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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340

24



1 December 1992

C-7124/PS

John Hamilton
Director, Central American Affairs
Office of the Assistant Secretary of State
for Inter-American Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520-6258

El Mozote

Dear Mr. Hamilton: *John,*

(U) Reference is made to your 23 November 1992 memorandum, which requested DIA to review its files for any DoD-derived information relevant to the Truth Commission's fifth set of questions, including requests for interviews with former Defense Attaches.

(C) Enclosed is a summary of that file search. We retained the original classification of the information to ensure that you had the full information we found in DIA files. We would expect little problem in sanitizing the information for release to the Truth Commission when you have consolidated responses from all intelligence agencies.

(C) Regarding the Truth Commission's request for interviews with former U.S. military advisors and Defense Attaches, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs, has assumed responsibility to obtain official DoD policy regarding such interviews and will provide you with that response separately.

Sincerely,

William A. Naughton
WILLIAM A. NAUGHTON
Defense Intelligence Officer
for Latin America
Directorate for Policy Support

1 Enclosure
DIA File Search
(C/NF), 1 cy

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FROM: [REDACTED] N/C

15 December 1992

SUBJECT: Request for Information from the Truth Commission (U)

1. (U) Dutch Journalists Case

a. (S/NF) Question 8. Miguel Castellanos was a member of the FPL Central Committee and Metropolitan Front Political-Military commander.

2. (U) Case of Pickett-Dawson

a. (S/NF) Questions 1 & 2. The downing of the U.S military helicopter and the killing of LTC David Pickett and PFC Dawson occurred in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Other key personnel of the Sesori-Lolotique Subzone in January 1991 were:

[REDACTED] N/C
(P) Aparicio - Military Commander

S/NF
(S)

N/C
N/C
N/C
N/C

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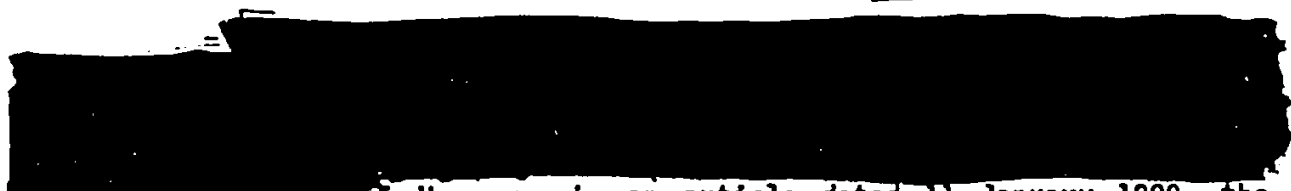
4. (U) Miguel Castellanos

a. (U) Question 1

- (U) Napoleon ((Romero)) Garcia, Comandante (P) Miguel Castellanos, 40, who defected from the FPL in 1985, was murdered late in the afternoon of 16 February 1989 in his car, not far from his office in northwest San Salvador. Castellanos' vehicle was blocked by two carloads of gunmen who fired over 50 rounds from G-3 and M-16 assault rifles. Castellanos was killed instantly and his bodyguard, Rafael ((Quijada)), was seriously wounded.

- ~~(S)~~ At the time of his defection, Castellanos, who had been an FMLN member for 10 years, was the chief of an urban guerrilla front in San Salvador. After his defection, he founded the Center for the Study of the National Reality (CEREN) along with two other ex-guerrilla leaders. CEREN promoted democracy and encouraged other guerrillas to defect. He wrote a book on his experiences with the FMLN and authored numerous articles. The FMLN had long threatened to assassinate castellanos because he was a government collaborator. [AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, 222351Z FEB 89]

STATS



O/A

However, in an article dated 11 January 1990, the Salvadoran newspaper La Prensa reported that Pablo Salvador ((Carcamo)), (P) Roberto, a FAL commander, was charged with a series of murders including that of Miguel Castellanos. There were no further details.

STATS

- ~~(S/SPECAT)~~ Three months later, on 24 October 1989, President Cristiani revealed in a press conference that, according to ballistics experts, the weapons used to kill Castellanos were the same as those used to assassinate Jose Antonio ((Rodriguez)) Porth. ERP leader Joaquin Villalobos admitted on February 2, 1992, that Rodriguez porth was one of the victims of an FMLN General Command-directed assassination campaign. Therefore, if Cristiani's assertions are correct, it would mean that the guerrillas also killed Castellanos. [AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, 260003Z OCT 89; AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, 052315Z FEB 92]

b. (U) Question 1a. The FMLN never formally claimed responsibility for Castellanos' murder, although they gloated over it in radio broadcasts. On the evening of 16 February, Radio Venceremos reported that the "traitor" Miguel Castellanos was killed and then stated that he was responsible for crimes against members of the "People's Movement." A 19 February commentary on Radio Farabundo Marti, the FPL clandestine radio station, stated that the "execution" of Miguel Castellanos represented a "political and military victory of the people in addition to a warning to all traitors and supporters of the dictatorship" and that Castellanos was where he belongs, "in the garbage dump of history." [FBIS, 170216Z FEB 89; FBIS, 201609Z FEB 89]

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c. (S/F) Question 1b. Miguel Castellanos was a member of the FPL Central Committee and Metropolitan Front Political-Military commander.

