## 

1982/10/28

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ite Printed: 12/11/1997 DOC\_NUMBER: 82GUATEM08150 EIZ5 CHANNEL TOTAL 66 CONFIDENTIAL GUATEM 08150 01 OF 02 282242Z PAGE 01 ACTION ARA-16 INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-06 HA-08 SS-10 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 INRE-00 SAL-01 SYE-00 -----321704 282251Z /62 O 282239Z OCT 82 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1680 INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE AMEMBASSY MANAGUA DECLASIFY EO Citations
IN PURT AMEMBASSY MEXICO AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE TOLY Emmotions B/ AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR () CLASS: 1 = ( ) S or ( ) C Sec. ( ) DOVINGRIDE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C TS authority to AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 GUATEMALA 08150 E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/28/88 TAGS: PINS, PINT, PINR, PGOV, SHUM, GT SUBJECT: FURTHER ON CHOATALUM

FICISE

REFS: (A) GUATEMALA 7825

(B) GUATEMALA 7938

(C) GUATEMALA 7939

(D) GUATEMALA 7963

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. BACKGROUND ON MARIO CARPIO, CITED IN OCTOBER 18 AFP ARTICLE FROM MANAGUA. CARPIO WAS AFP CORRESPONDENT AND DIRECTOR OF INFORPRESS IN GUATEMALA UNTIL 1980 WHEN HE LEFT THE COUNTRY PROBABLY UNDER THREAT. HE AND HIS WIFE VIOLETA CCNFIDENTIAL

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WERE DESCRIBED AS "EXTREME LEFTIST VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT AND PROBABLY SUPPORTING THEM. " THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY WERE SO IN-

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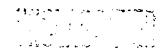
VOLVED IS NOT KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. MARIO CARPIO IS WELL CONNECTED IN GUATEMALA, WHERE ONE BROTHER IS PUBLISHER OF EL GRAFICO AND ANOTHER, ROBERTO CARPIO, WAS DCG VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE ABORTED NATIONAL ELECTIONS. NEITHER BROTHER, HOWEVER, REFLECTS THE POLITICAL VIEWS OF MARIO.

- THE CHOATALUM STORY WAS ALSO HEARD IN GUATEMALA CITY ON OCTOBER 22 IN A REPORT BY BYRON BARRERA ON RADIO HAVANA. BARRERA WAS INTERVIEWED AS A GUATEMALAN JOURNALIST AND A MEMBER OF THE DEMO-CRATIC JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF GUATEMALA (APG), THE SAME ORGANIZATION OF WHICH CARPIO IS LISTED IN THE MANAGUA STORY AS THE COORDINATOR. BARRERA REPEATED THE CHOATALUM STORY IN INTERVIEW OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES ON RADIO HAVANA. HE ALSO LEFT GUATEMALA APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO, PROBABLY UNDER THREAT AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN CUBA SINCE. WHILE THE THREAT TO BOTH REPORTERS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES IS PROBABLY REAL, THEIR VIEWS OF THE GUATEMALAN SITUATION CANNOT THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO BE NON-BIASED.
- 4. REF D REPORTED CDHG AND AI CLAIMS OF MILITARY MASSACRE IN CHUATALUN (SIC), ALSO SEPARATELY SPELLED CHUATATLUN (SIC), AS INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED IN BOTH MARCH AND APRIL 1982. THESE REPORTS MAY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN THE ORIGIN OF THE ONE THAT SURFACED
IN OCTOBER. OTHER THAN THE AMBASSADOR'S
VISIT OF OCTOBER 21, THERE HAVE BEEN VISITS
ON OCTOBER 17 BY THE SWEDISH EMBASSY DCM,
ACCOMPANIED BY A SWEDISH REPORTER, AND A SECOND
SWEDISH REPORTER WAS SEPARATELY IN CHOATALUM
THE SAME DAY. THE CHARGE OF THE CANADIAN
EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED TO VISIT SAN MARTIN
JILOTEPEQUE AND DID SO OCTOBER 25. THE CANADIAN
CHARGE DID NOT GO TO CHOATALUM BECAUSE HE WAS
NOT INSTRUCTED TO DO SO. NEITHER THE SWEDISH
NOR THE CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS OBTAINED
ANY INFORMATION THAT INDICATED THERE WAS A MASSACRE.



IN FACT,

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UNE OF THE SWEDISH JUUKNALISTS ALSO REPURTEDLY SAID THAT HIS NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED THE CHOATALUM MASSACRE STORY WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN ON THE SPOT. THIS LATTER INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED TO THE REPORTING OFFICER BY A BRITISH NATIONAL RESIDENT IN ANTIGUA WHO TALKED TO THE SWEDISH REPORTER AND CALLED THE EMBASSY TO SO ADVISE.

5. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON OCTOBER 25 THAT THE DELEGATION FROM THE AMERICAS WATCH COMMITTEE HAD VISITED CHOATALUM OCTOBER 23. AS EMBASSY HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO DEBRIEF THIS GROUP, WE CANNOT CONFIRM THIS VISIT. THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF THE REFUGEES IN THE SAN MARTIN, JILOTEPEQUE MUNICIPALITY HAVE BEEN

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O 282239Z OCT 82 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

CHANNEL: n/a

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ALDEAS.

6. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ABOUT CHOATALUM BUT REMAINS CONVINCED THAT A MASSACRE DID NOT HAPPEN IN CHOATALUM ON OCTOBER 5 NOR WERE THE REFUGEES WHO HAD GATHERED THERE THREATENED BY THE ARMY. THE STORY IS CONSIDERED BY EVERY OBSERVER WE HAVE CONSULTED TO HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE FABRI-CATION AND ONE THAT SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SERVE THE MARXIST CAUSE. CHAPIN

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