

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

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[REDACTED] 9 Jun 90

25X1, E.O.13526

Withheld under statutory authority of the
Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50
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TOR: 091900Z JUN 90

~~SECRET~~ 091804Z JUN 90 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: INFORMATION [REDACTED] ON JESUIT MURDER CASE

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE REPORTED ON A CONVERSATION HE
HAD SAME MORNING WITH [REDACTED] MILITARY POLICE
(SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES - ESAF), WHO WAS ON GUARD AT THE
MILITARY ACADEMY ON 15 AND 16 NOVEMBER 89, WHEN THE JESUIT
PRIESTS, THEIR HOUSEKEEPER AND HER DAUGHTER WERE MURDERED ON
THE CAMPUS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA).

[REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE RESENTED THE WAY THE LOWER RANKING
MILITARY MEN WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE CRIME WITH YEARS
IN JAIL WHILE THE HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS, SUCH AS FORMER

25X1, E.O.13526

MILITARY ACADEMY DIRECTOR COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO ((BENAVIDES)) MORENO, WOULD LIKELY GET OFF LIGHTLY OR GO FREE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE WAS ON GUARD AT THE OUTER STREET GATE OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY FROM BEFORE UNTIL AFTER THE MURDERS ON EARLY MORNING OF 16 NOVEMBER 89. WHEN [REDACTED] ASKED WHETHER HE WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION IN THE CRIME, [REDACTED] ANSWERED THAT HE WAS NOT, BUT THAT HE KNEW MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAD OCCURRED THOSE TWO DAYS. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] HE WAS ON GUARD DUTY FOR A 24-HOUR PERIOD THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON AND NIGHT OF 15 NOVEMBER. AT ABOUT 7:00 PM ON 15 NOVEMBER, HE SAID, ATLACATL IMMEDIATE REACTION BATTALION (BIRI) 2ND LIEUTENANT GONZALO ((GUEVARA)) CERRITOS (WHO IS ONE OF THE OFFICERS UNDER DETENTION FOR THE MURDERS) ORDERED HIM AND ABOUT SEVEN OTHER MILITARY POLICE GUARDS TO COME WITH HIM. GUEVARA CERRITOS TOLD THE GROUP THEY WERE GOING TO THE PUBLIC SECURITY ACADEMY (CETIPOL) IN SANTA TECLA TO PICK UP SOME UNIFORMS. [REDACTED] AND THE OTHERS WENT ALONG WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED AND RECEIVED ABOUT 15 BOXES OF BRAND NEW CAMOUFLAGE UTILITY UNIFORMS FROM THE ACADEMY DIRECTOR, COLONEL RIGOBERTO ((SOTO)) MARTINEZ. AS THEY DEPARTED, [REDACTED] SOTO CALLED OUT TO THE GROUP, "DON'T FAIL IN YOUR MISSION." [REDACTED] AND THE OTHERS DID NOT KNOW TO WHAT HE REFERRED, BUT ASKED NO QUESTIONS.

6. UPON RETURNING WITH THE UNIFORMS TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY, LT. GUEVARA CERRITOS PASSED OUT THE NEW UNIFORMS TO A GROUP OF BIRI ATLACATL TROOPS WHO WERE AT THE ACADEMY. THIS GROUP WAS CLUSTERED AROUND THE ACADEMY SOCCER FIELD, WHERE THEY PUT ON THE UNIFORMS AND THEN BEGAN TO SMEAR CAMOUFLAGE PAINT ON THEIR FACES, DON BLACK GLOVES AND CHECK THEIR WEAPONS. THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, LT. COLONEL CARLOS CAMILO ((HERNANDEZ)) HAD TAKEN CHARGE OF THE BIRI ATLACATL GROUP, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] WHO SAID HE WAS STILL PRESENT AFTER HELPING PASS OUT THE UNIFORMS. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HERNANDEZ WAS WALKING AMONG THE ATLACATL TROOPS AS THEY PREPARED THEMSELVES, OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT, WHICH [REDACTED] SAID HE NATURALLY OVERHEARD. [REDACTED] HERNANDEZ TOLD THE MEN, "YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS SPECIAL MISSION BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BRAVEST AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED."

