

# Clinton Cuba Adviser Under Investigation

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Richard A. Nuccio, President Clinton's special adviser on Cuba and a former aide to Rep. Robert G. Torricelli (D-N.J.), is being investigated by the Justice Department for allegedly giving classified CIA information to the New Jersey Democrat, sources familiar with the matter say.

Last March, Torricelli created a storm when he wrote Clinton and simultaneously disclosed to the news media that a Guatemalan colonel who was on the CIA payroll was linked to the 1990 murder of a U.S. citizen and the 1992 killing of the husband of an American lawyer. The New Jersey legislator also charged that the administration and the agency had concealed that information and "the CIA was out of control."

At the time, Torricelli was a member of the House Intelligence Committee but said he had learned about the Guatemalan officer, Col. Julio Roberto Alpirez, and his connections with the CIA from unofficial sources, which he did not name.

In an April interview with The Washington Post, Torricelli said the information came "from members of Clinton's own administration who wanted to communicate with [the president] as soon as they could, and as boldly as they could."

In 1992, Nuccio served as a staff consultant to the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, which Torricelli chaired. In 1993, after Clinton's election, Nuccio was named senior adviser to the assistant secretary of State

for Inter-American Affairs, handling Guatemalan matters.

He was in that post when Torricelli made his statement. At the time, Nuccio was authorized to have information about the CIA's activities in Guatemala and Torricelli, as a member of the intelligence panel, was entitled to receive it, according to administration sources.

"The problem is that no one approved passing such information to Torricelli," one source said.

Last May, Nuccio was appointed a special adviser on Cuba, reporting to Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Nuccio was not in his office yesterday and could not be reached at home for comment.

In a statement released yesterday, Torricelli said, "Instead of focusing resources on identifying those who revealed CIA involvement in the murder of an American, the CIA should be investigating its own violation of federal law."

The real outrage in this case, Torricelli said, "is the CIA's activities, not those of government officials who had the courage to reveal them."

Two of Nuccio's former colleagues from his days on Torricelli's subcommittee staff described his long-standing interest in Guatemala and deep concern about human rights problems there.

Another onetime Hill colleague said yesterday, "When this issue [of Torricelli's charges] first came up, I said, 'Where's Nuccio?'"

Toricelli's disclosure in March set off two separate investigations. One into where the New Jersey Democrat got his information; the other into

how the CIA and other U.S. agencies dealt with the Guatemalan government.

Several weeks ago, the State Department inspector general began an inquiry into Nuccio. Those results were forwarded to the Justice Department, the Miami Herald reported yesterday. Linda Topping, a spokesman for the State Department inspector general, said yesterday only that "a matter had been referred to Justice."

Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern would not comment on the situation.

Last July, the House ethics committee voted unanimously to take no action against Torricelli, who apparently broke a new House oath not to disclose classified information "received in the course of service with the House of Representatives."

Toricelli said the oath was ambiguous and that he had obtained his information from outside the intelligence committee.

The broader investigation into U.S. activities in Guatemala already has had some effect.

The CIA's inspector general, Frederick P. Hitz, looked into the agency's own operations in Guatemala and its failure to keep the White House and Congress informed. Based on his findings, CIA Director John M. Deutch fired two senior agency officers, demoted another, and reprimanded seven more, most of whom had already retired.

The Justice, Defense and State department inquiries have been completed and forwarded to the president's Intelligence Oversight Board for a decision.