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Printed: 12/12/1997

DOC_NUMBER 01154

CHANNEL: n/a

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY SHULTZ AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARA MOTLEY FROM AMBASSADOR CHAPIN

E.O.12356: DECL: 2/2/90
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GT, SHUM
SUBJECT: RECENT KIDNAPPINGS: SIGNS POINT TO
- GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES

REF: GUATEMALA 1155

(C) SUMMARY: THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TWO RECENT
GUATEMALA CITY KIDNAPPINGS CLEARLY SUGGEST THEY
WERE PERPETRATED BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES.
IN ONE CASE THE YOUNG VICTIM WAS SEIZED BY AN
ARMED GROUP IN TWO CARS FROM ONE OF THE CITY'S
MAIN SHOPPING CENTERS, WHILE NATIONAL POLICE
STOOD IDLY BY. IN THE SECOND, MORE FLAGRANT
CASE, THE VICTIM WAS CARRIED OUT ON A STRETCHER
FROM A HOSPITAL BY TEN ARMED MEN WITH A BOTTLE
OF INTRAVENOUS FLUID STILL DRIPPING INTO HIS ARM.
HE WAS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM ABOUT TO UNDERGO
SURGERY FOR THE REMOVAL OF BULLETS RECEIVED
EARLIER IN THE DAY FROM AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
HE WAS THE ONE REMAINING MEMBER OF A FAMILY OF FOUR.
HIS MOTHER AND TWO SIBLINGS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFY IN PART
EXCISE
DENY
NO Citations
CLASSIFY as () or ()
EXEMPTIONS
Authority to
DOWNGRADE TO () or ()

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ABDUCTED FROM THEIR HOME BY ARMED MEN OVER A
YEAR AGO IN A CASE UNIVERSALLY ATTRIBUTED TO
GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. HIS MOTHER WAS AN

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EMPLOYEE OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS, A SUSPECTED HOTBED OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. THESE NEW SHOCKING ABDUCTIONS INDICATE THAT THE GOG SECURITY FORCES WILL STRIKE WHENEVER THERE IS A TARGET OF IMPORTANCE. THE SEPARATE MESSAGE ON ABDUCTIONS IN HUEHUETENANGO INDICATES THAT THE GOG ARMY WILL DO LIKEWISE. WE MUST COME TO SOME RESOLUTION IN POLICY TERMS. EITHER WE CAN OVERLOOK THE RECORD AND EMPHASIZE THE STRATEGIC CONCEPT OR WE CAN PURSUE A HIGHER MORAL PATH. WE SIMPLY CANNOT FLIP FLOP BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO POSSIBLE POSITIONS. MUDDLING THROUGH WILL SIMPLY GO NOWHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. (U) TEN MEN ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND AUTOMATIC RIFLES ENTERED THE ROOSEVELT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN GUATEMALA CITY ON JANUARY 31 AND KIDNAPPED SERGIO VINICIO SAMAYOA MORALES, AGE 29. SAMAYOA WAS SEIZED AS HE WAS ABOUT TO BE TAKEN INTO SURGERY TWO HOURS AFTER BEING ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM BULLET WOUNDS. HE WAS TAKEN AWAY IN A WHITE PANEL TRUCK BY THE KIDNAPPERS.

2. (U) SAMAYOA WAS WOUNDED BY TWO ARMED MEN ABOUT 4:30 IN THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 31, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, AT HIS PLACE OF WORK. HE WAS SHOT FIVE TIMES BY HIS ATTACKERS. HOWEVER, THEY FAILED TO KILL HIM AND AFTER THEY FLED HE WAS TAKEN BY AMBULANCE TO THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN GRAVE CONDITION.
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3. (U) TWO HOURS LATER, A GROUP OF ARMED MEN ENTERED THE HOSPITAL'S EMERGENCY WARD, DISARMED THE TWO POLICEMEN ON DUTY AND QUESTIONED THE DUTY PHYSICIAN ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE GUNSHOT VICTIM. AFTER HE WAS LOCATED IN THE PREP ROOM FOR SURGERY, HE WAS TAKEN OUT TO THE WAITING VEHICLES, ON A STRETCHER ALONG WITH THE BOTTLE OF INTRAVENOUS FLUID WHICH WAS STILL DRIPPING INTO HIS ARM.