7. [REDACTED] SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO DUTY AT THE FRONT GATE

GUARD POST AND REMAINED THERE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT OF 15-16 NOVEMBER; HE SAID HE LEARNED OF THE JESUIT MURDERS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 16 NOVEMBER. AT ABOUT 0900, [REDACTED] COL. BENAVIDES, WHO HAD BEEN UP AND IN RADIO CONTACT WITH UNIDENTIFIED UNITS ALL NIGHT LONG AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY, GATHERED TOGETHER ALL THE MILITARY SCHOOL INSIDE GUARD PERSONNEL AS WELL AS THE MILITARY POLICE FROM OUTSIDE THE GATE. [REDACTED] COL. BENAVIDES ORDERED THE GROUP TO MAINTAIN TOTAL SILENCE ABOUT THE MURDERS. HE INSISTED THAT NO ONE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ANYTHING TO ANYONE OR, "WE'RE ALL DEAD." [REDACTED] COL. BENAVIDES TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE OFFICIAL STORY TO WHICH THEY WOULD ALL STICK ON THE KILLINGS WAS THAT INSURGENT GUERRILLA FORCES HAD INFILTRATED THE UCA CAMPUS AND MURDERED THE JESUITS AND TWO LAY WOMEN. BEYOND THIS, THEY WERE TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.

8. LATER, [REDACTED] INDIVIDUALS FROM SIU DID GATHER THE GROUP OF MILITARY POLICE TOGETHER AND QUESTIONED THEM TOGETHER ABOUT WHAT THEY KNEW OF THE NIGHT OF THE MURDERS. ALL SAID THEY KNEW NOTHING AND HAD SEEN NOTHING. THE MATTER WAS NOT PURSUED WITH ANY OF THEM, [REDACTED] AND HE HAD NOT SPOKEN OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENTS UNTIL NOW.

9. IN ADDITION TO THESE SPECIFIC EVENTS, [REDACTED] BECAUSE HE WAS ON DUTY THE WHOLE DAY AND NIGHT FROM 15-16 NOVEMBER, HE NOT ONLY REMEMBERS ALL THOSE WHO PASSED THROUGH THE GATES OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY, BUT ALSO KNOWS THAT THERE EXISTS A SEPARATE MILITARY POLICE LOG FROM THE ONE BURNED BY LT. YUSSHY RENE ((MENDOZA)) WITH ENTRIES OF ALL THE VEHICLES, LICENSE PLATES AND PERSONS WHO CAME AND WENT DURING THOSE 24 HOURS. [REDACTED] THE MILITARY POLICE ALWAYS KEEP SUCH A RECORD IN THE GUARDHOUSE JUST OUTSIDE THE GATE TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY BUT NO ACADEMY OFFICERS EVER SEE IT AND IT IS SIGNED OFF ON BY ONLY LOW-RANKING MILITARY POLICE THEMSELVES. [REDACTED] THIS LOG FOR THOSE TWO DAYS IS STILL AT THE GUARD POST. HE SAID THAT NO ONE EVER REQUESTED TO CHECK THIS LOG NOR EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE.

10. [REDACTED] DURING THE DAY OF 15 NOVEMBER ALL OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL RAFAEL HUMBERTO ((LARIOS)) LOPEZ; CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, COLONEL RENE EMILIO ((PONCE)); THEN-MILITARY ACADEMY DIRECTOR, COLONEL GUILLERMO ALFREDO ((BENAVIDES)) MORENO; THEN-ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY, LT. COLONEL

CARLOS CAMILO ((HERNANDEZ)); NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
DIONISIO ISMAEL ((MACHUCA)); THEN-AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL,
JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)); AND OTHERS ALL CAME AND WENT DURING
THE DAY OF 15 NOVEMBER.

25X1, E.O.13526