

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday - 10:30 am
October 12, 1967

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Res. 11/20

SANTIZED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 95-319

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Death of "Che" Guevara

By cb, NARA Date 1-31-97

*1.5(c)(d)
3.4(b)(1), (b)*

This morning we are about 99% sure that "Che" Guevara is dead.

[REDACTED]

These should arrive in Washington today or tomorrow.

CIA tells us that the latest information is that Guevara was taken alive. After a short interrogation to establish his identity, General Ovando -- Chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces -- ordered him shot. I regard this as stupid, but it is understandable from a Bolivian standpoint, given the problems which the sparing of French communist and Castro courier Regis Debray has caused them.

The death of Guevara carries these significant implications:

- It marks the passing of another of the aggressive, romantic revolutionaries like Sukarno, Nkrumah, Ben Bella -- and reinforces this trend.
- In the Latin American context, it will have a strong impact in discouraging would-be guerrillas.
- It shows the soundness of our "preventive medicine" assistance to countries facing incipient insurgency -- it was the Bolivian 2nd Ranger Battalion, trained by our Green Berets from June-September, ^{of this year} that cornered him and got him.

We have put these points across to several newsmen.

W. Rostow

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