

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

1. PROGRAM CODE	2. CROSS FILE	RELATED FILES	3. FILE NO.	4. G-DEF IDENTIFIER
6. BY: Manuel R. Martinez, S/A AT: Los Angeles, CA	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		[REDACTED] 6. FILE TITLE [REDACTED]	5098
7. <input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Requested Action Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Action Requested By:			8. DATE PREPARED September 25, 1989	
9. OTHER OFFICERS: S/A Morales				
10. REPORT RE: Debriefing of [REDACTED]				

DRUG RELATED INFORMATION:

Negative

NON-DRUG RELATED INFORMATION:

On September 20, 1989, Cooperating Individual (CI) [REDACTED] was debriefed by S/A's Martinez and Morales while enroute from Los Angeles, California to Nogales, Arizona. This debriefing was recorded and the following is a transcription of the recording.

Tape 1 - Side 1:

S/A Martinez: The date is September 20, 1989. [REDACTED] could you tell us more or less what the, your role was with Ernesto?

CI: I was his electronics person.

M: Electronics? Work on his radios?

CI: Put all the radio systems in, fixed his wife's reducing machine, repaired his television sets, repaired all those stereos in the cars, and maintained and remove from one car and put 'em in others, the telephone systems, cellular telephone system they had in Guadalajara.

M: How long have you known Ernesto?

CI: Since 1982.

M: 1982? How long have you been in Mexico?

CI: Since 1968.

11. DISTRIBUTION: REGION DISTRICT OTHER	12. SIGNATURE (Agent) <i>Manuel R. Martinez</i> Manuel R. Martinez, Special Agent	13. DATE 10/27/89
	14. APPROVED (Name and Title) <i>Hector Berrellez</i> Hector Berrellez, Group Supervisor	15. DATE 11/29/89

DEA Form 6 (May 1980)

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M: What did you do between 68 and 82?

CI: I was an attorney for 10 years. Our first trial, I was an apprentice to an attorney in Guadalajara. Then I've been practicing with the state, with the PRI party, the CNOP, and from 81 on I began working for the, for various Comandants of the Gobernacion.

M: Let me check. You want to ask?

MORALES: UNINTELLIGIBLE (UI)

M: What is Gobernacion?

CI: Gobernacion is the Ministry of the Interior of Mexico.

M: The PRI?

CI: The PRI party is the dominant political party in Mexico.

M: From 68 to 78 you worked as an attorney.

CI: As I told you, I began as an apprentice.

M: Apprentice?

CI: Working on as a (passante). I didn't know their legal system, I added a classes at the ah, at the, the Autonoma, at the Guadalajara University, University of Guadalajara. Ah, then I went to work for this attorney. I began doing all his legal work as a legal clerk. Then I graduated to, under his supervision, doing demandas and amparos and all the legal pleadings. I studied the civil and penal code, the jurisprudence and after that, I finally began practicing on my own.

M: How long did you practice on your own?

CI: Well, I wasn't really on my own, I working in an office for the Confederacion Nacional do Organizaciones Populares. One of the three organizations of the PRI party. The PRI party has a campesino organization, which is the farmers organization, has a worker's organization which are the big labor unions and has an organization in the middle made up of small businessmen and some cases large businessmen, which are known as popular organizations. And the Confederation of Popular Organizations, has in their sector, which is called the sector popular, the popular sector, had a social service law office. That was at office number 409 in the Plaza building in front of the governor's palace in Guadalajara. Ah, it was good for me to work for them because they covered me in all my law cases.

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I could also take on my own private practice in that office. Even though I had to give free service to the members of the leagues, the various leagues of the, of the popular sector. Which I did all day long.

M: So after that, what year was that?

CI: I started with the CNOP in 1976-1975 and ah before that, had been a , I worked with them off and on, I worked with some of the (passantes) that were in the same office where I worked. Also worked for the CNOP, through the student organization, I was also the attorney for the federation of students of Guadalajara. I was a judicial advisor for them and they would bring judicial problems to me. And we would work out, ah, pleadings or amparos or whatever they needed. So when I got on my own they invited me to come and work with them, and I di

M: How long did you do that, till what year?

CI: Of 1980. Last part of 1980, I went to live in Acapulco. I purchased a house in Acapulco in 1974. I rented it during all that time. Finally I went to live there, I lived there for a year, I got bored, I came back. I took on some cases, people were introduced to me at the state penitentiary who were communist. They were young, they were well educated, they could talk about history. They told me a lot of things that I was interested in hearing. Learning about the political situation in the country, learning about the history, I had no involvement in politics at all, didn't bother with it, didn't interest me at all. Except as a learning experience, trying to learn what things were like down there. These people impressed me, I agreed to act as their attorney, I helped to found a high school inside the penitentiary. They secured the permission for the high school, I got the teachers and the books. Ah, I gave classes in that high school. One day when I was coming out of the, for giving a class, I was arrested by the Federal Security Directorate. Ah, they said that the high school was going to be a communist high school. It wasn't that way but that was their opinion. They said that people I was defending were going to be killed, and that I would be killed too. Some people spoke up for me, I was released. The people I was defending were killed within the next two weeks, and I began to be called in to Gobernacion which is also the immigration department. The delegado, the delegate of immigration in any place in Mexico, is also the regional ministry of the interior delegate. He coordinates the Federal Security Directorate in the political and social investigations. So they began calling me in and I could see that they trying to get me to act as a go - between, between the comandantes and their clients. Their idea was to pick somebody up, they would recommend an attorney, the attorney was actually the go-between. He would collect the money and give the major part of it to the comandante, keep a small part for himself. But they would just turn you into a robot. You had no independent status as an attorney, you were a creature of them.

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M: Yea.

