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FEDERAL GRAND JURY

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PROCEEDINGS HAD BEFORE THE GRAND JURY  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN AND  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,  
AT UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTHOUSE,  
312 NORTH SPRING STREET, 13TH FLOOR,  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, ON WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 17, 1990.

PRESENT:

MANUEL MEDRANO  
JOHN CARLTON  
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS

WITNESS: HECTOR BERRELLEZ

REPORTED BY:

MARK SCHWEITZER

35

1 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1990; LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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11:00 A.M.

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THE FOREPERSON: YOU DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE THAT YOU SHALL GIVE IN THE PROCEEDINGS NOW BEFORE THIS FEDERAL GRAND JURY SHALL BE THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH SO HELP YOU GOD.

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THE WITNESS: I DO.

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THE FOREPERSON: PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND OCCUPATION.

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THE WITNESS: MY NAME IS HECTOR BERRELLEZ, B-E-R-R-E-L-L-E-Z, AND I AM A SPECIAL AGENT WITH THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION. I AM THE GROUP SUPERVISOR OF OPERATION LEYENDA, WHICH HAS BEEN TASKED WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF SPECIAL AGENT ENRIQUE CAMARENA.

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MR. MEDRANO: GOOD MORNING, AGENT BERRELLEZ.

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THE WITNESS: GOOD MORNING, SIR, AND GOOD MORNING MEMBERS OF THE GRAND JURY.

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MR. MEDRANO: I JUST HAVE SOME VERY BRIEF

1 QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

2 YOU KNOW A MAN BY THE NAME OF HECTOR  
3 CERVANTES SANTOS; CORRECT?

4 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, I DO.

5 MR. MEDRANO: AND HE IS A COOPERATING  
6 INDIVIDUAL THAT IS ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT INTO THE  
7 MURDER OF AGENT CAMARENA?

8 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, HE IS.

9 MR. MEDRANO: AND YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY  
10 TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS WITH HIM WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT THE  
11 INVESTIGATION?

12 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, I HAVE.

13 MR. MEDRANO: AND AS PART OF YOUR MEETINGS WITH  
14 CERVANTES SANTOS, DID YOU EVER HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW  
15 HIM PHOTOGRAPHS?

16 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, WE SHOWED HIM NUMEROUS  
17 PHOTOGRAPHS. APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO WE DID THAT.

18 MR. MEDRANO: AND CAN YOU GIVE US A ROUGH IDEA  
19 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS THAT WERE SHOWN TO  
20 MR. CERVANTES?

21 THE WITNESS: OVER 60 PHOTOGRAPHS WERE SHOWN TO  
22 MR. CERVANTES.

23 MR. MEDRANO: AND WHEN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE  
24 SHOWN TO HIM, WAS HE ABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THESE  
25 PHOTOGRAPHS?

1 THE WITNESS: YES. HE IDENTIFIED -- AS A  
2 MATTER OF FACT --

3 MR. MEDRANO: WELL, BEFORE YOU ANSWER THAT, LET  
4 ME JUST ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.

5 HE WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE  
6 VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS THAT YOU SHOWED TO HIM?

7 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, HE DID.

8 MR. MEDRANO: AND WHEN YOU SHOWED HIM THESE  
9 PHOTOGRAPHS, YOU DID NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGEST TO HIM THE  
10 IDENTITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS; IS THAT CORRECT?

11 THE WITNESS: NO, SIR, I DID NOT.

12 MR. MEDRANO: THE POINT IS YOU JUST SHOWED HIM  
13 THE PHOTOGRAPHS TO SEE IF HE COULD RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE  
14 PHOTOGRAPHS; IS THAT RIGHT?

15 THE WITNESS: RIGHT. WELL, MY INSTRUCTIONS TO  
16 HIM WERE BASICALLY I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU SOME PHOTOGRAPHS,  
17 AND IF YOU SEE ANYBODY THAT YOU KNOW, POINT HIM OUT TO ME  
18 AND TELL ME WHO THEY ARE.

19 MR. MEDRANO: OKAY. NOW, AS PART OF THAT  
20 PROCESS, WAS CERVANTES SANTOS ABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF  
21 THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR YOU?

