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24 APRIL 53

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SECURITY INFORMATION

IN 19249

TO:

DIRECTOR, CIA

FROM:

SR REP GUATEMALA CITY

ROUTINE

ACTION: WH 4

0331Z 26 APR 53

INFORMATION:

COP, PP 2, PP/PYD 2, FI/RI 2

GUAT 831

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

TO: DIR

CITE: SQUAT

RE: DIR 01426 (OUT 56240 )

~~2003~~

1. PRENSA LIBRE AND OTHER INDEPENDENT DAILIES 21 APRIL REPORTED 58 WOMEN REPRESENTING ALL SECTORS WOMEN OF GUATEMALA PUBLICLY DIRECTED MEMORIAL OF FACTS AND PETITION OF REDRESS TO CHIEF ARMED FORCES CARLOS ENRIQUE DIAZ AS FOLLOWS:

A. INHUMAN TORTURE IN COURSE OFFICIAL JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF PERSONS SUSPECTED IMPLICATION SALAMA REVOLT;

B. MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF JUAN CORDOVA CERNA FOLLOWING POMPOUS, SHOWY ARREST HIS HOME BY LARGE NUMBER SECRET POLICE;

C. BRUTAL ASSASSINATION FOUR PRISONERS IN SALAMA JAIL WHO SAID TO BE LEADERS REVOLT. MEMORIAL STATES THAT FACT A HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY DENIED BY POLICE CHIEFS BUT NO OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION ORDERED WHEREAS VICTIMS REITERATED TORTURE CHARGES AND THEIR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS WITNESSED BY THIRD PARTIES; THAT POLICE EXPLANATION (FACT B) THAT CORDOVA CERNA ESCAPED FROM TWO GUARDS EN ROUTE SALAMA FOR TRIAL FANTASTIC BECAUSE:

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(1) ONLY RUDIMENTARY COMMON SENSE THAT IF LARGE NUMBER POLICE NEEDED ARREST HIM, POLICE WOULD NOT TRUST TWO GUARDS TAKE HIM SALAMA;

(2) A PERSON OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED AS HEAD OF SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN SALAMA VIA LONG EXPENSIVE LAND ROUTE WHEN OTHER PRISONERS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE FLOWN SAME DESTINATION <sup>UNDER M.L.C.</sup> ~~(PORTION HEAVIER - GUARD. (3) EVEN IF BY INCREDIBLE MISSING BEING SERVICED)~~ INEPTNESS OR COMPLACENCY FARFICAL POLICE EXPLANATION TRUE, STILL UNBELIEVABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE THAT POLICE WHOSE EFFICIENCY REPEATEDLY PROVEN SHOULD CLAIM THEY UNABLE LOCATE HIM AFTER SO MANY (20) DAYS ELAPSED;

(4) RIDICULOUS THAT CIVIL GUARD SHOULD WAIT ANY PERIOD AT ALL WHETHER 2, 15 OR 20 DAYS BEFORE ORDERING RECAPTURE (ACTUALLY 13); THAT, REF FACT C, ALL GUAT PUBLIC SECTORS HAVE LONG AND HARSHLY BRANDED AS BARBARIC THE APPLICATION, BY REGIMES OF FORCE, THE "LEY FUGA" (SHOOTING OF PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING ESCAPE) AND HOW IN TRUE DEMOCRACY KILLING FOUR PRISONERS IN CELL ALLEGEDLY TRYING BREAK PADLOCK TO ESCAPE BE TOLERATED; THAT THESE FACTS CONSTITUTE FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS MOST ELEMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND MOST FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES; THAT IN VIEW INDIFFERENCE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO SAID VIOLATIONS HE COLONEL DIAZ IS REQUESTED BY THE WOMEN SIGNING

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MEMORIAL TO ABANDON HIS EXCESSIVE SCRUPULOUS IMPARTIALITY - HIS ONLY EXCUSE FOR HIS OTHERWISE UNEXPLAINABLE INACTION - FEELING CERTAIN THEY INTERPRET SENTIMENTS PEOPLE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND TO FULFILL HIS OATH REPEATEDLY TAKEN BEFORE CONGRESS TO DEFEND CONSTITUTION AND SEE VIOLATORS THEREOF PUNISHED; THAT HE STOP THE TORTURES AND RESOLVE MYSTERY CORDOVA CERNA DISAPPEARANCE; THAT HE DEFEND CONSTITUTION SO THAT GUATEMALAN PEOPLE MAY RECOVER CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS LOST AS RESULT REPEATED VIOLATIONS THAT INSTRUMENT.

2. COMMITTEE SEVERAL WOMEN CALLED AT COL DIAZ OFFICE TO PRESENT ABOVE MEMORIAL BUT WERE TOLD HE IN NEW ORLEANS (AIR TRAVEL LIST SHOWS DEPARTURE 16 APRIL) WAS SCHEDULED RETURN GUATEMALA 23 APRIL. WIFE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS STATING HE VISITING MOTHER-IN-LAW. B-2. SUGGEST PLAY UP FLEEING FROM WRATH OF WOMEN.

