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Case Number: 199502915

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O 030007Z APR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0759
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 06 GUATEMALA 03220

PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
LABOR DEVELOPMENT

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, OTRA, PGOV, PINR, PINS, GT
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: MARCH 25-29 VISIT OF U.S.
TRADE-UNION DELEGATION

REF: A) GUATEMALA 3063, B) GUATEMALA 2737,
C) GUATEMALA 1874, D) GUATEMALA 2701

1. SUMMARY. ON MARCH 25, A U.S. TRADE-UNION
DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
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OF FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS' ASSOCIATION (IUF)
ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA TO INVESTIGATE THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2001 199502915

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FEBRUARY 17 COCA COLA PLANT CLOSURE IN GUATEMALA CITY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORKERS AND THE TRADE UNION. AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL, THE DELEGATION ALSO ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SEVERAL MISSING TRADE-UNION LEADERS FROM A LIST SUPPLIED BY PAT DERIAN. ALL OF THESE ABDUCTED UNION LEADERS ARE FROM THE LEFTIST CNT (CENTRAL NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES), AND FROM THE TRADE UNION AT THE CAVISA GLASS FACTORY. THE CAVISA UNION IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE COMMUNIST TRADE-UNION FEDERATION FASGUA (FEDERACION AUTONOMA SINDICAL DE GUATEMALA). DURING THEIR SOJOURN IN GUATEMALA, THE DELEGATION MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF LABOR, OFFICERS OF CUSG (CONFEDERATION OF SYNDICALIST UNITY OF GUATEMALA), TRADE-UNION LEADERS FROM COCA COLA AND SOME TWENTY OTHER UNIONS, THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, A PRIVATE-SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE, EMBASSY OFFICERS, AND THE AIFLD DIRECTOR. THEIR VERDICT WAS THAT WHILE THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT THE PERSONAL SECURITY OF THE COCA-COLA WORKERS WAS NOT IN JEOPARDY AND THAT THE COMPANY HAD INDEED SUFFERED FROM BAD MANAGEMENT, RECENT DISAPPEARANCES OF NUMEROUS TRADE-UNION LEADERS DEMONSTRATED A BASICALLY NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE TRADE-UNION MOVEMENT IN GUATEMALA. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR SOME OF THE APPOINTMENTS FOR THIS PRIVATE DELEGATION (SEE REFTTEL A), EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE PRESENT ONLY AT THE EMBASSY BRIEFING, THE MEETING WITH CUSG LEADERS, AND

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AT A DEBRIEFING BY PAT DERIAN AND AMALGAMATED CLOTHING AND TEXTILE WORKERS UNION INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE BILL PATTERSON. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MR. PATTERSON, THE DELEGATION DEPARTED GUATEMALA ON MARCH 29. MR. PATTERSON SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH THE AIFLD DIRECTOR AND INDICATED THAT THE DELEGATION'S NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO MEET WITH COCA-COLA OFFICIALS IN ATLANTA. END SUMMARY.

2. TRADE UNION DELEGATION.

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THE TRADE-UNION DELEGATION CONSISTED OF THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

RICHARD PLUMB: HEAD OF DELEGATION
INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL
WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION,
AFL-CIO

LUIS HERNANDEZ: INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY AND TOBACCO
WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION,
AFL-CIO

STANLEY GACEK: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, UNITED
FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO

BILL PATTERSON: INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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O 030007Z APR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0760
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, OTRA, PGOV, PINR, PINS, GT
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: MARCH 25-29 VISIT OF U.S.
- AMALGAMATED CLOTHING AND TEXTILE
- WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO (STAFF
- MEMBER)

NON-TRADE-UNION MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING THE
DELEGATION:

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PAT DERIAN: FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
- STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
- HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

