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Case Number: 199502915

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ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08
L-03 PA-01 MCT-03 USSS-00 SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02
PRS-01 /051. W

-----145441 150124Z /70

P 142304Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0418
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
DIA WASHDC//KSO-4B/DB-3E2
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 GUATEMALA 02595

E.O.:12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:PGOV, BE, PREL, GT, SHUM, ELAB
SUBJECT:SHOOTING INCIDENT AT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S
- RESIDENCE

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1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

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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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2. AT ABOUT MIDDAY ON MARCH 13, A SHOOTING INCIDENT OCCURRED AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN GUATEMALA CITY. THE RESIDENCE IS LOCATED SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, A MEMBER OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY, AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT:

3. THE VICTIM OF THE ATTACK, ALVARO RENE SOSA, WAS REPORTED BY THE NEWSPAPERS TO BE ABOUT 35 YEARS OLD. HE TOLD BELGIAN OFFICIALS THAT HE USED A RUSE TO ESCAPE FROM HIS CAPTORS. APPARENTLY, AS HE WAS BEING DRIVEN DOWN THE STREET, HE POINTED TO A PASSER-BY AS BEING A CONFEDERATE. WHEN SOME OF THE GUARDS IN THE CAR ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE THE PASSER-BY, SOSA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE, RUNNING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE BELGIAN RESIDENCE. SOSA JUMPED OVER THE WALL ONTO THE RESIDENCE GROUNDS WHILE YELLING THAT MEN WERE TRYING TO KILL HIM. (NOTE: THE RESIDENCE IS FRONTED BY A RELATIVELY LOW BRICK WALL AND FENCE. NORMALLY ONE OR TWO GUARDS ARE STATIONED AT THE ENTRANCE.) SOSA WAS HANDCUFFED AT THE TIME AND THIS APPARENTLY SAVED HIM FROM BEING SHOT AT BY THE RESIDENCE'S GUARDS. THE GUARDS SEEM TO HAVE DECIDED THAT, BEING HANDCUFFED, THE PERSON WAS AT LEAST NOT A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS GUERRILLA.

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4. THE BELGIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID THAT SOSA RAN FROM THE FRONT GATE TO THE RESIDENCE. THE BUILDING'S FRONT DOOR, NORMALLY CLOSED, HAPPENED TO BE OPEN AT THAT TIME AND SOSA ENTERED THE BUILDING. SOSA HAD BEEN PURSUED DOWN THE STREET BY SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN CIVILIAN DRESS WHO CONTINUED FIRING AT HIM FROM THE SIDEWALK APPARENTLY WOUNDING HIM AT LEAST TWICE BEFORE SOSA REACHED THE INTERIOR OF THE RESIDENCE. THE

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BELGIAN AMBASSADOR RECALLS HEARING FIVE SHOTS,
AND FOUR BULLETS HIT THE FRONT OF THE
RESIDENCE.

5. THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS IN THE BUILDING,
IMMEDIATELY WENT OUT TO INVESTIGATE AT THE FRONT
GATE. AFTER IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS AN
AMBASSADOR, HE REQUESTED IDENTIFICATION OR
WARRANTS FROM THE VICTIM'S PURSUERS. THEY
REFUSED.

6. THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY CALLED ITS PRIVATE
PHYSICIAN AS WELL AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
THE FORMER ARRIVED QUICKLY. AS MIGHT HAVE
BEEN EXPECTED, GIVEN THE TIME OF DAY, ALMOST
EVERYONE IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AT THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS ABSENT. WHEN A
CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WAS FINALLY
LOCATED, IT APPEARS THAT HE ALSO HAD TO
LOCATE VARIOUS MISSING SUPERIORS TO OBTAIN
INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE
RESIDENCE. ABOUT 1 1/2 HOURS PASSED
BEFORE THE VICTIM WAS FINALLY TRANSPORTED

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	L-03	PA-01	MCT-03	USSS-00	SYE-00	USIE-00	SP-02
	PRS-01	/051 W					

-----145470 150126Z /70

P 142304Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0419
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHDC//KSO-4B/DB-3E2
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
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E.O.:12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:PGOV, BE, PREL, GT, SHUM, ELAB
SUBJECT:SHOOTING INCIDENT AT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S
TO A PRIVATE HOSPITAL, LA BELLA AURORA,
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FOR SURGERY ON THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE--AND
UNDER THE EMBASSY'S AND FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
"PROTECTION". (BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE AN
ASYLUM AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALA.)
SOSA IS NOT BELIEVED IN A LIFE-THREATENING
CONDITION AND IS RECOVERING AFTER
SURGERY, ACCORDING TO THE BELGIUM EMBASSY.
A GUARD HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE HOSPITAL'S
ENTRANCE.