CI: So I told them that I had an interest in electronics. They had bad communications, I told them I could do better. I had installed a small two meter radio system there, one of the first in Guadalajara. They saw it work, it was only two radios and a base station which they saw it worked. They saw that it didn't have any problems, and they agreed. They let me set up a communication system for them. That's what I started doing.

M: You set up a communication with one department, the DFS?

CI: I started with the DFS, with Emilio Escandon.

M: Yea.

CI: From there, other comandantes or other agents would come down and they would see the systems that I put in and ah, a different comandant would ask me to come and help them with their communication systems. So I just started rotating all around the different places.

M: What year was that?

CI: It started in 1980-1981.

M: And then you started going around the country fixing communications. Ah, around that time also, you got to see most of Mexico?

CI: Yea. I got a free ride.

M: Yea, ah, what happened next? You met Ernesto right around that time?

CI: I met Ernesto...

M: How?

CI: Through the comandant of the Federal Security Directorate Martinez who was in Guadalajara in 1982.

M: What's his full name, Martinez?

CI: I don't know what's his full name is.

M: You don't know his full name?

CI: Comandante Martinez ah, they all had credentials as being members of

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Gobernacion. Ah, they paid me extra to fix their televisions. I started fixing televisions for them. Putting in security systems in houses, ah, putting in front gate security gates, electric doors, ah, intercom systems, special intercom systems where the microphones were always on. Normal intercom system you have to push a button to activate the microphone. And in these systems the microphones were already on so they could always continuously monitor what people were saying at the gate even before they pushed the bell. They liked that system. I installed telephone systems for them, telephones, special telephone adaptors, ah telephone taps, ah special microphones, ah. I fixed their televisions and their radios and their stereos.

M: All this equipment that you utilized to do all this, where did you get it, or did they get it for you

CI: Well, with the communications systems, they got them. To begin with the equipment, the radios, some of them, some of the comandantes already had systems. And in fact, Ernesto already had a system but it was a system that wasn't suited for what he wanted. It was a VHF marine system, not a VHF an HF, a high frequency marine system normally used for ship to shore radio, ship to shore telephone contacts. The majority of the channels were to telephone company overland stations. Right? To be able to make telephone calls or communicate with the telephone company when you are on the high seas. That obviously wasn't well adapted to a mountainous area like Guadalajara. I told them that. I told them it wouldn't work. That it would be better for them to look into a line-of-sight system rather than an ionospheric bounce system. But they had some trouble at that time. They were attacked by the police, Ernesto wasn't there, the police took all the radios, all the ship to shore radios and all the antennas they dismantled them and took them away. Later on Ernesto came back and ah, Martinez asked me to go over there and tell them what kind of a system that it would be good for them. I told them a VHF system, they bought some (Pace) radios, they installed them. I went to Durango, then I was in Tepic, in Matamoros, in Oaxaca. When I came back they had this (Pace) system installed and everything, but it didn't work. They had no communication. The radios were all out of tune, they'd been installed, been installed by the local representative of the Motorola company. He charged them as far as what they said, forty or fifty thousand dollars, and they had no communications. So Martinez sent me over to Ernesto's house. I re-established their communications the first day and they were satisfied with that. They hadn't had any communications and they kept me on. Then Sergio, who I'd known in Matamoros cause he worked in Matamoros, he worked in the northern part of the country and had made frequent trips to Guadalajara, became the Comandant and he asked me to work for him.

M: What's his full name?

CI: Sergio Espino Verdin. He asked me to work for him. At the same time, he

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asked me to go over to Ernesto's house and he said they were companeros. Which means, fellow police officers, and he asked me to put in a radio system for them. Or at least he talked to them about a radio system. They asked me what kind of system, of ah, they should get. I told them that it wouldn't be, that it wouldn't be practical for them to bring the radio system. I asked them for permission to go up and buy myself with their money and to bring it back down. That way I could control the entire structure of it and guarantee that it would work. They gave me, they sent me to Tijuana. In Tijuana, they gave me \$15,000.00 dollars. Ah, I went across to San Diego, I purchased a VHF radio system, UI of radios and repeaters and other components, antennas, and everything else that was needed. Ah, I needed to stay in Los Angeles, San Diego - Los Angeles area to make sure that the repeaters were aligned properly because there wasn't equipment to align them in Mexico, in Guadalajara at least. I knew that there were no facilities readily available to, to align the repeaters. They had to make the crystals for them, I had to buy duplexes and duplexes have to be tuned. There is no equipment, in Mexico, in Guadalajara, sufficient, of sufficient quality to really fine tune the duplexes. But they called me on the telephone, they made me report everyday. They got mad if I didn't and they said we don't want you to stay. I said well I have to stay because otherwise I can't bring the proper equipment. They said no, I want you to buy, some electric gas pumps, special nozzles, some lights for strips. They didn't say it was for strips, but they said it lights for, small lights. Giving me to understand that they were landing, for landing strips. And ah, a ship, a land to plane radio and some antennas, that would be adequate for landing the plane. I purchased all that. I went to the, I was given a day to come back by, I had to abandon all the radio stuff. I took about everything I'd already bought but I had to leave the repeaters and everything else that was being aligned there. And I went to the Aeromexico the Aeromexico Company in Los Angeles. I told them that the radios were for the Federal Security Directorate. The boxes were too big to go on the ramp that loads the airplane, they made a special waiver they called Los Angeles, they called Guadalajara they confirmed everything with with the comandant. They confirmed that it as indeed for them, and they made special allowances. I didn't have enough money to pay for all the freight. They, they allowed me to pay less freight and they asked for no no uh import permits or or or sales slips or anything like that they just shipped it on down. I was met at the airport by men from the Federal Security Directorate, from the investigation of social and political investigations and by some of Ernesto's people. It was all put in a truck uh they left me off at my house they took the radios, some of the radios, they left at Tony Garrate's house. Two radios I think. The other part, the other radios were taken to Ernesto's house, I suppose. They left me off at my house and where they took the radios, I later saw them all at Ernesto's house. Except for some of them that were at the, at the IPS office.