REVEREND CAROL
SOMPLATSKY-JARMAN: INTERFAITH CENTER ON CORPORATE
- RESPONSIBILITY

NANCY PECKENHAM: TRANSLATOR

3. EMBASSY BRIEFING.
- -----
-

WHILE THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS
TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS ABOUT THE COCA COLA
PLANT CLOSURE, VERY LITTLE OF THE BRIEFING
WAS SPENT ON THAT TOPIC (EMBOFFS REITERATED
UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTELS
B AND C). WITH MR. PATTERSON TAKING THE LEAD,
THE DELEGATION USED MOST OF THE TIME TO ASK
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GUATEMALAN TRADE-UNION

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MOVEMENT IN GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR ABOUT A LIST OF EIGHT ABDUCTED TRADE-UNION LEADERS WHICH MS. DERIAN HAD SUPPLIED TO THE DELEGATION. LATER IN THE WEEK, EMBOFF PROVIDED THE DELEGATION WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EIGHT INDIVIDUALS ON THE LIST, AND THREE OTHER MISSING TRADE-UNIONISTS:

(1) JULIO ZERME, DIRECTOR OF CNT AND CNUS, DISAPPEARED ON NOVEMBER 17, 1983. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS CASE.

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(2) JOSE LOPEZ BRAN, MEMBER OF PANTALEON SUGAR MILL WORKERS UNION. RELATIVES, AND THE EMPLOYERS, DENOUNCED HIS ABDUCTION WITH MIGUEL GOMEZ, ALSO IDENTIFIED AS LABOR LEADER. THEY WERE LAST SEEN ON NOVEMBER 27, 1983 IN SANTA LUCIA COTZUMALGUAPA, ESCUINTLA. THEY ARE STILL MISSING.

(3) JOSE GUILLERMO GARCIA, MIRANDILLA SUGAR MILL WORKERS UNION, ESCUINTLA. MISSING SINCE JANUARY 26, 1984. RELATIVES DENOUNCED HIS KIDNAPPING TO PRESS ON JANUARY 30, 1984. STILL MISSING.

(4) ALEJANDRO DEL CID, DIRECTOR MIRANDILLA SUGAR MILL WORKERS UNION, ESCUINTLA. MISSING SINCE JANUARY 26, 1984. HIS RELATIVES CHARGED UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS WITH HIS ABDUCTION ON JANUARY 30. THEY ALLEGED THAT HE AND JOSE GUILLERMO GARCIA WERE KIDNAPPED TOGETHER.

(5) ALFONSO ALVARADO PALENCIA, CNT LABOR LEADER, WAS KIDNAPPED IN GUATEMALA CITY ON JANUARY 26, 1984. CNUS, IN A REPORT FROM HAVANA, ASSERTED THAT HIS BODY AND THAT OF A GLASS FACTORY WORKER (SEE NO. 7 BELOW) WERE FOUND TORTURED AND SHOT. LOCAL PRESS STILL HAS HIM AS MISSING.

(6) AMANCIA SAMUEL VILLATORO, CNT LEADER, WAS

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REPORTED AS MISSING SINCE JANUARY 30, 1984.
THE GUATEMALAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN
MEXICO IN A REPORT CARRIED ON HAVANA RADIO ON
FEBRUARY 14 ALLEGED THAT "VILLATORO AND ALFONSO

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O 030007Z APR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0761
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PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
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E.O. 12356: N/A
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ALVARADO (SEE NO. 5 ABOVE), LEADERS OF THE
CNT, WERE CAPTURED BY SECURITY FORCES ON
JANUARY 30 AND 31 RESPECTIVELY." VILLATORO IS
STILL MISSING.

(7) EDGAR FERNANDO GARCIA, SECRETARY OF RECORDS

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OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA GLASS INDUSTRY WORKERS

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UNION (CAVISA), WAS KIDNAPPED IN GUATEMALA CITY ON FEBRUARY 18, 1984. (CAVISA IS A FASGUA AFFILIATE.) GARCIA IS STILL MISSING.

(8) LIC. SANTIAGO LOPEZ AGUILAR, LABOR LAWYER, WAS KIDNAPPED IN GUATEMALA CITY ON FEBRUARY 16, 1984. HIS BODY -- WHICH EXHIBITED SIGNS OF TORTURE -- WAS FOUND ON FEBRUARY 21 WITH A NOTE: "EXECUTED FOR TREASON - PGT".

