

[REDACTED]

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SECRET

[REDACTED]

FEBRUARY 1968

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1. [REDACTED] CONNENT I [REDACTED] PRESS OF 24 JANUARY 1968 REPORTED THAT FOUR MEN HAD BEEN KILLED DURING A GUNBATTLE WITH GUATEMALAN SECURITY FORCES [REDACTED] THE FOUR MEN WERE SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS RAFAEL TISCHLER GUZMAN, CAYETANO BARRENO JUAREZ, JULIO CESAR ARNAS GONZALEZ, AND ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE MOREL. AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT TISCHLER WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE GUATEMALAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PGT), AND THAT BARRENO WAS ALSO A HIGH-LEVEL PGT LEADER. ARNAS WAS REPORTED BY SEVERAL SOURCES TO HAVE TRAVELLED TO CUBA IN NOVEMBER 1965. THERE IS NO AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON DE LA TORRE, OTHER THAN THAT CONTAINED IN THE PRESS STORY, I.E. THAT HE IS A NATURALIZED GUATEMALAN CITIZEN, A VENEZUELAN NATIONAL, AND A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA.)

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2. TISCHLER AND BARRENO WERE CAPTURED BY MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH CORPS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IN A BAR IN ZONE 12, GUATEMALA CITY,

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 DATE FEB 31 1998

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ON 21 JANUARY. THEY WERE EXECUTED, ALONG WITH ARNAS AND DE LA TORRE,
ON 24 JANUARY IN A HOUSE WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY RENTED BY THE
FOURTH CORPS FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY. THE REPORT OF THE GUNFIGHT, AS
WELL AS THE REPORTED DISCOVERY OF WEAPONS AND SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA,
WAS GIVEN TO THE PRESS TO HIDE THE FACT THAT THE FOUR MEN HAD BEEN
APPREHENDED AND LATER EXECUTED.

3 [REDACTED]

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4 [REDACTED]

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PAGE 3

DENIED IN FULL

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8