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# CIA Officials Are Cleared In Slayings

*Oversight Board Critical  
Of Guatemala Updates*

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President Clinton's Intelligence Oversight Board yesterday cleared American CIA officials of any involvement in the killings in Guatemala of a U.S. innkeeper and a Guatemalan guerrilla married to an American lawyer, but it criticized the agency for failing to keep Congress and the State Department informed of important information about the two cases.

In addition, a six-month internal CIA inquiry left in doubt whether a Guatemalan army colonel on the CIA's payroll had any association with either killing. The investigation, by the CIA inspector general, described serious flaws in CIA reporting in 1991 and 1995 that initially linked Col. Julio Roberto Alpirez to the cases.

The issue remained open, however, as a senior CIA official familiar with the investigation yesterday told reporters that Alpirez "may very well have been involved."

The investigations by the oversight board and the CIA inspector general were undertaken this year after members of Congress complained of a possible coverup of CIA involvement in the 1990 abduction and killing of innkeeper William Devine and the 1992 torture and disap-

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# Senator Wants Further Probe of Guatemala Killings

CIA From AI

pedance of Efraim Bamaca Velazquez, a Guatemalan guerrilla married to lawyer Jennifer Harbury.

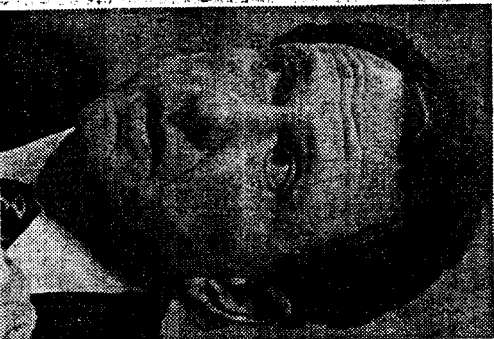
There were signs that the CIA report, by Inspector General Frederick R. Hitz, would not satisfy Congress. Senate intelligence committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) said the report "leaves a lot to be desired."

"In this report they are still making excuses," Specter said in a meeting with Washington Post reporters and editors. He added that "the inspector general needs to go a lot farther than he has gone on this investigation."

The Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB), a four-person group chaired by Washington lawyer Anthony Harrington, dismissed a serious allegation of illegal intelligence activities that surfaced last March after the Guatemalan affair had burst into public view.

The IOB described as apparently "fabricated" charges that two Army officers were involved in altering National Security Agency (NSA) records to delete knowledge and participation of the Army in the torture and murders of DeVine and Bamaca.

The original allegations were made in a letter faxed to a member of Congress and reporters and carrying what was supposed to be an NSA letterhead. The letter claimed



SEN. ARLEN SPECTER  
... "still making excuses"

that Col. Daniel D. Day, who worked at NSA, and Lt. Gen. Paul E. Menoher Jr., the Army's deputy chief of staff for intelligence, were involved in a scheme to purge from computer systems "certain records regarding communications intercepts which show U.S. Army intelligence involvement" in the DeVine and Bamaca murders.

The IOB reported that "no records on Guatemala were deleted or destroyed" and that neither Menoher nor Day had the access to computer files "necessary to make alleged alterations."

The IOB also reported that the anonymous letterhead "does not

match any NSA letterhead used in at least the last twenty years."

It was public disclosure of the alleged NSA letter that caused the White House to initiate the IOB government-wide inquiry, which remains to be completed.

In disclosing doubts that the CIA inspector general had about the accuracy of agent reports it received on Alpirez and the two murders, the senior agency official who briefed reporters disclosed that only 10 percent of the CIA's paid agents in Guatemala had been examined for reliability under agency rules in effect since 1989.

The senior official said, however, that despite the remaining doubts he was not sure the inspector general "would do a lot more work" on finding out about any Alpirez role in the killings because his investigation was designed only to "find out what the agency knew about Alpirez, what their relationship was, rather than finding out who [did] it."

Alpirez refused to meet with CIA investigators when they went to Guatemala recently as part of the inspector general's inquiry, the senior official said. "We wanted him to come to the U.S. embassy and he was rather concerned about his safety and he didn't come."

The report singles out one CIA case officer in Guatemala who was the source of the 1991 report that first indicated that Alpirez may have

been "present" when DeVine was interrogated and eventually killed. The case officer, according to a summary of the Hitz report, later told investigators he was "uncertain about the accuracy of key elements of the information that he reported to the agency."

Hitz found in the Guatemala matter that the agency did not meet the statutory standard to keep "congressional intelligence oversight committees fully and currently informed." When the 1991 report on Alpirez's alleged presence at the DeVine interrogation came to Washington, Congress was not informed, although the murder had caused the Bush administration to halt U.S. military aid to Guatemala.

Hitz, however, put that failure to "management inattention" rather than finding any "agency personnel [who] advocated not notifying Congress or made a decision not to do so."

CIA Director John M. Deutch, who is in Europe, issued a statement that he would be making structural changes regarding the CIA's reporting to Congress and the State Department, and was considering disciplinary measures based on the Hitz report.

Hitz, according to a senior intelligence official, named active and retired agency employees in his report and wrote up their alleged deficiencies.

Hitz did not recommend firing any, the official said.