

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 08SAN SA013183

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SAN SALVADOR, 13183

DEPT FOR L/LEI: ARA/CEN; IMR

JUSTICE FOR CRIM DIV/OIA (PAUL VAKY)

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: KJUS, CJAN, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, ES

SUBJECT: THE SARAVIA EXTRADITION AND THE D'AUBUISSON
MAFIA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 12032 (MOTAL) M

1. (U) SUMMARY

THERE IS AMPLE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT AN EFFORT IS UNDERWAY TO OBSTRUCT THE EXTRADITION FROM THE U.S. OF CRT ALVARO RAFAEL SARAVIA, THE CASHIERED SALVADORAN AIR FORCE OFFICER CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN THE MARCH 24, 1980 ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO. THE EFFORT IS TRACEABLE TO ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON AND ASSOCIATES THROUGH A DOCUMENT TELEFAXED FROM D'AUBUISSON'S MARISCOS TAZUMAL OFFICE TO SARAVIA'S U.S. LAWYER FOR ENTRY INTO THE SARAVIA EXTRADITION COURT RECORDS. OTHER THAN D'AUBUISSON.
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THE ORIGINAL MARISCOS TAZUMAL DIRECTORS ARE ALSO FUGITIVES IN THE KIDNAPPING CASE AND ARE LINKED TO THOSE IMPLICATED IN THE 1980 COUP PLOT, THE SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS, THE LIMON (COSTA RICA) BOMBING, AND THE SALVADORAN DEATH SQUADS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. PRESS, OPERATED OUT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING DURING D'AUBUISSON'S REIGN THERE. END SUMMARY.

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Dependent
Professionals
Persons with...
SW enforcement (); privacy (); deliberative ();
NOT relevant to El Salvador ().
7/24/83

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2. THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTS THAT AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY MEMBERS OF A WELL-KNOWN GROUP OF PERSONS CLEARLY ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES AND OTHER CRIMES, TO OBSTRUCT THE SARAVIA EXTRADITION CASE:

- (A) THERE WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DELAY THE COURT'S HEARING OF THE CASE.
- (B) WHILE THIS DELAY WAS UNDERWAY TWO ACTIVITIES WERE INITIATED: A FALSE WITNESS WAS PRODUCED AND A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION WAS FILED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISMISSING THE ARREST WARRANT.
- (C) THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE APPARENTLY ENGAGED IN COLLUSION TO PRODUCE A HABEAS CORPUS RECOMMENDATION FAVORABLE TO SARAVIA.
- (D) THERE WAS IMPROPER DEALINGS BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE IN THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITION AND PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE IN THE U.S.
- (E) THE HABEAS CORPUS RECOMMENDATION TO THE SALVADORAN SUPREME COURT WAS MISREPRESENTED TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. MAGISTRATE.

(F) THERE ARE EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO INFLUENCE THE SALVADORAN SUPREME COURT'S CONSIDERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S FAVORABLE HABEAS CORPUS RECOMMENDATION.

(G) THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S HABEAS CORPUS RECOMMENDATION WAS SENT VIA TELEFAX TO THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY FROM THE OFFICE OF ROBERTO D'AUBUSSON.

3. (C) EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE SARAVIA EXTRADITION

SARAVIA'S DEFENSE ATTORNEY IS REPORTEDLY BEING PAID IN THE RANGE OF A HALF MILLION DOLLARS TO KEEP THE PREVIOUSLY PENNILESS SARAVIA FROM BEING EXTRADITED. WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THESE FUNDS ARE COMING FROM, BUT SPECULATE THAT FUNDS FROM THE KIDNAPPING-FOR-PROFIT RING COULD BE INVOLVED. THE PRINCIPAL DEFENSE TACTIC SO FAR HAS BEEN TO REQUEST DELAYS OF THE COURT HEARINGS AND OTHER DEADLINES TO PREVENT RAPID EXTRADITION. THIS HAS PROVIDED TIME FOR THE SUBMISSION ON JULY 25 OF A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION AIMED AT OVERTURNING THE SALVADORAN ARREST WARRANT UPON WHICH THE GOES EXTRADITION REQUEST IS BASED.

