

24 March 1995

[REDACTED] B321, 3588z

ISSUE/POINT: SIGINT Reporting on Murders of Michael Devine in 1990 and the Disappearance of Efraim Bamaca in 1992 in Guatemala (C-CCO)

BACKGROUND:

(U) On 23 March 1995 a charge was made to the U.S. President that the U.S. Intelligence Community was involved in a coverup in the murder of Michael Devine (a U.S. citizen residing in Guatemala) in 1990 and the disappearance of guerrilla leader Efraim Bamaca Velasquez in 1992.

NSA POSITION:

(S) [REDACTED] (NOFORN/NOCONTRACT) NSA has issued 20 individual SIGINT product reports (including 8 at the [REDACTED] level) on the Bamaca case since it was brought to light by his widow's protests in October 1994. There were 8 SIGINT reports related to the Devine case.

- The majority of reporting on this incident and surrounding events has come from CIA, State, [REDACTED] and press. Michael Devine, a hotel owner in Peten Province, Guatemala, was murdered apparently by a Guatemalan military death squad on 8 June 1990. A resolution was reached in May 1993 with the conviction of a Guatemalan army captain and six enlisted men. The army captain subsequently escaped and was believed to be still at large as of August 1993. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The 8 SIGINT reports relate to Guatemalan government reaction to U.S. and international human rights concerns, and provide no information regarding the circumstances of death or Col Alpírez' alleged involvement.

- According to collateral, Commandante Bamaca, who is married to a U.S. citizen was captured during an engagement with the Guatemalan military and subsequently executed. The existence of Bamaca, or any U.S. interest or involvement in his activities did not appear in SIGINT, prior to his wife's inquiry. The furor over the Bamaca case has led to numerous demarches, protests and the curtailment of U.S. military aid to Guatemala. SIGINT product reporting has reflected Guatemala's reactions to these actions. [REDACTED]

