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Case Number: 199502915

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ACTION SY-06

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-08	IO-15	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00
	HA-08	L-03	LAB-04	PA-01	MCT-03	STR-14	SIL-01
	INRE-00	A-02	SYE-00	USIE-00	SLPD-01	/077 W	

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O 232325Z FEB 84
 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0008
 INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
 AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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A/SY/TAG

E.O.12356: DECL: 2/23/90
 TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, GT
 SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: TRADE-UNION LEADERS ABDUCTED

REFS: A) GUATEMALA 1791 B) GUATEMALA 1624

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE FEBRUARY 22 GUATEMALAN PRESS REPORTED THE FEBRUARY 18 ABDUCTION OF TRADE-UNION LEADER FERNANDO GARCIA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ARMED MEN KIDNAPPED HIM WHILE HE WAS WALKING IN ZONE 12 IN GUATEMALA CITY. MR. GARCIA IS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE CAVISA UNION (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES INDUSTRIA C.A. DE VIDRIO S.A./UNION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF

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 VIDRIO S.A.). CAVISA IS A GLASS FACTORY,

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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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A SUBSIDIARY OF A MEXICAN GLASS CORPORATION.
IN ADDITION TO THE PRESS REPORTS, HIS TRADE UNION
PUBLISHED A PAID ADVERTISEMENT IN WHICH IT
DENOUNCED HIS ABDUCTION AND NOTED THAT NOTHING
CAN BE RESOLVED BY SUCH ACTS.

3. THE CAVISA UNION IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE COMMUNIST
TRADE-UNION CONFEDERATION FASGUA (FEDERACION AUTONOMA
SINDICAL DE GUATEMALA/AUTONOMOUS TRADE-UNION
FEDERATION OF GUATEMALA). FASGUA WAS THE TRADE-UNION
ARM OF THE PGT (GUATEMALAN LABOR PARTY), WHICH IS
THE ORTHODOX SOVIET-RELATED COMMUNIST PARTY OF
GUATEMALA. ALTHOUGH THE PGT ITSELF WAS OUTLAWED
IN 1954, FASGUA HAS CONTINUED IN LEGAL EXISTENCE
TO THIS DAY. AT ONE TIME, IT HAD APPROXIMATELY
51 AFFILIATED UNIONS, ITS CURRENT NUMBER OF
AFFILIATES AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS UNKNOWN. AS
OF 1979 (THE DATE FOR THE LAST KNOWN STATISTICS
FOR THIS CONFEDERATION) THE CAVISA UNION WAS THE
THIRD LARGEST FASGUA UNION AFFILIATE WITH SOME
600 MEMBERS.

4. DURING RECENT WEEKS, SEVERAL TRADE-UNION LEADERS
AND LABOR LAWYERS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED. ON FEBRUARY
11, UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS KIDNAPPED SERGIO
ALDANA GALVAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SINDICATO
DE TRABAJADORES DE LA EMPRESA PRENSA LIBRE/WORKERS'
UNION OF THE PRENSA LIBRE COMPANY. HIS ABDUCTORS
RELEASED HIM UNHARMED ON FEBRUARY 14 (SEE REFTEL B).
HE HAS BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRENSA LIBRE
UNION SINCE 1981. HIS PREDECESSOR IN THAT POSITION,
MANUEL RENE POLANCO SALGUERO, WAS ONE OF THE 28

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CNT (CENTRAL NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES/NATIONAL
WORKERS CENTRAL) LEADERS WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1980
IN ONE FELL SWOOP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT GOG SECURITY
FORCES MURDERED ALL OF THEM. THE CNT IS CONTROLLED
BY MARXIST-LENINISTS. THE EXTENT OF ITS PRESENT
ACTIVITY IS UNKNOWN.