M: Do you recall what month and year that was?

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CI: Well it was sometime at the first part of 1983, the exact thing, I still have some of the, some of the, ah...

M: Receipts and papers?

CI: No the receipts no, but I have some of the guarantees of the radios. From the number of the guarantee, you can find out, also know where I bought them. I bought them at a place like called Ham Radio Outlet on Kearney, Kearney Ranch Boulevard or something like that in San Diego. It's the only,

Morales: Kearney Mesa.

CI: Kearney Mesa that's right. Kearney Mesa Boulevard, in San Diego. They subsequently called me from there, the Ham Radio Outlet and they said they needed a purchase order from the, from the IPS office because they had sent these radios out of the country and they were being charged California state sales tax. They had to verify to the California state authorities that the, that the radios were indeed sent out of the country. And so I told Sergio, Comandante Sergio about that and he wrote a letter on the IPS stationary stating that these radios had been purchased by me, as the chief of communications for the IPS office and for the stated purpose of ah, being used by the IPS office in Guadalajara.

M: What does the IPS stand for?

CI: It stands for Invest, Political and Social Investigations.

M: From there where did you go?

CI: From there, I that was, the last IP, that the last gubernacion office I worked at. Ah, Ernesto kept me at his house, 24 hours a day, doing all his radio work, tuning up cars. Because I had a credential with the, from the gubernacion office, I was sent along on escort duties for trucks and for other vehicles coming out of the mountains and coming from different places. Not because that was my job, but because whenever they had these kind of situations they would just yell to everybody, who has a credential - who has a charola. And everybody who had a charola had to go along.

M: Did you ever find out what was in those trucks or whatever?

CI: Well, I didn't really have to find out, it was pretty obvious that they were moving shipments of marijuana or cocaine.

M: Yea. How far would you go with those.

CI: Well, they were delivered, they, we always went back. We were escort

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vehicles, we were not in the actual vehicle that carried whatever the cargo was.

M: Ok.

CI: Escort vehicles meant that we would go along with our police credentials, red lights and sirens, in two or three vehicles, sometimes two sometimes three sometimes one, and go through the army checks or federal judicial police checks or any type of a roadblock that there was. We would turn on the red lights and ah, and, and, and, and escort the other vehicles through the roadblocks.

M: Yea.

CI: Ah, when we would get back to Guadalajara, we would report back to Ernesto's house or report directly to the IPS office. And where the trucks went, I couldn't tell you that.

M: But how far would you escort them? Just passed the road block and that was it, then.

CI: No. We would go to where, we were scheduled to meet them.

M: Oh.

CI: We were told, you have to go to a certain place and then we would wait for them. We'd wait for radio contact from them. They would contact us on the radio when they were 20 or 30 miles away, and say, we're coming, wait for us. And we would wait for them and escort them back to Guadalajara.

M: What kind of trucks.

CI: Stake bed, 3 and 6 ton stake bed trucks normally.

M: Did they ah.

CI: They bought, I saw them buy up to 300 trucks at a time, and ah, they would go and make fleet deals.

M: Who are they?

CI: Ernesto's people. Ah, I was there one time when ah, one of the workers in Ernesto's house was told to go and buy 300 trucks and they asked him if he knew how to deal with the, with the Ford agency. If he knew how to ask for price reductions and get special deals from them.

M: Do you remember if they went to one particular Ford agency?

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CI: Well, the one I knew that they went to was Plasencia, Country Motors wasn't, wasn't made at time, hadn't been. Later everything was bought from Country Motors, as soon as Rafa founded that. But that wasn't, it hadn't, it hadn't been founded yet. Started yet.

M: What was the city most likely, the city of destination where, you usually went to. From Guadalajara whenever you went.

CI: Well I only went along on four.

M: Four?

CI: Four. Twice to Ameca. Once to a ranch, owned by Ernesto called Buena and once to Mascota.

M: What states were these in?

CI: It's all in Jalisco

M: Jalisco...Let me check. Okay, Larry from there, remember when that time you went 83 - 84, where did you go? Stayed with the DFS?

CI: I wasn't with the DFS. With IPS.

M: IPS huh.

CI: I started to get away from Ernesto's house. He wasn't satisfied with the repeater system. He had expected more of it than it could give.

M: Ah ha.

CI: I told him that he had to interface the other repeaters, reinforce some of the dead areas. There weren't that many dead areas, but he wanted the..., he watched TV all the time I think he thought that it was gonna be like a satellite system.

M: Oh.

CI: Or a Dick Tracy wristwatch.

M: Yea.

CI: Everytime I tried to explain to him that, if you have ah, VHF was a line of sight and if you have a mountain in you way, you gotta, either put something on top of the mountain, or find a way to get over the mountain. Which means putting

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in another repeater system in another place, interlacing another repeater in a lighter system, or have a pick up system. And every time I tried to tell him things like that he would say, don't explain all that stuff to me I don't want to hear it. Everybody else would say, don't talk to him about that stuff, because you'll just get him mad because he doesn't understand anything, about that. Fine. Finally, I began hanging around more at the IPS office and tried to get away from his house. I lived 24 hours a day, I was tired of being there, couldn't stand it any longer. I couldn't see my wife, I couldn't be at my house. As a present, he would give you 5 or 6 hours to go and change your clothes and and, be with your family. Then you had to come back and be there 24 hours a day. They, they didn't understand that I wanted to get away, because to them that was a big honor, that he wanted you to be at his house all the time.

