISORS'S HEADQUARTERS IN SAN SALVADOR: "THEY ARE BEHIND THE MILITARY SCHOOL", HE SAYS. "NOT JUST ANYONE CAN GO THERE, ONLY THEY, THE U.S. ADVISORS, THE 'CASE' OFFICERS, SUCH AS I, AND PEOPLE FROM THE GENERAL STAFF, WHICH IS WHERE THE CHEQUES CAME FROM TO PAY THE EXPENSES INCURRED BY DEPARTMENT TWO."

"HOW AND WHY I GOT INVOLVED IN THIS? I DID IT UNDER THE PRESSURE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS... IT ALL BEGAN IN 1982 WHEN I ENTERED THE MARINE COMMANDO CORPS, BASED IN THE PORT OF 'LA UNION'. I WAS IMMEDIATELY INCORPORATED INTO THE SPECIAL 'PIRANA' FORCES WHERE I BECAME THE CO-PILOT OF A SPEEDBOAT. MY WORK CONSISTED OF TEACHING THE NEW MEMBERS TO HANDLE THE BOAT AND THE WEAPONS: A 50 AND A M-60", HE SAYS.

"THE 'PIRANA' GROUP DID VIGILANCE WORK IN EL ESPINO, THE GULF OF FONSECA AND THE 'EL CUCO' BEACH. THE VIGILANCE CONSISTED OF DETECTING CLANDESTINE BOATS COMING FROM NICARAGUA".

TWO YEARS LATER (IN 1984), HE ASKED IF HE COULD LEAVE AND WAS ALLOWED TO DO SO. BACK IN CIVILIAN LIFE, HE WORKED IN A FISHING FACTORY NAMED 'EMPRESA', WHERE HE WAS THE OPERATOR OF THE FLOUR PLANT, A JOB WHICH HE STAYED ON FOR A YEAR. IN 1985 HE BECAME A TRUCK DRIVER, UNTIL 1986. A YEAR LATER - JANUARY 1987 - HE ENTERED THE SUPPORT AND COMBAT BATTALION OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE.

"THERE I MADE CONTACT WITH UNDER-SARGENT BURGOS TORRES, WHOM I HAD KNOWN A LITTLE EARLIER. HE TOLD ME THAT THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE HAD AN INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT AND THAT I MET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS. THE REQUIREMENTS WERE THAT I WAS A COMMANDO AND HAD BELONGED TO THE SPECIAL 'PIRANA' GROUP FORCES. LATER ON I MET CORPORAL TORRES ALFARO, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF INFANTRY DEPARTMENT TWO. THERE THEY PUT ME IN CONTACT WITH A LIEUTENANT WHOSE LAST NAME IS MAJANO, AND WHO WAS THE HEAD OF THE CASE OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT. I HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM AND I WAS ADMITTED THERE, WITH THE RANK OF A 'CASE' OFFICER.

WITH THAT RANK, I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ZONES OF APOPA, CHAPIN AND PIEDRA TO RECRUIT CIVILIANS TO WORK AS "CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES" AND THUS "HAVE UNDER CONTROL THE ZONES WHERE MEMBERS OF THE FMLN WOULD MOVE". LATER, I WAS SENT TO THE METROPOLITAN ZONE, TO THE CAPITAL, SAN SALVADOR, TO HANDLE THE STAFF IN CHARGE OF CONTROLLING PEOPLE'S DEMONSTRATIONS AND KEEPING SURVEILLANCE ON THE SAFE HOUSES OF THE FMLN.

"ON THOSE OPERATIONS ONE COULD WORK NORMALLY, SINCE WE HAD TWO U.S. ADVISORS AND A DEPARTMENT OF ANALYSIS. AT ANOTHER DEPARTMENT, OF COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE, WE HAD SPECIAL VEHICLES WE COULD USE, A GREY 'HACI' WITH DARKENED WINDOWS AND A RED, FOUR-DOOR VAN WHOSE LICENCE PLATES WERE CHANGED EVERY FIVE OR SIX DAYS TO AVOID THEIR BEING REGISTERED. WE HAD SOME 40 LICENCE PLATES FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES, WHICH WERE PERHAPS PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE VEHICLES WERE GIVEN TO USE BY THE GENERAL STAFF FOR THE USE OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE'S DEPARTMENT TWO.

"THE VEHICLES WERE USED FOR SURVEILLANCE OR FOR CLANDESTINE ARRESTS. IN THIS CASE, THE VEHICLE WAS MANNED WITH FIVE OR SIX OFFICERS ARMED WITH M-16, 45 AND G-3, WHOSE BARRELS WERE CUT, AND THIS IS HOW WE PROCEEDED TO CAPTURE PEOPLE UNDER SUSPICION".

"CLANDESTINE ABDUCTIONS IMPLIED DISLODGING THE PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES AND TAKING THEM TO THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE GARRISON, FROM WHERE THEY WERE THEN SENT TO THE PRISONS OF THAT BRIGADE'S DEPARTMENT TWO.

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