3. PRENSA LIBRE 22 APRIL REPORTED GROUP WOMEN INCLUDING MOTHER COL FRANCISCO JAVIER ARANA (ANTICOMMUNIST CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES ASSASSINATED BY PROCOMMUNIST GANGSTERS IN PRESENT GOVT) PRESENTED MEMORIAL TO WIFE PRESIDENT ARBENZ ASKING HER STEP OFF PEDESTAL AND PUT SELF IN PLACE WIVES OF VICTIMS SALAMA; HOPING SHE NEVER FINDS SELF IN POSITION NOT KNOWING WHEREABOUTS HER HUSBAND OR CHILDREN; STATING THAT AS WIFE AND MOTHER SHE CAN INFLUENCE HUSBAND TO PUT END

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TO TORTURES AND THUS DEMONSTRATE THAT BEHIND HER POMP AND PRIDE LIES SOUL OF A WOMAN DISPOSED TO EASE HURTS OF OTHERS NOT ONLY FOR HER OWN SAKE BUT FOR HER CHILDREN OTHERWISE GOD ALONE KNOWS WHAT WILL BE THEIR FUTURE SINCE THERE EXISTS JUST IMPLACABLE LAW OF COMPENSATION FROM WHICH NONE ESCAPE. MEMORIAL STATES THOUSANDS OF MOTHERS AWAIT NOBLE DECISIVE GESTURE BE MERCIFUL, TO STRIVE TO END THIS ERA OF TERROR, MISERY, PERSECUTION, TORTURES, ASSASSINATIONS CAUSED BY A FEW GODLESS TRAITORS, SO THAT CHILDREN OF TOMORROW MAY REMEMBER HER WITH AFFECTION AND HISTORY FIND A WORTHY PLACE FOR HER. SAME SOURCE STATES SAME GROUP ALSO DIRECTED MESSAGE SOLIDARITY TO WIFE OF CORDOVA CERNA EXPRESSING GREATEST SORROW UNABLE REMEDY HER GRIEF AS WOULD LIKE; HOPING LAW MAY BE FULFILLED AND HUSBAND FREEDOM THAT BITTER TRUTH BE TOLD SINCE PUBLIC EXPECTS ANYTHING FROM SUCH BEASTS; RAISING HUMBLE PRAYERS OF FAITH AND HOPE TO GOD THAT PEACE RETURN TO HOMES OF TORTURED.

4. LA HORA 21 APRIL REPORTED BAR ASSOCIATION (COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS - OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF ENTIRE LEGAL PROFESSION) APPEAL TO MINISTER OF GOVT AUGUSTO CHARNAUD MACDONALD AS FOLLOWS: ASSOCIATION ACTION NOT POLITICAL IN NATURE NOR A USURPATION RESPONSIBILITIES BUT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO SECURE STRICT FULFILLMENT CONSTITUTION

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AND PERFORM LEGAL DUTY DEFEND ONE OF ITS MEMBERS. REVIEWED FACTS:

A. ON 1 APRIL UNDER SEIZURE ORDER ISSUED BY JUDGE GONZALO RAUL CASTRO HOUSE OF CORDOVA CERNA SEARCHED AND LATTER SEIZED BY EXCESSIVE NUMBER POLICE.

B. SEVERAL DAYS LATER FAMILY MADE PETITION HABEAS CORPUS AND INFORMED BY DIRECTOR CIVIL GUARD CORDOVA CERNA CAPTURED UNDER ORDER SALAMA JUDGE BUT HAD FLED CUSTODY AND PETITION OUT OF ORDER.

C. THAT SINCE 3 APRIL WHEREABOUTS CORDOVA CERNA NOT KNOWN, THAT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED DIRECTOR OF CIVIL GUARD ROGELIO CRUZ WER WHO REITERATED STORY; THAT BAR ASSN FINDS STORY FLIGHT IMPOSSIBLE BELIEVE; THAT EVEN IF STORY TRUE NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OFFERED FOR LACK KNOWLEDGE WHEREABOUTS SO MANY DAYS; THAT ARTICLE 23 CONSTITUTION OBLIGES STATE PROTECT HUMAN EXISTENCE, MAINTAIN RIGHTS LIFE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON, THE HONOR AND POSSESSIONS; THAT IF THESE RIGHTS IGNORED, PEOPLE ARE THREATENED BY VERY PERSONS SWORN UPHOLD CONSTITUTION; THAT ASSN CANNOT ACCEPT AUTHORITIES EXPLANATIONS AND PROTESTS MOST ENERGETICALLY IN PRESENT CASE OR RECURRENCE THEREOF; THAT IN NAME OF HIS OATH AS LAWYER AND FOR REPUTATION OF COUNTRY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS MIN OF GOVT CLARIFY DISAPPEARANCE AND FULFILL LAWS OF REPUBLIC.

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5. SUGGEST PLAY UP THAT ALL INDICATIONS CORDOVA CERNA  
PUSHED ACROSS HONDURAN BORDER BY GUATEMALAN POLICE AFTER INDICATED  
PRESSURES, THAT IN FACT NEVER ESCAPED. (FAMILY HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED  
IS IN HONDURAS).

END OF MESSAGE

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