M: Hm.

CI: To me, it was just a big problem. What I was there to do involved, scouting repeater sites, all of us that work in electronics down there know, where the best sites are, based on our experience. But we couldn't use any of the commercial repeater sites for these people. They had their own special problems. They had to be repeater sites that nobody had ever used before, that were totally separate from the normal repeater sites where there might be 15 or 16, ah, different people on the same site, different repeaters on the same site. Salud.

MORALES: Thank you.

CI: All that made it especially difficult. It made it, made, made a whole pioneering effort of climbing up hills on burro's backs and figuring out which one was best. Which areas wanted, we wanted to cover. Ah, I had to get out of there I couldn't stand being there any longer. UI for a bunch of stuff that, I hadn't, it wasn't my job to do. Instead of working for IPS, I ended up working for Ernesto all the time. So I started absenting myself. Whenever I'd go up on the mountain, I'd say to go look, go up on this mountain, I'm sorry. I might not come back for two days or I'd camp out on the mountain, up on the top. After while, they started getting mad at me and I told Ernesto, I said, I just can't be here 24 hours a day. I can't do it. I can't, if you want me to do you radio system, I have to just attend the radio system, not doing all this other stuff. Cause I have other duties with Sergio besides that, you know. I was at that time maintaining three different systems, one for Castel del Oro, one for Sergio, that had worse radios that Ernesto had and Ernesto and Rafa's system too. That was just a whole lot of work. I eventually hung out more at the IPS office. Hung around comandante Sergio more. I asked him to explain to Ernesto that it just wasn't possible for me to be stuck there all the time. They took it as an insult. That I didn't be there all, 24 hours a day. Like I said, they fought to be there all the time and I fought not to be there I finally set up, repair

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facilities in my own house. I gave them 24 hours service. If any, if a radio went bad at 3 o'clock in the morning they would bring it, I'd have it fixed by 3:30 or 3:45. I'd get out with it. I also gave all the service to Comandante Sergio and I began cooperating on more of the normal procedures of the IPS office. Not so much on Ernesto's. But I was 24 hours a day listening to their system. I mean I, I never had their radio out of my, out of my possession. I was able to monitor all their activities. Everything they did, did on the radio. That doesn't mean that I didn't know what they were doing. By that time, I'd figured out that it was a very strict cooperation between the government and the traffickers. By that time, it would've been very difficult to get out. I mean real difficult.

M: Yea.

CI: In fact it cost me 9 bullets to get out of there.

M: Soon after that, when it happened?

CI: Well, they began to get problems, they began to have problems. The problems had started when I was still at Ernesto's house. They began to get word from the government, messages from the government in such a way that they were given to understand that UI was displeased with them because they were attracting too much attention.

M: Hmm.

CI: Then Miguel Felix said the same thing and left them, went away and didn't come back. They had a falling out over the same issue.

M: Explain that system of the government, when you say how the government is displeased.

CI: Well, people would come from Mexico City and say, yea I was with the sub-secretary and he says its puras broncas with, with you guys. Nothing but problems with you guys. That is a message, I mean that's a message that, must not be misinterpreted. Because they're not going to come in and order you and say, sub-secretary says to calm down. They give you that type of, I mean that's the way, that's the way they transmit the message. I had gone through that with the students before the students had had the same problem. That the government didn't need them any longer, they needed them as, as, as shock forces to begin with. And as a matter of fact, with Ernesto were some of the same student leaders including Gustavo Neri, Javier Barba, Chuy Arce. All these people had been the student leaders that I had with before in the student organization in the Federation of Students in Guadalajara. While they needed them to combat the, the really dedicated ideological left wing guerrillas, these people portrayed

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themselves as left wing, portrayed themselves as guerrillas when they really weren't. And so they threw off the students that, that might've flocked to that cause. The government used them for that, they gave them many privileges, ah they gave them ah credentials that allowed them to have stolen cars to drive all over the country and not have any problem of American cars, to carry guns. Then when the government didn't need them any longer, they began to send them messages saying the students have gotten out of hand, they're now bigger than, than, than their britches. They're, they think that they're, that they're entities in themselves. The same way that they began to send these messages to Ernesto. Shortly after that with the students, they took away their credentials, they took away their privileges, they began to arrest them. Until I told Ernesto, I said I think you're going to have trouble with the government and I think you're going to have trouble with the Americans also. I said why don't you just get out of this business. You have enough money, why don't just take it all and leave. Why keep on, why continue on? And he told me that, there couldn't be any trouble with the Americans because they, they were together with the Americans. They knew who they were and that the Americans knew who they where and that they weren't, there was no problem between them. There was some kind of a secret understanding. Barba told me that is was a political thing, that I shouldn't get involved in. That I hadn't any reason to be asking what the deal was between the Americans and them. Then later, this was still at Ernesto's house, some Cuban people came and they talked to them. And Barba told me later that they could do anything that they wanted with the Americans and anything they wanted with the Cubans. They were both trying to get them to cooperate with them, in, in, some kind of refueling stops. Some kind of an arrangement that they were making with them. I said fine. I think you got it all covered good.

M: But what?

CI: I could see that some kind of a problem was coming. I could see that they were having more and more trouble. I could see that the government was beginning to sometimes not recognize their credentials. Not recognize the credentials that they, they themselves had given them. That happened with Ernesto's half-brother, who was attacked by some city police officers one day. He shot one of them and killed them, wounded two others and they wounded him. And they killed his younger brother.

M: Name?

CI: Galin, it was Galin.

