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# Guatemala Update

Although Congress is at the end of its holiday recess, there was no hiatus for the people working on Guatemala. For them, the recess has been a period of long hours and intense pressure to put together an extraordinarily complicated story before hearings start again.

The Guatemala story has raised fundamental questions about our business, and about the Agency's relationship with the Congress. The ADCI recently summarized the impact of Guatemala as follows: "We can take small consolation that Congressman Torricelli's accusations about CIA complicity in the Devine/Bamaca deaths, CIA secretly and unilaterally supplementing the cutoff of military aid to Guatemala, and other accusations related to NSA and the US Army are false charges. This notwithstanding, these important points were eclipsed in the April 5 open hearing by the accusation that a Congressional Committee was not properly informed, or, worse yet, that CIA officers might have even misled or lied to the Committee about certain aspects of Guatemalan intelligence reporting and activities. I do not believe this is true, but when we do not comply with our obligations to fully and completely inform the Congress of certain activities and information, we create a liability for ourselves."

The ADCI has commissioned two task forces to look at the issue of Congressional notification, one from a CIA perspective, the other from an Intelligence Community perspective. Both are headed by Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs David Holmes. The task forces have been reviewing the adequacy of current procedures for dealing with Congress and also will recommend additional steps to improve notification practices, guidelines, and accountability. The first task was completed early this week and the report has gone to the ADCI. The second task, to recommend improvements, must be completed by the end of May. The DO has instituted a more structured and formal system for Congressional notification. Record keeping is an integral part of this system, and the DO is working closely with the Office of Congressional Affairs in this effort.

Other reviews of the Guatemala story are underway. The Directorate of Operations is now engaged in a complete review of assets to assess all evidence on their involvement in violations of human rights. The Aspin Commission is studying the issue of human rights as it relates to the intelligence business. The Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB), a subcommittee of the President's Foreign Intelli-

gence Advisory Board, is just beginning its investigation of the Guatemala story. The Board's review will look at the roles of all government agencies involved in intelligence and policy coordination; at the US intelligence relationship with Guatemala; at the asset validation process; and at the assault on Sister Ortiz, the deaths of Devine and Bamaca, and any deaths of US citizens in Guatemala since 1984. The CIA Inspector General began a review in January of the deaths of Devine and Bamaca and has expanded the scope of the inquiry as the story has expanded. Inspectors General in at least three other agencies are also looking at these issues, and a department-wide review is underway in DoD. Investigators from the CIA IG and other investigators from the IOB, the State Department, and the Defense Department are in Guatemala this week. Both Congressional oversight committees have indicated that they plan more hearings on the subject.

There is no indication yet as to when additional Congressional hearings might be scheduled. Both the House and the Senate have sent questions for the record which are being answered by the appropriate components. *What's News* will continue to run updates as developments warrant. (This is ~~SECRET~~.)

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