7. THE VICTIM TOLD BELGIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS
THAT HE WAS NOT SEEKING ASYLUM WHEN HE
ENTERED THE RESIDENCE'S GROUNDS. RATHER,
HE WAS JUST SEEKING ESCAPE FROM HIS CAPTORS
AND SOUGHT THE NEAREST AVAILABLE REFUGE.
HE CLAIMED TO BE A UNION MEMBER OF THE
CNT (NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS) AND
SAID THAT HE, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS,
HAD BEEN DETAINED AND INTERROGATED BY ,
HE ASSERTED, "THE ARMY." HE TOLD EMBASSY

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OFFICIALS THAT DURING HIS INTERROGATION HE CAPTORS WORE HOODS TO CONCEAL THEIR FACES. EMBASSY OFFICIALS SAID THAT HE HAD MARKS ON HIS BODY INDICATIVE OF "PHYSICAL" INTERROGATION.

(NOTE: THE CNT IS A MARXIST-LENINIST LABOR UNION CONFEDERATION.)

7A. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS BROADCAST MARCH 14, SOSA IS A MEMBER OF THE COCA-COLA UNION AND ITS NEGOTIATIONS SECRETARY. THE COCA-COLA UNION IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE CNT.

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8. THE BELGIAN EMBASSY WILL DELIVER A FORMAL NOTE OF PROTEST ABOUT THE SHOOTING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MARCH 14.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE TOLD THE CHARGE EARLY FEBRUARY 14 THAT HE HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS INCIDENT. WHEN HE HAD BEEN TELEPHONED AT HOME BY THE BELGIAN FIRST SECRETARY SHORTLY AFTER SOSA ENTERED THE BELGIAN RESIDENCE GROUNDS, HE SENT THE MOST SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL AVAILABLE TO THE RESIDENCE. ANDRADE SAID HE WOULD HAVE GONE PERSONALLY HAD HE NOT BEEN CONFINED TO HIS RESIDENCE WITH A BADLY ABCESED TOOTH. THE MINISTER ARRANGED FOR SOSA TO BE EVACUATED TO A HOSPITAL, BUT ONLY AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE CHIEF OF STATE TO GET ASSURANCES DEMANDED BY THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR THAT SOSA WOULD NOT BE HARMED WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL. THESE PROCEDURES DELAYED THE TRANSFER TO THE HOSPITAL BY SOME ONE AND A HALF HOURS. BECAUSE BELGIUM WAS NOT A SIGNATORY TO THE CONVENTION ON ASYLUM, ANDRADE SAID THE BELGIAN EMBASSY COULD NOT ARRANGE SAFE CONDUCT FOR SOSA OUT OF GUATEMALA. HE HAD SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT THE BELGIAN EMBASSY FIND SOME LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSY WILLING TO TAKE CUSTODY OF SOSA AND ESCORT HIM OUT. ANDRADE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE ECUADORIAN EMBASSY WAS WILLING TO DO THIS BUT HAD NOT HEARD FORMALLY FROM

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THE ECUADORIANS BY MIDDAY, MARCH 14.

COMMENT: ANDRADE EXPLAINED THAT HIS ONLY MOTIVATION
IN DOING WHAT HE DID WAS TO AVOID AN ADVERSE
INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE INCIDENT. SAYING THAT HE

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	PRS-01	/051 W					

-----145500 150128Z /70

P 142304Z MAR 84
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0420
INFO AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
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SUBJECT: SHOOTING INCIDENT AT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S
"DID NOT KNOW WHO THE VICTIM WAS OR WHO HAD TRIED TO HARM
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HIM," ANDRADE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS A
GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST AN ENEMY OF THE STATE.
TAYLOR

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