MORALES: During what period

CI: This was summer in 1984, probably around March or April. Ah, while they took Galin to bury him in Culiacan, they left in a whole, a whole caravan of white

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planes. We went to the airport, we got the body from, from the funeral home. We took it to the airport. Loaded it on one of the planes, there were about five planes in this caravan. They all took off, we came back. Chuy Arce and I were assigned to be watching the situation at the private hospital where the doctor had been moved. Where Ernesto's brother had been moved because, because they hate, they decided not to charge him. Because he had the gobernacion credential. But suddenly, the comandant, the new comandant of gobernacion Ayala, decided that he didn't know anything about that credential. He decided that it wasn't, that he wasn't sure it was genuine. And that could only become on orders from Mexico City because he had to, he had to honor that credential.

M: You know the comandante's full name?

CI: No.

M: Oh, what about, Ernesto's half-brother, what was his name?

CI: Roberto.

M: Roberto what?

CI: Fonseca.

M: Fonseca tambien.

CI: So, suddenly all kinds of police officers showed up at the crowded sanitarium, where is, where he was being treated. And they moved him back to the civil hospital and ah, when Ernesto got back, he had been moved back to the civil hospital. So, when, when he first arrested he was at the, at a facility called the Green Cross. Where they picked up people who have had gun shot wounds and stuff like that. Normally where there is a death involved. All of Ernesto's people gathered in front of there and they almost had a confrontation. They almost had a shoot out with the, with the state police who were determined that he should stay there. Ernesto called on the radio to Salazar Paton. Or, he called, he called, Barba called Ernesto on the radio, and he said, Paton knows, ah, the, the prosecutor, the state prosecutor, we're going to go and talk to him. They went in, they called on the radio when they got out of the car. About a half an hour later they called on the radio again and said we just got out. We talked to him, it's all taken care of and the doctor was immediately taken to, ah, a private hospital. Then the comandant of the, of, of the IPS, the new one, Anaya. Decided that he didn't believe it. He told the state authorities, that, when he was required to say whether the, the commission that the doctor had was genuine or not. He decided that he didn't know. So they moved him right back to the state facility again. When Ernesto got back, they went and saw the prosecutor again. And ah, immediately it was all taken care of, and they went to,

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CI: I knew two or three of Miguel Felix's men.

M: Who were they? Full names again.

CI: One of them one of them was, well, full names I can't tell you, one of them was Pacheco.

M: Yea

CI: I know he has a real estate business in Guadalajara.

M: Yea

CI: Ah, Hernan Arpe, a banker. Ah, I can't remember all their names.

M: How about, ah, Caro.

CI: I knew all of Caro's people because I maintained their radio system but I didn't know them as well. They just came and brought the radios and I fixed them, and ah. I knew them for a short amount of time because they had a falling out with Ernesto. And there came a time, that Ernesto didn't want us to. They got their own radio system, I put in their own radio system, a Motorola system.

MORALES: Tell us something, about Caro Quintero and ah, Miguel Angel, what you know about their, their part of the deal.

CI: Well, they were partners. They had a partnership. The partnership was between El Blue - Juan Jose Esparragosa, ah Ernesto, Rafa, and Miguel first, and later on El Cochiloco, when Miguel wasn't there anymore. And it was all a partnership. There was a time during 1983 and the early part of 1984, that they met together on every large decision. They wouldn't go ahead on a decision without getting together all four of them and sitting together. I saw them meeting together on many occasions. There was a time in 1984 that they were all going up north all the time. I later found out it was to Chihuahua, the Buffalo ranch. But at that time everybody just said that it was the biggest deal that they'd ever done. And that it was a secret and nobody was supposed to know and that nobody was supposed to say anything. But Ernesto started disappearing for 10 days, 15 days at a time. And ah, during that time nobody hung around his house very much. We'd all tend to get away.

M: Do you know any specific times and dates or locations, ah, as to when all these four got together?

CI: Yea, oh yes, many of them.

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M: Do you know, do you know a lot of them?

CI: Yea.

M: Do you have anything written down or anything, or do you have just memorized?

CI: Well, I have to think. There was a time when just before Castel Del Oro got shot they all four got together and decided to kill Castel del Oro.

MORALES: Whose idea?

CI: I don't know whose idea that was. I mean, they Ernesto had an office in his house. But when they got together and talked together they would go into the living room. And nobody was allowed to go in there. When they, when those four got together, only those four talked. Sometimes Barba was in on it. But, ah, we weren't allowed to hear any of that. The decisions that they would make, they would make together. They would all four get together, and they would specifically go into another room and speak by themselves. So ah, what their decisions were, I knew about the decision to kill Castel because I knew what they were talking about. And when they came out, they were talking about how they were going to do it. So.

MORALES: Why was the decision made?

CI: They said he was a traitor, I don't know what, I don't know what the whole problem was of. The main thing was that he didn't cooperate with them as much as. They all stated that, that he didn't give the same type of reception that Sergio gave them at IPS. That the DFS had, was supposed to cooperate with them, on orders from Mexico City. But they didn't feel the same warmth in him, they just didn't feel the same ah reception in him. And they also said that he, they felt that he was always trying to get something on them. That they were never sure of his real intention.

MORALES: Was that because he was a ah real law enforcement officer or because.

CI: No, no, no, no. Real law enforcement officer, he was a crook. I mean it was all, you have to understand about Ernesto's house. Ernesto's house, there were three DFS agents, there were six or seven IPS agents, there were five or six judicial police agents, there were twenty or thirty ah state judicial police agents that were being changed all the time. The executive officer of the 15th military zone was there all the time, Lieutenant Colonel Salas of...

M: Salas, what was his full name, do you remember?

CI: I don't know his full name. Chief Executive Officer to General Tapia.

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M: Hmm.