22 THE WITNESS: YES, HE IDENTIFIED NUMEROUS  
23 PHOTOGRAPHS, SIR.

24 MR. MEDRANO: NOW, CAN YOU TELL THE GRAND JURY  
25 WHO HE WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY?

1 THE WITNESS: AT THE TOP OF MY HEAD, I CAN TELL  
2 YOU THAT HE IDENTIFIED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RUBEN ZUNO ARCE;  
3 HE IDENTIFIED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF JUAN MATTA-BALLESTEROS; HE  
4 IDENTIFIED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF CARO-QUINTERO; HE IDENTIFIED  
5 THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ERNESTO FONSECA CARRILLO; HE IDENTIFIED  
6 THE PHOTOGRAPH OF JAVIER BARBA HERNANDEZ; AND HE  
7 IDENTIFIED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MFJP COMMANDER ARMANDO PAVON  
8 REYES. HE IDENTIFIED NUMEROUS OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS, AND I  
9 DON'T RECALL EXACTLY WHICH OTHERS HE IDENTIFIED AT THIS  
10 TIME.

11 MR. MEDRANO: WELL, YOU DON'T RECALL AT THIS  
12 POINT IN TIME?

13 THE WITNESS: AT THIS POINT, YES. I HAVE A  
14 LIST THAT I MADE, BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT LIST WITH ME RIGHT  
15 NOW.

16 MR. MEDRANO: NOW, ONE OF THE PEOPLE THAT YOU  
17 MENTIONED AS BEING IDENTIFIED BY CERVANTES WAS A MAN BY  
18 THE NAME OF MATTA-BALLESTEROS?

19 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR. JUAN RAMON  
20 MATTA-BALLESTEROS.

21 MR. MEDRANO: ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE DEA  
22 INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE  
23 DOES MATTA-BALLESTEROS HAVE OR GO BY ANY NICK NAMES?

24 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR, TO MY KNOWLEDGE HE GOES  
25 BY TWO NICKNAMES. HE GOES BY EL NEGRO AND ALSO IS KNOWN

1 AS EL COLUMBIANO, THE COLUMBIAN.

2 MR. MEDRANO: ONE FINAL THING I WANTED TO ASK  
3 YOU, MR. BERRELLEZ. HAVE YOU HAD AN AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
4 DISCUSS WITH CERVANTES MEETINGS THAT OCCURRED AT THE  
5 RESIDENCE OF JAVIER BARBA ON OR ABOUT THE DATE IN WHICH  
6 JORGE BARBA HERNANDEZ WAS MARRIED?

7 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR. HE TOLD ME ABOUT A  
8 MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE SOMETIME IN OCTOBER OF 1984 AT THE  
9 RESIDENCE OF JAVIER BARBA HERNANDEZ, AND THAT ON THAT  
10 DATE, HE RECALLS THAT THEY CELEBRATED THE WEDDING PARTY OF  
11 JORGE BARBA HERNANDEZ. JORGE BARBA HERNANDEZ BEING JAVIER  
12 BARBA HERNANDEZ' YOUNGER BROTHER.

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13 MR. MEDRANO: DIDN'T CERVANTES TELL YOU OF MORE  
14 THAN ONE MEETING ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY?

15 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR. MR. CERVANTES TOLD ME  
16 THAT ON THAT DATE THERE HAD BEEN TWO MEETINGS, ONE IN THE  
17 EARLY AFTERNOON HOURS PRIOR TO CELEBRATING THE WEDDING,  
18 AND THAT IN FACT LATER THAT NIGHT, WAY LATE INTO THE NIGHT  
19 AFTER THE PARTY WAS OVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER  
20 MEETING.

21 MR. MEDRANO: AND DID CERVANTES TELL YOU  
22 APPROXIMATELY WHAT MONTH THESE MEETINGS OCCURRED?

23 THE WITNESS: HE TOLD ME THAT THIS HAD OCCURRED  
24 IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF THE YEAR OF 1984.

25 MR. MEDRANO: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DO YOU HAVE

1 ANY QUESTIONS FOR AGENT BERRELLEZ AT THIS POINT? SEEING  
2 NO HANDS, COULD I ASK YOU TO STEP OUTSIDE, PLEASE.

3 THE WITNESS: YES, SIR. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
4 HAVE A NICE DAY.

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6 (WHEREUPON THE WITNESS WITHDRAWS FROM THE  
7 GRAND JURY ROOM AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED.)

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