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THE 23-YEAR-OLD LAW STUDENT WHO FILED THE PETITION, IS ALLEGED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ATTORNEY OF RICARDO SOL MEZA, A SUSPECT IN THE SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS, IN A POSSIBLY RELATED EVENT. MARIONA PRISON INMATE GRACIANO DE JESUS ROMERO ON JULY 5 REVEALED TO THE PRESS A CLAIM HE HAD MADE IN JANUARY THAT HE WAS THE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3647
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 SAN SALVADOR 13183

DEPT FOR L/LEI: ARA/GEN: INR

JUSTICE FOR CRIM DIV/OIA (PAUL VAKY)

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: KUUS, GJAN, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, ES
SUBJECT: THE SARAVIA EXTRADITION AND THE O'AUBUISSON

DRIVER FOR ROMERO'S MURDERER, WHOM HE ALLEGED WAS
FORMER EMBASSY SENIOR INVESTIGATOR ALFREDO ZAPATA
(HIMSELF ASSASSINATED ON APRIL 16, 1984). POLYGRAPH
AND PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS OF PRISONER ROMERO
SHOWED HIM TO BE A LIAR. HIS CLAIM WILL NEVERTHELESS
HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE JUDGE AFTER THE SUPREME
COURT RESOLVES BOTH SARAVIA'S HABEAS CORPUS PETITION
AND ONE SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF D'AUBUISSON.

4. (U) THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S RULING
.....

UNTIL RECENTLY THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SARAVIA'S
DEFENSE AND D'AUBUISSON'S CIRCLE OF ASSOCIATES WAS
ONLY SPECULATION. ON AUGUST 18, HOWEVER, SARAVIA'S
ATTORNEY PRESENTED TO THE U.S. COURT A COPY OF AN
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ADVISORY OPINION FAVORABLE TO SARAVIA PREPARED BY
ROMEO AURORA. THE CIVILIAN LAWYER APPOINTED AS
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE BY THE SALVADORAN SUPREME COURT
TO INVESTIGATE THE CLAIMS IN THE SARAVIA HABEAS
CORPUS PETITION. SARAVIA'S ATTORNEY ALLEGED THE
DOCUMENT WAS A SUPREME COURT DECISION OVERTURNING THE
ARREST WARRANT AGAINST SARAVIA. IN WHAT WAS A
TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE U.S. COURT INTO
FREEING SARAVIA. AURORA HAD SUBMITTED THE ADVISORY

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OPINION TO THE SUPREME COURT ON AUGUST 17. THE COPY SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. COURT WAS TELEFAXED ON AUGUST 17 FROM D'AUBUISSON'S MARISCOS TAZUMAL OFFICE AND IS SO IDENTIFIED ON THE FAX SHEETS.

5. (U) MARISCOS TAZUMAL AND THE DIRTY DOZEN OR SO

MARISCOS TAZUMAL IS A SHRIMP FISHING COMPANY FOUNDED IN 1982 USING GUATEMALAN BOATS SEIZED BY EL SALVAADOR AND LATER STOLEN. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDED O'AUBUISSON, VICTOR ANTONIO CORNEJO ARANGO, LT COL JOAQUIN ZACAPA ASTACIO, AND LT CARLOS "SANDI" ZACAPA BUTTER. (SEE SEPTEL REPORT ON O'AUBUISSON'S OWNERSHIP/BANKRUPTCY OF MARISCOS TAZUMAL.) THE LATTER THREE ARE FUGITIVES UNDER INDICTMENT IN THE KIDNAPPING-FOR-PROFIT CASE, IN WHICH LT ROOOLFO LOPEZ SIBRIAN, MAJ ALFREDO JIMENEZ, AND ORLANDO LLOVERA BALLETE ARE IN PRETRIAL DETENTION. LTC ROBERTO MAURICIO STABEN PERLA WAS IMPLICATED IN THE KIDNAPPING CASE, BUT WAS RELEASED WHEN A MILITARY COURT OF HONOR DETERMINED THE EVIDENCE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO HOLD HIM. RAMON OPORTO AND SIGFREDO PEREZ LINARES BOTH DIED IN DETENTION, OPORTO A CONFIDENTIAL

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"SUICIDE" AND PEREZ "ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE." CORNEJO IS KNOWN TO BE RESIDING IN MIAMI.