4. (U) THE SAMAYOA MORALES FAMILY HAS SUFFERED FROM SIMILAR VIOLENCE IN THE PAST. ON

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SEPTEMBER 10, 1982, SAMAYOA'S MOTHER AND TWO BROTHERS WERE KIDNAPPED BY ARMED MEN FROM THE FAMILY RESIDENCE. SERGIO SAMAYOA APPARENTLY ESCAPED ABDUCTION AT THAT TIME ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE KIDNAPPING. MRS. GRACIELA MORALES DE SAMAYOA WORKED AT SAN CARLOS UNIVERISTY. THE KIDNAPPINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN SOLVED, BUT GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES ARE BELIEVED TO BE RESPONSIBLE.

5. (C) ON FEBRUARY 1, 1984, HECTOR VILLAGRAN SALAZAR CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO REPORT THE JANUARY 27 ABDUCTION OF SON-IN-LAW JORGE MAURICIO GATICA PAZ. ACCORDING TO MR. VILLAGRAN, HIS DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW WENT TO A LARGE SHOPPING CENTER TO DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING ON JANUARY 27. MR. GATICA REMAINED IN THE CAR WITH THE DOG WHILE HIS WIFE WENT INTO THE SUPERMARKET. WHEN SHE CAME OUT OF THE STORE,

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CAR, HUSBAND AND DOG HAD DISAPPEARED. A WITNESS TOLD HER THAT HEAVILY ARMED MEN IN A WHITE PANEL TRUCK PULLED UP BEHIND HER CAR, FORCED HER HUSBAND INTO THE TRUCK, AND DEPARTED RAPIDLY IN BOTH VEHICLES. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SEVERAL POLICEMEN IN THE PARKING LOT-- THE SHOPPING CENTER IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN GUATEMALA CITY--THEY DID NOT INTERVENE AND WOULD NOT TELL THE WIFE ANYTHING. THE ABDUCTION TOOK PLACE AT AROUND 1730 HOURS.

6. (C) MR. VILLAGRAN--A PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST AND A MEMBER OF THE GUATEMALAN EQUIVALENT OF OUR FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD--WAS IN A CONFERENCE WITH FINANCE MINISTER COL. LEONARDO FIGUEROA VILLATE WHEN HIS WIFE CALLED HIM ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING. HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED COLONEL FIGUEROA FOR ASSISTANCE. THE LATTER CALLED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DIRECTOR OF POLICE COL. HECTOR RAFAEL BOL DE LA CRUZ, WHO ADVISED MR. VILLAGRAN TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE; MR. VILLAGRAN SUBSEQUENTLY FILED COMPLAINTS WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE DIT (DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS). ON SATURDAY, JAN 28, MR. VILLAGRAN CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE AND ASKED FOR HIS PERSONAL INTERVENTION; THE FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED TO CALL ARMY OFFICIALS ON THE GENERAL STAFF. ON JANUARY 30, MR. VILLAGRAN ASKED THE MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY TO TAKE ACTION ON THE CASE; HE ALSO PROMISED TO HELP MR. VILLAGRAN.

7. (C) IN SPITE OF ALL THIS HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE WHEREABOUTS OF MR. GATICA, HOWEVER, HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESENT LOCATION REMAIN A MYSTERY. THE BLATANT NATURE OF THE MODUS OPERANDI OF BOTH ABDUCTIONS POINTS TO GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES AS THE PERPETRATORS. THE KIDNAPPING OF THE GRAVELY WOUNDED SAMAYOA FROM THE HOSPITAL RECALLS SCENES FROM "THE GODFATHER" BUT IN THE MOVIE, THE VICTIM SURVIVED.

8. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS: DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ILL-REPUTED ARCHIVOS HAVE BEEN STOOD DOWN,

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AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, THESE NEW SHOCKING ABDUCTIONS INDICATE THAT THE GOG SECURITY FORCES WILL STRIKE WHENEVER THERE IS A TARGET OF IMPORTANCE. THE SEPARATE MESSAGE ON ABDUCTIONS IN HUEHUETENANGO INDICATES THAT THE GOG ARMY WILL DO LIKewise. I POINTED OUT THE OTHER DAY IN SAN SALVADOR THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DESIRE TO INCORPORATE GUATEMALA INTO AN OVERALL U.S. STRATEGIC CONCEPT

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FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE HORRIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS REALITIES IN GUATEMALA. WE MUST COME TO SOME RESOLUTION IN POLICY TERMS. EITHER WE CAN OVERLOOK THE RECORD AND EMPHASIZE THE STRATEGIC CONCEPT OR WE CAN PURSUE A HIGHER MORAL PATH. WE SIMPLY CANNOT FLIP FLOP BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO POSSIBLE POSITIONS. MUDDLING THROUGH WILL SIMPLY GO NOWHERE.

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