

[REDACTED]

PAGE 0001
TOR: 132209Z JUN 90

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SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON JESUIT MURDER CASE

[REDACTED]

2. DURING MEETING [REDACTED] REPORTED [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD MET AGAIN WITH THE [REDACTED] MILITARY POLICE [REDACTED] WHO WAS ON GUARD AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY ON 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER 1989 WHEN THE JESUIT PRIESTS, THEIR HOUSE KEEPER AND HER DAUGHTER WERE MURDERED ON THE CAMPUS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA).

[REDACTED] WANTS THE INFORMATION TO REACH INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITIES [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HOWEVER, HE IS AFRAID TO REVEAL THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU) BECAUSE HE DOES NOT TRUST ANY SALVADORAN ON THE SIU AND FEARS HE WOULD BE KILLED TO QUASH THE FACTS AND PROTECT HIGH-RANKING SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES (ESAF) OFFICERS. HE CONTINUES TO TALK FREELY [REDACTED] BELIEVES [REDACTED] CAN PASS ALONG THE INFORMATION WHILE STILL PROTECTING HIM.

[REDACTED]

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4. IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, [REDACTED] PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT WHAT HE OBSERVED AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY ON 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER 90. ABOUT THE GATHERING OF HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS AT THE SCHOOL ON THE AFTERNOON OF 15 NOVEMBER, [REDACTED] SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS THAT THEY ALL BEGAN

TO ARRIVE AT ABOUT 2:00 P.M., BEGINNING WITH CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, COLONEL RENE EMILIO ((PONCE)), WHO CAME IN WITH TWO JEEP CHEROKEES WITH POLARIZED WINDOWS. IN SHORT ORDER, OTHERS ARRIVED INCLUDING: THEN AIR FORCE COMMANDER, GENERAL JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)); THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (PN), COLONEL DIONISIO ISMAEL ((MACHUCA)); FIRST BRIGADE COMMANDER, COLONEL FRANCISCO ((ELENA)) FUENTES; THEN-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TREASURY POLICE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL HERIBERTO ((HERNANDEZ)) HERNANDEZ, WHO ARRIVED WITH A CAPTAIN FNU ((CHAVEZ)) [REDACTED] COMMENT: PROBABLY THEN CEAT COMMANDER CAPTAIN JOSE ALFONSO ((CHAVEZ)) GARCIA); THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN), COLONEL JUAN CARLOS ((CARRILLO)) SCHLENKER, WHO ARRIVED WITH THE S-II OF THE GN, MAJOR RICARDO ((ARANGO)) MACAY; THE COMMANDER OF THE ATACATL IMMEDIATE REACTION BATTALION (BIRI), LIEUTENANT COLONEL OSCAR ALBERTO ((LEON)) LINARES; THE THEN-DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DNI), COLONEL CARLOS MAURICIO ((GUZMAN)) AGUILAR, WHO ARRIVED THROUGH THE INNER GATE FROM DNI TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY WITH TWO (NFI) LIEUTENANTS; AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL (NFI). SOME OF THESE WERE ALSO MENTIONED REF AS PARTICIPATING IN THE 15 NOVEMBER 89 MEETING AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY AND SOME OF THE NAMES ARE NEW. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE CANNOT SAY WHEN THE MEETING ENDED OR WHEN THE PARTICIPANTS DEPARTED THE MILITARY ACADEMY, BECAUSE HE WAS OFF DUTY DURING PART OF THE AFTERNOON. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PERHAPS THIS IMPRESSIVE RECALL OF INFORMATION IS EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THE MURDERS BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THE NEXT MORNING, AND THE VISITS BECAME SIGNIFICANT. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] AT ABOUT 6:00 P.M. ON 15 NOVEMBER 89, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, MAJOR CARLOS ((CAMILO)) HERNANDEZ BEGAN TO CALL INDIVIDUALS BY RADIO TO ORDER THEM TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY. HE SAID THAT CAMILO [REDACTED]

HERNANDEZ FIRST SPECIFICALLY BY NAME CALLED LIEUTENANT YUSHI RENE ((MENDOZA)) VALLECILLOS AND LIEUTENANT GONZALO ((GUEVARA)) CERRITOS, WHO PROMPTLY PRESENTED THEMSELVES. CAMILO HERNANDEZ TOLD THE TWO THAT MILITARY ACADEMY DIRECTOR COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO ((BENAVIDES)) MORENO WANTED TO SPEAK WITH THEM. WHEN THEY CAME OUT FROM TALKING TO BENAVIDES, MENDOZA VALLECILLOS AND GUEVARA CERRITOS GATHERED THE TROOPS OF THE BIRI ATLACATL, WHO WERE ALREADY PRESENT ON THE MILITARY ACADEMY GROUNDS, AND BEGAN TO CALL OUT SEVERAL NAMES FROM EACH PLATOON, USING ONLY NICKNAMES.

6. AT ABOUT THIS POINT, CIRCA 7:00 P.M., GUEVARA CERRITOS ORDERED [REDACTED] AND THE OTHERS TO GO WITH HIM TO CETIPOL, THE POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY IN SANTA TECLA, FOR THE UNIFORMS. [REDACTED] THE UNIFORMS THEY PICKED UP WERE NEW, AMERICAN "LUXURY" MODELS, COMPLETE WITH "JUNGLE BOOTS". [REDACTED] UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNIFORMS WERE BEING GIVEN AS PERKS TO THE BIRI ATLACATL INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION. DURING THE TIME THAT THESE SELECTED TROOPS WERE GETTING DRESSED IN THE NEW UNIFORMS AND PUTTING ON CAMOUFLAGE PAINT ETC., CAMILO HERNANDEZ WAS CIRCULATING AMONG THEM AND [REDACTED] REMEMBERS HEARING HIM TELL THE TROOPS, "YOU WILL HAVE ALL OF MY AND MY COLONEL'S (I.E., BENAVIDES') SUPPORT".