CI: Those kinds of things, I mean it was a total government ah, cooperation. It was ah, ah, one time Castel del Oro came to Ernesto and his said, Ernesto if you ever have any trouble, I have eighty men that are at your service. And Ernesto told him, yea, Federico but ah of those eighty men, forty are mine. Right. I said if you ever have any trouble...

End of Side 1

Tape 1 - Side 2:

M: 3, 4, 5, Okay. But ah, Fonseca offered to help him, however Castel del Oro didn't cooperate with him?

CI: That was a joke. Wasn't a, it was a way of him topping what Castel was, well it way of him being ah, a way of him stepping on what Castel del Oro, UI, had offered him.

M: Yea.

CI: Cause he didn't believe the offer was genuine.

M: Yea.

CI: So he answered him back with that. Wasn't, it wasn't an actual ah...

M: Oyes, Castel...

CI: It was a real offer on Castel's part but the answer on Ernesto's part was Ernesto's.

M: Yea, was Castel ripping off loads from him or anything like that or stealing from him or anything?

CI: Well, Castel was involved in all kinds of activities, robbing banks, hijacking trucks, ah doing house robberies, ah, not him himself I mean he was, he was running gangs that were doing that.

M: Ahmm.

CI: And ah, I thought that Ernesto would've allowed him, people that were ripping him off were Barba. Javier Barba and Samuel were stealing loads from him, sure. Whether they were cooperating with Castel, I don't know. There was a lot of

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Byzantine intrigue among them. Barba was all for killing Castel. Maybe Barba was working with Castel on, cause they were definitely stealing things. They were stealing loads of cocaine from him, from Ernesto all the time and money.

M: Hmm.

CI: And they said that, that they lost Barba would say, well I lost \$15,000.00 dollars here, I lost \$10,000.00 dollars there. So, what organization they were using, Samuel one day came to my house and he said, my compadre, Ernesto is going to kill you. I want to save your life, cause I have all kinds of marijuana in the United States. You can go up there and control everything. I said well I'm not interested in that. He said well don't tell Ernesto, cause Ernesto doesn't know anything about this. So I told Ernesto, but Barba was there. I went to tell Ernesto, I said I need to talk to you in private. Ernesto said well, anything you want to say you can say in front of Barba. I didn't know that Barba was Samuel's partner.

M: Hmm.

CI: From that time on, I began to have serious problems with them. All the time. Rumors, ah dirty tricks, not being able to see Ernesto for anything. I just drifted away. There came a time when I tried to leave. Ah, I didn't answer the radio for ten days. I packed up all my belongings, I was going to go to Acapulco. They began to threaten me on the radio. This is in 1984, around October, around the middle part of October. I refused to answer the radio. I would fix their radios but I wouldn't let them come in the house. They got mad and they said well it's me, you know me, I'm from Ernesto's house. I would have my, my people just take the radio at the door, then I'd fix it and give it back. And, I got in touch with Samuel and I said, look Samuel, tell Ernesto that I don't want to work for him anymore. I'm tired of this situation, who do I give all this stuff to. I had all the repeaters, UI radios, ah a whole bunch of equipment, just tell me who to turn it over to. I no longer want to work there. I told Sergio I no longer wanted to work in Gobernacion. I gave back the, the ah name plate for the car. I gave them the red light, ah which was mine but I just gave it to them. I said forget this, not interested in it anymore. They began to threaten me on the radio saying that they were going send me to the doctor, that I was sick. And that I was dirty, that they were gonna me a bath, in their jargon meant to kill you.

M: Hmm.

CI: A bath of, of AK-47 bullets. Sergio called me on the radio and he said, I had better come and talk to him, these things were very serious. I didn't go. I began to think about my family, I was worried about what might happen. I had a young daughter just a baby. So, I got back in touch with them on the radio and I

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asked Ernesto if I could talk to him. My idea was to go and say, look Ernesto, I'm not just gonna leave but I need to turn all the things over to you. I don't want to work for you anymore. Ah, Samuel came over to my house and he said we know you went to Los Angeles to talk to DEA. Well, I didn't go to Los Angeles and I haven't talk to DEA.

M: Samuel, what was his full name?

CI: Samuel Razo Ramirez.

M: Razo Ramirez?

CI: Ramirez Razo.

M: Ah ok.

CI: I said I didn't go to Los Angeles, I didn't talk to DEA. But I could tell that he had gone and said that to Ernesto. I knew that that was the rumor. Then ah, the Barba's brothers started coming by and saying, ah, that I was beating up people in town. And that I was, that I was making ah a big, that I would stop people on the road, pistol whip them. I said well I don't even have the credentials anymore. I gave them all back, aside from the oficio de comision, I still have that. But I haven't even gone out of the house. I didn't leave the house for ten days. I could see that all these rumors were based on, on, on total lies. I could see that they had their own reasons for wanting to do that. Cause I had no, had no real connection with them at that time. I wasn't, I represented no threat to them, other than the threat that I wanted to leave. So, along that time somebody started breaking into the radio frequency. They started yelling at me to find this person and to, to ah present him to them. To arrest him and take him and present him to them. Ah, I found some people that were breaking into the radio system because their frequencies were very close. They were all people from Sinaloa. Ah, they were under ah, person that was running the radio system was a lawyer from Guadalajara. But he was always surrounded by people with cars from Sinaloa. I staked out his house, at his business I saw all the kinds, I saw that he was receiving ah, vans full of packages that looked to me like drugs. Ah, when I confronted them with it, I took the radio system away from him, turned it over to, to Gobernacion. They told me not to tell Ernesto about it. I could see that they were running some type of a separate operation, they didn't want Ernesto to know about it. Ah, I, I told the guy that he had to give me a list of all the people that were working with him. He threatened me. Ah, Antonio Alcarraza's mother died. At the funeral, these people came up and complained to Barba that I had taken their radios away. Barba called me over and he called Chuy Arce over and he ordered us to go and pick up the, the lawyer, and to take all the radios away from him. And he told Chuy Arce to charge him five million pesos. I went to Sergio right away and I said look