6. (U) RELATED CASES

LOPEZ SIBRIAN WAS ONE OF THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF THE JANUARY 1981 SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS OF TWO U.S. AND ONE SALVADORAN LAND REFORM EXPERTS. OTHERS IMPLICATED IN THE SHERATON MURDERS ARE RICARDO SOL MEZA, CPT EDUARDO AVILA, LTC MARIO DENIS MORAN, AND HANS CHRIST. THE PERSONS ARRESTED WITH D'AUBUISSON ON MAY 7, 1980 FOR PLOTTING A COUP INCLUDED: SARAVIA, STABEN, LOPEZ SIBRIAN, AVILA, CORNEJO, JIMENEZ, CPT VICTOR HUGO VEGA VALENCIA, FERNANDO SAGRERA, AND AMADO GARAY. AVILA WAS ACCUSED OF THE ATTEMPTED BOMBING MURDER OF A GIRLFRIEND IN LIMON, COSTA RICA, BUT WAS NOT PROSECUTED THERE BECAUSE HE HAD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. GARAY IS THE ARCHBISHOP ROMERO MURDER CASE WITNESS WHO TESTIFIED HE WAS ORDERED BY SARAVIA TO DRIVE THE CAR THAT TRANSPORTED THE TRIGGERMAN. BESIDES BEING JAILED IN THE KIDNAPPING-FOR-PROFIT CASE, JIMENEZ IS IMPLICATED IN 1983 SALVADORAN COURT OCCUMENTS AS HAVING SNATCHED BABIES FROM THE CONFLICTIVE ZONES TO SELL THEM FOR ADOPTION. FERNANDO SAGRERA IS GENERAL MANAGER OF

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MARISCOS TAZUMAL AND AN OWNER OF ONE OF THE THREE FIRMS WHICH, IN TURN, OWNS MARISCOS TAZUMAL.

7. (U) OTHER NOTORIOUS LISTS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 SAN SALVADOR 13183

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A SOURCE OF THE RECENT WASHINGTON POST AND MIAMI
HERALD ARTICLES ON SALVADORAN DEATH SQUADS (REFTEL)
NAMED THE FOLLOWING AS BEING CELL LEADERS IN DEATH
SQUADS RUN BY D'AUBUISSON AND DR. HECTOR REGALADO:
SANDI ZACAPA, CORNEJO, SAGRERA, AND ERNESTO PANAMA.
THE NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS WHO WERE SERVING UNDER
MORAN AT THE TIME OF THE SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS
INCLUDE: AVILA, LOPEZ SIBRIAN, VEGA VALENCIA, AND LT
FRANCISCO AMAYA ROSA. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE
FOLLOWING NAMES FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN A NOTEBOOK
KEPT BY SARAVIA THAT WAS CAPTURED WITH THE COUP
PLOTTERS ON MAY 7, 1980: D'AUBUISSON, JOAQUIN
ZACAPA, SAGRERA, CORNEJO, SARAVIA, PEREZ LINARES,
STABEN, MORAN, AVILA, PANAMA, LLOVERA, REGALADO, AND
AMAYA ROSA.

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8. (C) COMMENT

ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT THE D'AUBUISSON RING IS
OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE IN THE ARCHBISHOP ROMERO
MURDER/SARAVIA EXTRADITION CASE IN THE U.S. AND/OR
SALVADORAN COURTS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT THE
SWIFTESS WITH WHICH THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S
ADVISORY OPINION ARRIVED IN D'AUBUISSON'S HANDS AND

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WAS SENT FROM HIS OFFICE SUGGESTS COLLUSION. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD THAT SEVERAL MAGISTRATES OF THE SUPREME COURT'S CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER HAVE BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT ACCEPTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE'S RECOMMENDATION AND OVERTURNING THE ARREST WARRANT. NO EFFORT IS BEING SPARED TO KEEP SARAVIA FROM RETURNING TO EL SALVAADOR.

9. (C) THE MARISCOS YAZUMAL FAX IDENTIFICATION CLEARLY LINKS THE SARAVIA OFFENSE TO AN ENTIRE REALM OF COUP PLOTTERS, DEATH SQUAD CHIEFS, KIDNAPPERS, BABY ROBBERS, MAD BOMBERS, CAR THIEVES, AND OTHER ASSORTED CRIMINALS. NONE, HOWEVER, HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED, AND PROSECUTION IS UNLIKELY AS LONG AS D'AUBUSSON AND HIS BACKERS ARE FREE TO MANIPULATE THE SALVAADORAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM. THE USG MUST CONTINUE IN GOOD FAITH TO SEEK SARAVIA'S EXTRADITION, BUT GIVEN WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST, THE ODDS ARE LONG OF HIS BEING CONVICTED IN THE SALVAADORAN COURTS.

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