7. [REDACTED] THE SELECTED TROOPS, INCLUDING MENDOZA VALLECILLOS AND GUEVARA CERRITOS, DEPARTED THE MILITARY ACADEMY IN A BEIGE MILITARY PICKUP TRUCK SOMETIME BETWEEN 8:00 P.M. AND 9:00 P.M. WHEN THEY RETURNED, [REDACTED] AT ABOUT 3:00 A.M. OR 4:00 A.M. 16 NOVEMBER, COLONEL BENAVIDES GREETED THE TRUCK AT THE GATE OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS ASKED [REDACTED] FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, [REDACTED] AND OVER THE COFFEE THE SOLDIER TOLD [REDACTED] "WE JUST KILLED THE HEADS OF THE FMLN. I THINK THE WAR WILL END NOW BECAUSE MY COLONEL SAID KILLING THEM WOULD END IT." THEN, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE TROOP TOLD HIM THEY HAD ALL BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL DAYS OFF.

8. A DAY OR TWO LATER, ON 17 OR 18 NOVEMBER, [REDACTED] HE WENT TO THE ON-SITE TAILOR'S SHOP AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY WITH LT. VALLECILLOS TO GET THE TAILOR TO MEND ONE OF LT. VALLECILLOS' MILITARY BLOUSES. WHILE IN THE SHOP, [REDACTED] LT. VALLECILLOS SAID TO THE TAILOR (AN OLD MAN WHO HAS WORKED FOR DECADES AT THE ACADEMY): "I SURE HOPE MY COLONEL WON'T TURN ME IN." HE ADDED THAT HE FELT BADLY ABOUT THE KILLING OF THE JESUITS AND HAD NOT WANTED TO DO IT, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE ONE OF THE PRIESTS, IGNACIO MARTIN ((BARO)) HAD ONCE BEEN HIS PROFESSOR. BUT, HE ADDED, IT HAD BEEN A DIRECT ORDER, AND BESIDES, HE SAID THAT

[REDACTED]

AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL BUSTILLO HAD OFFERED HIM PILOT TRAINING AS REWARD. [REDACTED] COL. BENAVIDES AT SOME POINT WENT TO THE TAILOR AND WARNED HIM NOT TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN OR HEARD REGARDING THE JESUIT CASE.

9. [REDACTED] LT. VALLECILLOS [REDACTED] HAD BEEN SENT TO THE UCA CAMPUS ON/ABOUT 13-14 NOVEMBER AND ORDERED BY COL. BENAVIDES TO CONDUCT A SCOUTING MISSION FOR POSSIBLE FMLN ARMS CACHES. DURING THIS MISSION, VALLECILLOS SPOKE WITH FR. BARO, APPARENTLY IN A FRIENDLY WAY. UPON HIS RETURN TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY, VALLECILLOS PRESENTED HIS REPORT TO COL. BENAVIDES AND ONLY REALIZED LATER, ON 15 NOVEMBER, THAT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE SCOUTING MISSION HAD BEEN TO PREPARE FOR THE MISSION TO KILL THE JESUITS ON THE NIGHT OF 15 NOVEMBER.

10. [REDACTED] HE SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF THOSE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KILLINGS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVING WRITTEN DEATH THREATS; [REDACTED] DID NOT SPECIFY WHOSE FAMILIES AND NO ONE APPARENTLY KNOWS FROM WHOM THE NOTES COME. [REDACTED] ALSO SAID THE DETAINED BIRI ATLATL MEMBERS ARE BEING HELD AT THE NATIONAL POLICE AND WELL-TREATED, EVEN TO THE POINT OF BEING REGULARLY TAKEN OUT FOR OUTINGS TO THE BEACH AND TO MEET WOMEN, SOME OF THEM TO SPEND NIGHTS IN THEIR OWN HOMES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE FROM THE RUMOR MILL, AS ALLEGATIONS OF "SPECIAL" TREATMENT, INCLUDING BEACH OUTINGS, ARE WIDELY DISCUSSED HERE.) HE SAID THEY HAD BETTER ENJOY WHAT THEY HAVE NOW BECAUSE IT IS "COMMON KNOWLEDGE" THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ORDERED THAT THEY ALL BE CONDEMNED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON. MEANWHILE, THEY ARE ALL BITTER BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT/U.S. EMBASSY ARE CONSPIRING WITH THE "TANDONA" TO ENSURE THAT THE OFFICERS IMPLICATED ALL WILL GO FREE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: APPEARS TO BE MORE RUMOR MILL. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED] NEITHER HE NOR ANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY BELIEVE THAT THE ACADEMY LOG BOOKS CONTAINING NAMES AND VEHICLES OF ENTRIES AND EXITS ON 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER WERE REALLY BURNED. HE AND THE OTHERS THINK THAT SOMEONE SUCH AS BENAVIDES IS HOLDING THE LOGBOOKS FOR THEIR PERSONAL DEFENSE AND THAT IF IT LOOKS LIKE THE INVESTIGATION WILL ACCUSE OR CONVICT THEM, THEY WILL PULL THEM OUT TO IMPLICATE THE REST OF THOSE WHO WERE REALLY INVOLVED. [REDACTED]