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Comandante, Chuy wants to charge these people money, wants to extort money from them. Thinking that Sergio would stop it. Instead of Sergio stopping it, he went he went and extorted money from them himself. And at, at the meeting where he went and extorted money, he took me and Chuy Arce along and he said I order you to go and pick up this licenciado. And I can tell that it was some kind of a set up. It seemed to me that it just wasn't right. The situation wasn't proper. If any of the situations were proper with them, at least it was out of align with what they normally did. I asked Sergio, I said, is this a Gobernacion operation? He said, oh yes I'm not the comandant here anymore but, I have authorization to work all through the country. He pulled out his credential. Look I still have my credential. I have ten men at my service. I can work all, in the entire republic of Mexico. But this is definitely a Gobernacion operation. I said, well if it isn't I'm not going to have anything to do with it. He said, oh yes it is, it is. Ah, the people that we went to talk to, the people that went to complain about the radios, were traffickers. I've known them for many, many years. One of them was Heriberto. He had been a trafficker in Guadalajara, marijuana trafficker. Years and years before Ernesto even came there. Ah, but he was surrounded by, by people from Sinaloa.

M: Heriberto who?

CI: I don't know his full name. Ah, he was surrounded by people from Sinaloa. He was surrounded by, by federal judicial agents, and ah I could see that something was going on that Ernesto didn't know about. And that, it was just dangerous, but I was going to get stuck in the middle of it. So that's when I tried to get out. That's when I just wouldn't answer the phone, wouldn't answer the radio. I was still listening the whole time but I wanted nothing to do with that. And then about 11 or 12 days later, a day or so after, I contacted them again asking Ernesto to receive me so I could go and turn his equipment over to him. Chuy Arce came to my house and he said, we have to go and pick up this licenciado. And I said, I already told you, I don't want anything to do with that. He said no, this order comes directly from Ernesto. You have to go with me cause you're the only person who knows about the radios. I said are you sure that's an order from Ernesto? Yes, that's a definite order from Ernesto and Sergio too. He said, Sergio went on Saturday and couldn't find him. And you and I are going to go today. So I went with him. I told the guy, first off Chuy tried extort money from him, I called on the telephone to comandante, Ernesto's house. I got Comandante Villelma on the phone. I said, tell the guy he doesn't have to pay any money. He talked to the guy on the phone. I don't know what he told him. The guy hung up, he, he told Chuy I'm going to pay you. I took him aside, and I said you don't pay anything. Not one dime. Nobody's extorting any money here. The only thing you do have to do is give me a list of all the people that you say are with you on this radio system. Cause he told me that, he said, it's not just me, we're lots of people and you can't, you're not going to be able to take these radios away from us. I said well, I'm gonna take the radios,

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apart from taking the radios, I want a list of all these people that you say that, that are with you. That list was to turn over to Sergio so that they would know who these people were. So, he obviously already knew who they were. He'd already taken money from them. Alright, my point was that Ernesto would see who they were. But, when we went back to get the radios, that was on a Tuesday I think we were supposed to go back on Thursday and pick up the radios. It was late at night it was around 10 o'clock, I wasn't going to get up on the roof at 10 o'clock and start taking antennas down. We arranged to come back on a Thursday, two days later, and when we got back. There were fifty people waiting for us with guns. I shot 'em.

M: How many people did you go with?

CI: I went with three people.

M: Three people?

CI: Four, three people besides myself. A boy who helps me and now works for Zuno, named Tomas who's just 18 years old, who was at that time just 18 years old. He was helping me with the radio system, he worked in my house. I let him off when I saw that they were coming after us with the guns, I dropped him out of the car. So he wouldn't have to fight them.

M: Hmm.

CI: Somebody that was with Chuy, a guy named Nicolas a friend of his, and Chuy. Ah, Chuy's friend got in the back of a truck put his hands over his head and hid, and only Chuy and I were left to fight. And ah, by fighting I don't mean I got out and challenged them or anything, they just, they just opened fire on us. they surrounded the car and began pumping bullets into it.

M: Ah, what happened to Chuy?

CI: They killed him. After we had surrendered, after I had surrendered and ten minutes after the gun fight had stopped down, they went over and pumped a bullet in his heart.

M: What day was that?

CI: It was the 11th of September 1984. And ah, 30 days later they went and attacked the this lawyer. They had, they had ordered him to go and file a complaint saying that Chuy was trying to extort money from him, with the state judicial police.

M: Hmm.

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CI: Ah, Ernesto knew about it, everybody knew about it, it was all, it was all pre-arranged. The truth was that nobody was extorting any money from him and the fact was that nobody ever got any money from him either because we wouldn't take it. Chuy would've like to have taken it, but I would let him. I cut him off every time.

M: Yea

CI: Ah, the chief of the investigation was Lopez Razon, the man who kidnapped Camarena.

M: Hmm

CI: He was the one that shot Chuy, he was the one that shot me. He was the one that captain the whole thing. He was their man

M: Lopez Razon, Lopez Razon, his first name?

CI: I don't, Comandante Lopez Razon I know, of the judicial. You guys got to know his name

M: Yea. Okay.

