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Knights of Malta hospital, certified the death (Annex No. 1) and recorded the autopsy ordered by the military authorities of Vallegrande (Annex No. 2).

c) With regard to the identification of the deceased and the authentication of the diary that belonged to him, the government requested the cooperation of Argentine technical organizations, which sent three experts, one handwriting specialist and two fingerprint specialists, who verified the identity of the remains and certified that the handwriting of the campaign diary, captured by our troops, coincides with that of Ernesto Guevara (Annex No. 3).

d) The campaign diary and the book of doctrine (libro de concepciones) are documents that contain an account of activities, from the date of his entry (into the guerrilla area) until October 7, and (justify) the judgments that this chief of subversion, the members of the guerrilla bands, and the people, both in this country and abroad, who collaborated with them, deserved. As a consequence, they are documents exclusively for the use of the military.

2. By this means the Military High Command considers complete all information relating to the death of Che Guevara. La Paz, October 16, 1967." END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CLASSIFIED. Comment: The reports provide further documentary proof that the guerrilla chieftain, who was reportedly fatally injured in battle against the Bolivian Armed Forces on October 8, was indeed Ernesto Che Guevara. The documents do little, however, to resolve public speculation on the timing and manner of death. It will be widely noted that neither the death certificate nor the autopsy report state a time of death (the examining physicians are said to have told journalists that Guevara died a few hours before their examination late in the afternoon of October 9). Moreover, the communique also leaves unsaid the time of death, indicating simply that it occurred sometime between 8 p.m. October 8, and the transfer of the body to Vallegrande at 4 p.m. the following afternoon. This would appear to be an attempt to bridge the difference between a series of earlier divergent statements from Armed Forces sources, ranging from assertions that he died during or shortly after battle to those suggesting he survived at least twenty-four hours. Some early reports last week also indicated that Guevara was captured with minor injuries while later statements, including the attached autopsy report, affirm that he suffered multiple and serious bullet wounds.

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We doubt that the communique will satisfactorily answer these questions and are inclined to agree with the comment by Presencia columnist Politicus that these discrepancies, now that the identity of the body is generally accepted, are "going to be the new focus of polemics in the coming days, especially abroad." END CLASSIFIED.

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Annex No. 1 - Death Certificate

The death certificate signed October 10, 1967, by Drs. Moises ABRAHAM Baptista and Jose MARTINEZ Cazo, Hospital Knights of Malta, Vallegrande, Bolivia, indicates that on October 9 at 5:30 p.m., there arrived DOA an individual who military authorities said was Ernesto GUEVARA Lynch, approximately 40 years of age, the cause of death being multiple bullet wounds in the thorax and extremities. Preservative was applied to the body.

Annex No. 2 - Autopsy Report

The autopsy report signed October 10, 1967 by Drs. ABRAHAM Baptista and MARTINEZ Cazo, indicates that the body recognized as that of Ernesto Guevara was 40 years of age, white race, approximately 1.73 meters in height, brown curly hair, heavy curly beard and mustache, heavy eyebrows, straight nose, thin lips, mouth open, teeth in good order with nicotine stains, lower left pre-molar floating, light blue eyes, regular physique, scar along almost whole left side of back. A general examination showed the following wounds:

1. Bullet wound in left clavicular region egressing through shoulder blade.
2. Bullet wound in right clavicular region fracturing same, without egress.
3. Bullet wound in right side, without egress.
4. Two bullet wounds in left side, with egress through back.
5. Bullet wound in left pectoral between 9th and 10th ribs, with egress on left side.
6. Bullet wound in lower third part of right thigh.
7. Bullet wound in lower third part of left thigh in seton.
8. Bullet wound in lower right forearm with fractured ulva.

The thorax cavity when opened showed that the first wound lightly injured the apex of the left lung.

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The second injured the sub-clavicle vessel, the bullet lodging itself in the second vertebra.

The third transversed the right lung lodging itself in the 9th rib.

The left lung was slightly damaged by bullet no. 4.

Wound no. 5 transversed the left lung in a tangential trajectory.

Thorax cavities, especially the right, presented abundant blood collection.

The opened abdomen showed no traumatic lesion, only expansion due to gases and citric liquid.

The cause of death was the thorax wounds and consequent hemorrhaging.

Annex No. 3 - Argentine Police Report

On Saturday, October 14, 1967, three officials of the Argentine Federal Police (Investigations), one a handwriting expert and the other two fingerprint experts, at the request of the Bolivian Government, visited Bolivian military headquarters in La Paz to collaborate in a matter of identification. They were shown a metal container in which were two amputated hands in a liquid solution, apparently formaldehyde.

The fingerprint experts tried the "Juan Vucetich" system used in Argentina of making papillary sketches of the fingers, but the liquid caused the fingertips to wrinkle making tracing impossible. They then proceeded to take fingerprint impressions on polyethylene sheets and in some cases on pieces of latex, these to be sent to the Identification Department of the Argentine Police for further examination.

The experts then compared the fingerprints with the copy of the prints made from Guevara's Argentine identity record No. 3.524.272, establishing beyond doubt that both prints were from the same person. Also checked were prints taken from Guevara at Vallegrande on October 9, with the same result.

The handwriting expert then examined two notebooks in good condition. The title page of one read "1967" and its reverse "Carl

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Klippel - Kaiserstrasca 75 - Frankfurt a.M" and "Herstellung Baier & Schosider - Neilbreum A.N." This book shows handwriting beginning under the date of January 1, 1967 and continuing until October 7, 1967. Considering the period of the writing, the writing itself, and the "signatures," the expert decided they were suitable for formal extrinsic and intrinsic comparisons in the handwriting identification system. The expert also examined statistically the handwriting characteristics of the notebook inscribed "Elba 66509" containing 44 pages of handwriting. There was sufficient regularity of characteristics to determine that they were the same as those reproduced in <sup>Guevara's Argentine ID</sup> identity record. Copies of the material will be forwarded to the Argentine Police for further study.

Signed by Esteban Belzhauser and Juan Carlos Delgado.

Enclosure No. 4

COMMUNIQUE OF THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY AT LA PAZ

The technical commission detailed by the Argentine Government at the request of the Bolivian Government to prove the identity of the remains of Ernesto Guevara has proceeded to make a comparison of the items that were provided by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces with those that were in the hands of Argentine police authorities. From the fingerprint and handwriting skill practiced by the technicians, in accordance with scientific procedures currently in use, it develops that the items compared correspond in an irrefutable manner to Ernesto Guevara, thereby agreeing with the report issued by the Bolivian authorities.

La Paz, October 16, 1967.

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