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PAGES 1&2

DOCUMENT DATED
AUGUST 1994

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COMMENT: HUMANITARIAN PAROLE WAS GRANTED TO FIVE DEVINE WITNESSES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES, A TOTAL OF 35 PEOPLE, IN 1993. IN APRIL 1994, PUBLIC INTEREST PAROLE WAS GRANTED TO THE BROTHER OF A WITNESS AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY, A TOTAL OF FIVE PEOPLE. REQUESTS FOR TWO MORE RELATIVES AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE PENDING WITH U.S. IMMIGRATION.)

(EMBASSY COMMENT: SINCE JANUARY 1, 1994, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO RELATIVES OF DEVINE WITNESSES MURDERED (ONE CIVILIAN AND ONE SOLDIER) AND ANOTHER (A SOLDIER) SHOT IN THE LEG. ADDITIONALLY, TWO OTHER RELATIVES WITH PREVIOUS ARMY EXPERIENCE HAVE BEEN TARGETS OF INTIMIDATION. ONE OF THESE RELATIVES AND HIS FAMILY LIVE IN A SAFEHOUSE PROVIDED BY THE ARCHBISHOP'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIMING OF THESE EVENTS, WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE ONGOING APPEAL BY THE CONVICTED DEVINE KILLERS, THE NUMBER OF INSTANCES AND, IN ONE MURDER, THE DEGREE OF TORTURE INFLICTED (TONGUE CUT OFF, HANDS BUTCHERED, "TIRO DE GRACIA" TO THE HEAD) LEAD US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT PERSONS UNKNOWN (BUT PROBABLY RELATED TO THE MILITARY) WHO ARE NOT PLEASED WITH THE USG ROLE IN THE DEVINE MATTER ARE A THREAT TO THE WITNESS RELATIVES STILL IN GUATEMALA.)

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