(9) ON FEBRUARY 2, UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS ABDUCTED SERGIO MANFREDO BELTETON DE LEON. (NOTE. EMBASSY ASSUMES THIS IS THE "SERGIO" MENTIONED IN THE GUATEMALAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT (SEE NO. 6 ABOVE). IN ADDITION TO BEING A LAW STUDENT, THIS REPORT IDENTIFIED HIM AS A CNT LEGAL ADVISER. HIS ABDUCTORS RELEASED HIM ON FEBRUARY 17.

ON MARCH 1, FASGUA LEGAL COUNSEL VICTOR HUGO QUINTANILLA WAS ABDUCTED; HIS WHEREABOUTS REMAIN UNKNOWN.

ON MARCH 8, INTERNATIONAL PRESS (EFE) REPORTED THAT THE CENTRAL SUGAR FEDERATION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HELD A PROTEST RALLY IN FRONT OF THE GUATEMALAN EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO TO DENOUNCE THE KIDNAPPING IN GUATEMALA OF FIVE SUGAR WORKERS (JOSE GUILLERMO GRAN, MIGUEL ANGEL GOMEZ, JOSE GUILLERMO GARCIA, ALEJANDRO DEL CID, AND SERGIO MANFREDO HERNANDEZ).

IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, UNIDENTIFIED

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MEN KIDNAPPED SERGIO ALDANA GALVEZ, SECRETARY

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GENERAL OF THE UNION AT THE PRENSA LIBRE NEWS-PAPER. THEY RELEASED HIM ON FEBRUARY 14.

THE EMBASSY ALSO PROVIDED THEM WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE TRADE-UNION CONNECTIONS OF THE GENTLEMEN IN QUESTION:

FASGUA (FEDERACION AUTONOMA SINDICAL DE GUATEMALA/AUTONOMOUS TRADE UNION FEDERATION OF GUATEMALA) IS THE COMMUNIST TRADE-UNION FEDERATION IN GUATEMALA; IT IS A LEGALLY RECOGNIZED FEDERATION. IT WAS THE TRADE-UNION ARM OF THE OFFICIAL GUATEMALAN COMMUNITY PARTY (PGT) WHEN THAT PARTY WAS LEGAL. THE CAVISA UNION IS A FASGUA AFFILIATE.

CNT (CENTRAL NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES/NATIONAL CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF GUATEMALAN WORKERS) WAS FOUNDED IN THE 1960'S BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT TRADE-UNION ORGANIZERS AND IT WAS AN AFFILIATE OF CLAT (THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR LATIN AMERICA). IN 1978, MARXIST-LENINISTS WHO HAD TAKEN OVER THE CNT TOOK IT OUT OF CLAT. THE CNT HAS NEVER APPLIED FOR LEGAL RECOGNITION AND HAS ALWAYS WORKED OUTSIDE THE LABOR LAW PROVISIONS OF GUATEMALA.

CNUS (CONSEJO NACIONAL DE UNIDAD SINDICAL/NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRADE UNION UNITY) IS AN UMBRELLA TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATION. FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, IT IS NOT FUNCTIONING

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0762
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
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[REDACTED] SECTION 04 OF 06 GUATEMALA 03220

PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, OTRA, PGOV, PINR, PINS, GT
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: MARCH 25-29 VISIT OF U.S.
WITHIN GUATEMALA. IT OCCASIONALLY ISSUES PRESS
BULLETINS THROUGH HAVANA ON TRADE UNION CONDITIONS
IN GUATEMALA. THE CNT AND THE FASGUA FOUNDED
THE CNUS IN 1976. ALMOST ALL OF THE ORGANIZATIONS
BELONGING TO IT ARE MARXIST IN ORIENTATION.