5. (U) Las Hojas

a. (S/NF/WN) Question 4

- We have no information confirming that the FMLN had succeeded in infiltrating ANIS by February 1983, the time of the Las Hojas massacre. Nevertheless, documents in the possession of PRTC leader (P) Nidia Diaz when she was captured in April 1985 allege some later success in PRTC efforts to infiltrate ANIS, although exactly when that effort began is unclear. One of these, a report to the PRTC Political Commission of the Central Committee dated 24 February 1984, stated that the second ranking member of ANIS had agreed to cooperate with the PRTC. The PRTC's goal, according to the documents, was to use ANIS as a front in its efforts to raise money. The PRTC planned to assist ANIS in developing humanitarian aid project proposals as well as pay for ANIS members to travel to Mexico to solicit funding for these projects from non-governmental organizations based there. [REDACTED] Q/A

state [- Although the documents do not cite the ANIS official by name, they probably were referring to Fermin (Garcia) Guardado, ANIS vice president at the time. In November 1986, Fermin Garcia along with labor leader and FARN member Guillermo Rojas traveled to Europe as members of a UNTS--a well-known FMLN labor front--fund-raising group. However, we are unable to establish if Fermin Garcia was a FMLN member. [AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, 292105Z JAN 87; AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR CITE 10854]

6. (U) FENASTRAS

a. (U) Question 4. There is no further evidence to indicate that the FMLN was involved in the FENASTRAS bombing.

b. (U) Question 5. The following personalities, some of whom are probably no longer associated with FENASTRAS, were FENASTRAS employees as well as members of the RN faction at or before the 31 October 1989 bombing of FENASTRAS headquarters. Names, FMLN pseudonyms, and RN activities are included.

state [- (S) Febe Elizabeth [Velasquez] (P) Susanah: At time of the bombing, she was FENASTRAS Secretary of International Relations. She was arrested on 7 July 1989 on suspicion of membership in the RN and released on 11 July. While in custody, she signed a statement admitting that she had been a RN member since 1982 and had been in Cuba in May 1985 on behalf of the FMLN. [AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 09681]. One of the slogans for the 1989 FMLN Offensive was "Out with the Fascists--Febe Velasquez Lives". [DAO SAN SALVADOR, 162243Z NOV 89] The FMLN often named major military campaigns after persons it considered fallen martyrs.

- (S/NF/WN/NC/OC) Hector [Bernabel] Recinos Aquirre (P) Tomas: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FENASTRAS and RN member Bernabe was a member of her urban

Q/A [REDACTED] DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR

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commando cell. [redacted] Bernabe reportedly was responsible for coordinating the 1989 FMLN effort to sabotage San Salvador's electric power network. [redacted]

o/f

- (C/NF) Juan Jose [Ingles] (P) Reynaldo: One time FENASTRAS Secretary of Youth Affairs, Ingles, according to Gloria Alicia Galan, was also a urban commando leader in charge of transporting explosives and ammunition between RN safehouses in San Salvador and FENASTRAS headquarters where weapons and ammunition for urban sabotage activities often were stored. [470TH MIBDE, 081835Z JUN 89]

N/A

- (S/NF/WR/NC/OC) Gerardo [Diaz] Henriquez: Diaz, an RN member, served as FENASTRAS General Secretary until November 1990. In December 1987, during a labor strike by the fishing industry in La Union Department coordinated by Diaz for the FMLN, the FMLN used the strike as a cover to send food to FMLN guerrillas in Morazan and Conchagua. [redacted] In March 1989, Diaz reportedly was involved in FMLN efforts to sabotage the electric power grid in San Salvador. [redacted]

3/A

- (S/NF/WR/NC/OC) Juan Jose [Huezo]: Huezo, a RN member, is the FENASTRAS Secretary General. Huezo was involved in a violent occupation of the Labor Ministry in 1988. He was arrested in March 1989 for participation in a violent street protest and for throwing spikes on the streets of San Salvador. [AMEMBASSY SAN SAL, 212316Z NOV 90]

5/10/89

TRANS

- (S/NF/WR/NC/OC) Jose Facundo [Mauricio] Ramirez (P) Pedro: At the time of his capture in July 1985 for involvement in RN activities [470TH MIBDE, 161805Z SEP 87], Facundo Mauricio, a RN member, was FENASTRAS Secretary for Youth Affairs and the RN member responsible for masas in San Salvador. He previously represented the RN in Mexico City and in 1981 reportedly received military training in Cuba and Nicaragua. [redacted]

o/A

- (C/NF) Mario [Palencia] (P) Chino: Palencia, a RN member, was the former FENASTRAS Secretary of Finances. According to Gloria Alicia [Galan], Palencia directed violent FENASTRAS demonstrations that ended up in store lootings. [470TH MIBDE, 081835Z JUN 89]

- (S/NF/WR/NC/OC) Jose Daniel Melendez [Lopez]: Daniel Lopez was killed during the 1989 bombing of FENASTRAS headquarters. In December 1987, during a labor strike by the fishing industry in La Union Department coordinated by RN and FENASTRAS members Daniel Lopez and Gerardo Diaz for the FMLN, the FMLN used the strike as a cover to send food to FMLN guerrillas in Morazan and Conchagua. [redacted]

1/A

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