

(E7)

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 LAB-04
TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 USIE-00 SP-02
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/PS/CR/IT Date: 3-17-98
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations
 DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS auth
PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec.
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

GUATEMALA 03229

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: GT PGOV SHUM SOCI
SUBJECT: DEATH OF MARIA ROSARIO GODOY DE CUEVAS, A
DIRECTOR OF THE "MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUP" (GAM)

REF: A) GUATEMALA 3116, B) CASON-SHANNON TELCON 4/5/85

1. AT ABOUT 8:00 PM APRIL 4, MARIA DEL ROSARIO GODOY ALDANA DE CUEVAS, A FOUNDER AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GAM WAS FOUND DEAD IN HER AUTOMOBILE, THE VICTIM OF AN APPARENT VEHICULAR ACCIDENT. ALSO FOUND DEAD WERE HER INFANT SON, AND HER BROTHER, MAYNOR RENE GODOY ALDANA. MRS. CUEVAS IS THE SECOND MEMBER OF THE GAM TO HAVE DIED IN A WEEK. ON MARCH 31, HECTOR GOMEZ WAS FOUND MURDERED NEAR GUATEMALA CITY. AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GAM MRS CUEVAS HAD MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND VISITORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING DESK OFFICER CASON.

2. AT ABOUT THE TIME OF REF B), POLOFF WAS ADVISED OF HER DEATH BY PBI MEMBER FATHER ALAIN RICHARD. SUBSEQUENTLY POLOFF ATTENDED HER FUNERAL SERVICES AND SPOKE WITH RICHARD AND ANOTHER PBI MEMBER,

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CHARLES GRAY. AS A RESULT OF THAT CONVERSATION, AS WELL AS OTHERS, POLOFF DEVELOPED FOLLOWING VERSION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING MRS CUEVAS' DEATH.

3. AT ABOUT 11:30 HOURS ON APRIL 4 CUEVAS LEFT HER HOME, PRESUMABLY TO GO SHOPPING. HER CAR WAS FOUND AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 HOURS IN A RAVINE WHICH IS OFF A ROAD IN THE SOUTHERN REACHES OF THE CITY. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, TRAVELING ON THAT ROAD SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PART OF HER ITINERARY, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT FAR FROM HER HOUSE. NONE OF OUR SOURCES KNEW IF THE BODIES HAD SUFFERED WILLFUL PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. NO AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED AT THE REQUEST OF THE FAMILY.

4. ACCORDING TO RICHARD (PROTECT), THE POLICE DESCRIBE THE DEATH AS ACCIDENTAL, RESULTING FROM THE CAR LEAVING THE ROAD AND FALLING INTO THE RAVINE. HOWEVER, RICHARD FELT THAT HER DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN PREMEDITATED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HER TO BE ON THAT ROAD, AND THAT THE CRASH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN VIOLENT ENOUGH TO HAVE RESULTED IN THEIR DEATHS. HE ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE THAT HER DEATH OCCURRED DURING HOLY WEEK WHEN NO NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED AND THE MEDIA PAYS SCANT ATTENTION TO EVENTS OF THIS TYPE.

5. NEXT MONDAY POLOFF WILL MEET WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF GAM'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO EXAMINE THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT AND, IF POSSIBLE, THE SUBJECT AUTOMOBILE.

PIEDRA

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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