4. MEETING WITH DEMOCRATIC TRADE-UNION LEADERS.
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AT THE SUGGESTION OF EMBOFF, THE DELEGATION MET
WITH LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE-UNION
CONFEDERATION CUSG (CONFEDERATION OF SYNDICALIST
UNITY OF GUATEMALA). THE CUSG DELEGATION
CONSISTED OF SECRETARY GENERAL JUAN FRANCISCO
ALFARO, ADJUNCT SECRETARY GENERAL ADOLFO
HERNANDEZ, AND ORGANIZING SECRETARY ISMAEL
BARRIOS. IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS
FROM THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, CUSG LEADERS MADE
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- THE COCA-COLA UNION WAS NOT A PART OF CUSG AND HAD REBUFFED ALL CUSG OVERTURES;

-- THE COCA-COLA UNION HAD RESPONDED TO CUSG INITIATIVES BY REITERATING ITS DESIRE TO REVIVE THE CNT AND THE CNUS;

-- THE CUSG, IN SPITE OF SUCH REJECTIONS, HAD PUBLICLY EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF THE COCA-COLA WORKERS AND UNION AFTER THE FEBRUARY PLANT CLOSURE;

-- CUSG LEADERS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE COCA-COLA UNION IN GUATEMALA CITY HAD NOT ORGANIZED THE OTHER NON-UNION COCA-COLA PLANT (THERE ARE TWO COCA-COLA PLANTS OUTSIDE GUATEMALA CITY; ONE IS UNIONIZED AND CURRENTLY IN AFFILIATION DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUSG; THE OTHER IS NON-UNION);

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-- CUSG LEADERS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE UNION AT THE GUATEMALA CITY PLANT WAS SO UNAWARE OF THE POOR FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMPANY; AND

-- TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, MANAGEMENT-LABOR RELATIONS AT THE COCA-COLA PLANT HAD BEEN GOOD SINCE THE 1980 FRANCHISE CHANGE (LABATT HAD MADE THIS SAME POINT IN EMBASSY BRIEFING).

WITH RESPECT TO THE TRADE-UNION SITUATION IN GUATEMALA, THE CUSG LEADERS PAINTED A BLEAK PICTURE. THEY NOTED THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCES OF NUMEROUS LEFTIST TRADE-UNION LEADERS WHICH, THEY SAID, CREATED A CLIMATE OF FEAR AND MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR ALL TRADE-UNION LEADERS AND ORGANIZING EFFORTS. THE CUSG, THEY POINTED OUT, HAD VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THESE DISAPPEARANCES TO THE GOG AND IN PUBLIC ADS. ANOTHER NEGATIVE TRADE-UNION FACTOR, THEY NOTED, WAS THE ANTI-

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UNION ATTITUDE OF MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE
CONFLICT AREAS: THEY CITED THE THREATS AGAINST
THE LIVES OF LIGA CAMPESINA LEADERS IN
CHICHICASTENANGO BY A MILITARY OFFICER
STATIONED IN SANTA CRUZ DEL QUICHE (SEE REFTEL D).
IN CLOSING, THEY ASKED THE DELEGATION TO QUESTION
THE MINISTER OF LABOR ABOUT THE ILLEGAL DISMISSAL
OF EIGHT WORKERS AT THE SAN BERNARDINO BOTTLING
COMPANY FOR ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE A CUSG-
AFFILIATED UNION.

5. DEBRIEFING BY B. PATTERSON AND PAT DERIAN

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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
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USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
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SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: MARCH 25-29 VISIT OF U.S.