- IN STILL ANOTHER INCIDENT, UNIDENTIFIED
INDIVIDUALS KIDNAPPED PROMINENT LABOR LAWYER

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SANTIAGO LOPEZ AGUILAR ON FEBRUARY 17; THEY SUBSEQUENTLY MURDERED HIM. PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT A PAPER WAS FOUND ATTACHED TO HIS SHIRT WHICH SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN EXECUTED AS A TRAITOR TO THE PGT. IN ADDITION TO HIS PRIVATE PRACTICE, HE WAS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE LAW SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS. AT ONE TIME HE HAD WORKED AT THE ESCUELA DE FORMACION SINDICAL (SCHOOL OF UNION FORMATION), WHICH WAS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS. ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY CLOSED DOWN BY USAC, THIS INSTITUTION HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

- IN A FEBRUARY 2 KIDNAPPING, ABDUCTORS KIDNAPPED USAC LAW STUDENT SERGIO MANFREDO BELTETON DE LEON; THEY RELEASED HIM ON FEBRUARY 17. ALTHOUGH STILL A LAW STUDENT, HIS FAMILY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON A LABOR CASE JUST PRIOR TO HIS ABDUCTION.

5. IN A FEBRUARY 21 HAVANA INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE, THE CNUS (CONSEJO NACIONAL DE UNIDAD SINDICAL/NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRADE-UNION UNITY) DEMANDED AN END TO THE RECENT REPRESSION,

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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A/SY/TAG

E.O.12356: DECL: 2/23/90

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SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: TRADE-UNION LEADERS ABDUCTED

WHICH--THEY ALLEGE--HAS RESULTED IN TWO UNION MEMBERS BEING KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS BEING KIDNAPPED. THE CNUS ANNOUNCED THAT A MEMBER OF THEIR CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND A CNT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SAMUEL VILLATORO HAD ALSO BEEN KIDNAPPED. THIS ABDUCTION FIRST CAME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN GUATEMALA WHEN HIS WIFE ANNOUNCED HIS ABDUCTION ON FEBRUARY 23. AT ONE TIME, MR. VILLATORO HAD BEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE FABRICA DE CHICLETS "ADAMS". THE ADAMS CHICLET COMPANY UNION IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE CNT.

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THE CNUS ALSO CLAIMED THAT UNKNOWN PERSONS KILLED ALFONSO ALVARADO (ANOTHER CNT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER). COMMENT: EMBASSY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS KIDNAPPED ALVARADO IN LATE JANUARY; AS YET, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO PUBLIC INFORMATION THAT HE HAS BEEN KILLED. THE CNUS ALSO ALLEGED THAT A GLASS FACTORY WORKER (EMBASSY ASSUMES THEY ARE REFERRING TO FERNANDO GARCIA) WAS ALSO MURDERED AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED. THE CNT AND FASGUA FOUNDED THE CNUS IN 1976. IT IS A MARXIST-LENINIST UMBRELLA TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATION. AS AN AGITPROP ORGANIZATION, IT ISSUES NUMEROUS PRESS RELEASES THROUGH HAVANA ON TRADE-UNION CONDITIONS WITHIN GUATEMALA.

6. COMMENT. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF BELTETON, ALL OF THE MISSING PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THIS CABLE ARE--OR HAVE BEEN--CONNECTED

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WITH MARXIST-LENINIST TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE THE RECENTLY KIDNAPPED TRADE-UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED, EMBASSY IS OPTIMISTIC THAT FERNANDO GARCIA OF CAVISA WILL BE RELEASED, IN SPITE OF THE CNUS CLAIM THAT HE HAS ALREADY BEEN MURDERED. EMBASSY IS ALSO OPTIMISTIC THAT SAMUEL VILLATORO WILL BE RELEASED, IF HE IS BEING HELD BY GOG SECURITY FORCES. THE GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUSLY ROUNDING UP PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE EXTREME LEFT-WING LABOR MOVEMENT FOR INTERROGATION. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THEY ARE RELEASING MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AFTER THEY QUESTION THEM. NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

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OVER THESE ABDUCTIONS SHOULD BE EXPECTED. THE CNUS HAS ALREADY STARTED BEATING THE DRUMS AGAINST THE GOG OVER THIS WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFTIST TRADE-UNION ACTIVISTS. THAT THE GOG EVENTUALLY IS RELEASING THESE PEOPLE WILL NOT SILENCE THE HOWLING OF THE WOLVES ON THE EXTREME LEFT, SINCE SUCH ABDUCTIONS GIVE THEIR PROPAGANDA ORGANIZATIONS THE AMMUNITION THEY NEED AGAINST THE GOG.
END COMMENT.

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