TOWARD THE END OF THEIR VISIT, BILL PATTERSON AND PAT DERIAN CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THEIR FINDINGS WITH EMBOFFS. WITH RESPECT TO THE COCA-COLA WORKERS, MR. PATTERSON SAID THAT THE DELEGATION FELT REASSURED ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY, EVEN THOUGH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR

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HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE PLANT AND WORKERS' HOMES UNDER SURVEILLANCE. BOTH OF THEM EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THE DISCIPLINED MANNER IN WHICH THE WORKERS WENT ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS OF OCCUPYING THE PLANT AND SAID THERE WERE NO OVERT POLITICS IN EVIDENCE THERE; THE WORKERS, THEY SAID, WERE KEEPING THE PLANT IN BEAUTIFUL CONDITION AND IT APPEARED THAT COCA-COLA PRODUCTION COULD BE RESUMED IN SHORT ORDER. MS. DERIAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MANY MANAGEMENT-LABOR PROBLEMS IN GUATEMALA HAD BEEN SOLVED BY VIOLENCE IN THE PAST; SHE CITED THE HISTORY OF THE VIOLENCE IN THE COCA-COLA PLANT IN GUATEMALA WHERE EIGHT WORKERS HAD LOST THEIR LIVES IN PLANT DISPUTES. EMBOFF ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT AND NOTED THAT THESE DEATHS HAD OCCURRED IN 1980 AND BEFORE THE PRESENT FRANCHISE OWNERS HAD BEGUN OPERATING THE PLANT. SHE REPLIED THAT FRAGMENTED AUTHORITY AMONGST SECURITY FORCES OFTEN LED TO UNDISCIPLINED ACTS OF VIOLENCE BY SUBORDINATES, WHO NEVERTHELESS WERE THEN PROTECTED BY THE TOP. THE DELEGATION HAD ASKED THE INTERIOR MINISTER, SHE SAID, TO MAKE SURE, WHEN THE COCA-COLA PLANT PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED, THAT THE SECURITY FORCES WERE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORKERS HAD NOT BEEN CHARGED WITH ANY CRIME AND WERE NOT SUBVERSIVES. IF THE PROBLEM HAS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION, SHE ADDED, IT WILL BE A HOPEFUL SIGN OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT-LABOR RELATIONS IN GUATEMALA.

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BILL PATTERSON EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE

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ATMOSPHERE FOR THE TRADE-UNION MOVEMENT IN GUATEMALA IS NEGATIVE BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCES OF TRADE-UNION LEADERS. MANY PEOPLE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT WITH WHOM THE DELEGATION TALKED ARE PESSIMISTIC AND DATE THE DOWNTURN FROM THE AUGUST COUP; MOST OF THESE TRADE-UNION LEADERS, HE STATED, FELT THE MEJIA GOVERNMENT WAS MORE REPRESSIVE THAN THE RIOS GOVERNMENT. MR. PATTERSON EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE MINISTER OF LABOR'S POINT OF VIEW THAT THE WORKERS' OCCUPATION OF THE COCA-COLA PLANT WAS AN ACT OF REBELLION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THINKS THE LABOR MINISTER DOES NOT HAVE A VERY SUBTLE NOTION OF LABOR RELATIONS AND DOES NOT APPEAR ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TRADE UNION ORGANIZING EFFORTS AND OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

WITH RESPECT TO RECENTLY-DISAPPEARED TRADE-UNION LEADERS, THE DEBRIEFERS ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY INQUIRY ABOUT THEIR WHEREABOUTS. INFORMATION LED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARMY WAS HOLDING FERNANDO GARCIA (CAVISA UNION OFFICER) AND THAT HE WAS ALIVE AND WELL. IN ADDITION TO MR. GARCIA AND THE OTHER ABDUCTED TRADE-UNIONISTS ON THE DELEGATION'S LIST, MR. PATTERSON ASKED THE EMBASSY TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATIONS OF TRADE-UNIONIST JOSE LUIS VILLAGRAN, WHO DISAPPEARED ON FEBRUARY 11, 1984 IN ZONE 11 AND THE CASE OF FRANCISCO ENRIQUE MOYA LUCAS (16 YEAR-OLD BROTHER OF A COCA-COLA WORKER), WHO DISAPPEARED ON MARCH 9 WHILE ON HIS WAY TO SCHOOL. THE

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CIAE-00 EB-08 IO-15 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-08 LAB-04
PA-01 STR-14 SIL-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 /065 W
-----350435 030105Z /61

O 030007Z APR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0764
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

[REDACTED] SECTION 06 OF 06 GUATEMALA 03220

PASS BILL DOHERTY, AMERICAN INSITITUTE FOR FREE
LABOR DEVELOPMENT

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, OTRA, PGOV, PINR, PINS, GT
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: MARCH 25-29 VISIT OF U.S.
EMBASSY PROMISED TO MAKE INQUIRIES TO THE
GOVERNMENT ABOUT ALL THESE PEOPLE. MS.
DERIAN THEN ASKED WHETHER THE EMBASSY MADE
"REPRESENTATIONS" ON BEHALF OF SUCH PEOPLE
OR SIMPLY MADE "INQUIRIES". THE CHARGE
REPLIED THAT THE EMBASSY MADE "REPRESENTATIONS"
ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND "INQUIRIES"

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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ABOUT NON-AMERICANS. IN SUCH CASES, HE POINTED
OUT, AN INQUIRY IS AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN
THAT U.S. CITIZENS HAVE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES INVOLVING A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AND THE

n/a

[REDACTED]
n/a

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GRAVITY WITH WHICH THE CASE IS VIEWED IN THE UNITED STATES. MS. DERIAN STATED THAT THIS WAS A SHAME BECAUSE IN HER TENURE AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THE POLICY HAD BEEN TO MAKE "REPRESENTATIONS" TO HOST GOVERNMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES AND TO REMIND THEM OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THAT CORPUS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TOUCHING ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT IN THE GUATEMALAN CONTEXT WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE MORE SUCCESS IN PURSUIT OF OUR CLEAR OBJECTIVES IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IF WE APPEAL TO GUATEMALANS' SELF-INTEREST IN HAVING A GOOD INTERNATIONAL IMAGE THAN IF WE SIMPLY DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MEET ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

6. COMMENT. THE COCA-COLA COMPANY CASE IS NOW IN LITIGATION BEFORE THE GUATEMALAN LABOR COURT. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT ANOTHER GUATEMALAN COMPANY HAS PURCHASED THE COCA-COLA FRANCHISE AND WILL RESUME PRODUCTION IN GUATEMALA CITY; PURPORTEDLY, IT IS NOT INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN REHIRING THE OLD WORKERS. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WILL ONLY FUEL SPECULATION THAT THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 14 BANKRUPTCY MOVE WAS A UNION-BUSTING TACTIC.

THE IMPORTANT ISSUE COMING OUT OF THIS AMERICAN TRADE-UNION DELEGATION VISIT, THOUGH, AND THE ISSUE THE MOST POLITICALLY DAMAGING TO GUATEMALA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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INTERNATIONALLY, MAY WELL BE THE RATHER LARGE NUMBER OF RECENTLY-KIDNAPPED LEFTIST TRADE-UNION LEADERS ABOUT WHOM THE DELEGATION INQUIRED. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT LEFTISTS -- INCLUDING THOSE IN THE SUBVERSION -- WHO WISH TO HARM GUATEMALA INTERNATIONALLY WILL USE THESE CASES AGAINST THE GOG IN INTERNATIONAL FORA SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ILO. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT TRADE-UNION CIRCLES IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE WILL SOON BE REGALED WITH THESE CASES AS FURTHER EXAMPLES OF THE EXTREME ANTI-UNION BIAS AND PERFIDY OF THE GUATEMALAN

n/a

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
n/a

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GOVERNMENT. DOMESTIC CRITICS OF ADMINISTRATION
POLICY VIS-A-VIS GUATEMALA MIGHT TRY TO SEIZE ON
THESE ABDUCTIONS TO DEMAND THE RECONSIDERATION
OF GUATEMALA'S CBI STATUS. WHETHER GOVERNMENT
FORCES SEIZED ALL THESE TRADE-UNIONISTS HAS YET
TO BE DEMONSTRATED. IF THE GOG HAS PICKED THEM
UP, IT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY FOR MATTERS OTHER THAN
THEIR TRADE-UNION ACTIVITIES. END COMMENT.
TAYLOR

[REDACTED]
NNN

n/a

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