CI: Ah, 30 days later they went and shot this ah this lawyer. He'd been going around town with a bunch of guards from the judicial police. They had been calling him on the telephone, telling him to back off. The version that I got of it was that, Ernesto found out what they had done and he wasn't, he wasn't satisfied, that they had attacked us without having any real reason to attack us. And so, that they had tried to persuade this lawyer to go and, and ah, take the complaint away. But he wouldn't do it. So 30 days later exactly on the 11th of October, 11th of November, three cars pulled up, took out AK-47 rifles and shot him and his wife, and his judicial police guards. Leaving him there for dead, they took the same cars, went directly to the American Consulate and shot up the car of a man named Roger Knapp. Who they called Johnny Cacario, DEA agent. I was in the hospital and in police custody at that time. I read it in

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the newspaper, the newspaper was shown to me by Chavo Camarena and Chavo Camarena told me, now they're really in for it. They attacked the Americans, the Americans control everything. They're the ones who control the entire drug trade down here and they're not going to like it. I was angry because they had attacked the Consulate. Especially in a, in an issue that was connected to me. Because I don't attack the United States Government. I was sick and tired enough of, of working for them. Much less taking on the entire U.S. Government. From that time on, I began to be in, I began to be really angry with them because I could see that they were on a suicide, ah, intend, they were just giving, they willing to go down in flames. I wasn't interested in that. Apart from the fact that it wasn't my fight.

M: Lopez Razon was the one that shot you, ah...

CI: It was him, he was the comandant of the group.

M: Yea. Was he also involved with that lawyer, shooting that lawyer? Who was involved in shooting that lawyer?

CI: I don't know, I was in the hospital.

M: You didn't hear? Okay.

CI: I was in the hospital.

M: Who do you think did all that shooting?

CI: I understand that Javier Barba did it. And I think that Javier Barba did it because Javier Barba on the day of the funeral of Antonio Alcaarez's mother, Paton, Lopez Razon and Barba got together and started talking and I could see that they were planning something. I know now that what they were planning was this, was this fake, ah criminal complaint and ah, and shoot out. Ah, I didn't know it then, I suspected it but now I know. So, Ernesto blamed Barba for the situation. Barba had given him a whole different idea. He had told him that we were extorting money, and that we were using the credentials to run our own business. Barba was stealing merchandise from him, marijuana and cocaine. He told Ernesto that we were stealing. I found that out later. Not only would we not have stolen it, but we wouldn't have had anyplace to sell it. I mean, it wouldn't done us any good to have the merchandise anyway. He was stealing it, he began to put his whole, his own sins off on, on us with Ernesto. Ernesto found out about it and ordered him to straighten the matter out. And I was told that Barba had gone and shot this guy. Why they went to the American Consulate and shot up Roger Knapp's car, I don't know. I really haven't any idea, but obviously that was the beginning of their expressed discontent with the Americans. What they know, what they knew who had told them, who, who was telling them to

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attack the Americans. Because, however much protection they had, however much they were together with the government, and because of that, they could not have done such a thing without, without asking first. And as a matter of fact they continued to, to have protection from the government after that. So, they either had permission or were forgiven for it. I mean there was no other way about it.

MORALES: Now tell us about the ah, the part that you know about the Camarena kidnapping, torture and murder.

CI: Well, a person connected with Ernesto whose named Gutierrez, who we called the, ah, Rafael. Not Rafael Caro Quintero, the man who'd been the sub-chief of the Sapoan police and was in prison when I, when I got to the prison infirmary. He came and he said that Ernesto had told him to take care of me. And that he was supposed to be, he told me who to talk to and not to talk to. What to say and what not to say. And so, one day he ran in and he said they killed the (doctor). The guards didn't let him, wouldn't let, didn't want to let him in. He burst in and he told me that they killed the doctor. Then later in, later on they came up and he showed me a newspaper article about Buffalo on it. He said that this was all Rafa's and Ernesto's and they busted it. Things were really getting hot. Then later in, later on he came in and said, you know two guys were just picked up. One of them was an American agent and another person and nobody knows where they are.

M: Who told you this?

CI: Gutierrez.

M: Gutierrez.

CI: So, I knew that they'd pick somebody up, I didn't know who it was. Later on it came out that it was Enrique Camarena. Enrique Camarena had come, come see me in the, in civil hospital. And he asked me if...

M: When was this?

CI: This was in September of 1984, when I was first shot. He came with the American consul a one day and he said, do you want us to help you? He was surrounded by the judicial police guards that I had, I had eight special guards there. Wasn't allowed to talk to anybody, and this guy comes in. The consul came in a suit, was accompanied by the attorney for the consulate, who I know for many years. And another guy who had on a leather jacket, a white shirt opened at the collar, who obviously wasn't a consul. He was a chicano.

M: Yea.

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CI: Ah, he didn't tell me his name. I didn't know till later, until the pictures started coming out that it'd been him. He said, do you want us to help you? With all the judicial guards around, I'm sure as hell not going to tell him I wanted him to help me.

M: Yea.

CI: I would never gotten out alive from the hospital. I said no, the best thing you can do is just stay as far away as you can. It's my problem, I'll take care of it. Just go away, please. He said, you sure you don't want us to, to help you? You know what's good for you. I said no, I don't want you to help me, go away.

M: And was that the first time you'd ever seen Enrique.

CI: First time, I never even, I never, it's the first and last time I ever saw him.

M: Oh.

CI: I didn't know who he was, I figured he must've had something to do with the DEA, because ah or the FBI or something like that, because. . .

M: They knew who you were.

CI: Not only did they know, did they know who I was but when the attorney for the consulate came with the consul and him, and he said what happen what are you doing here. Well I always knew him, knew him as an attorney, worked together on many cases. I was . . .

M: What was his name you remember?

CI: I don't know what his name is. It's been the same attorney for many years, small skinny guy. Ah he told me, I told him I said, I was working for the government. He said, we know where you were working. And he said in such a, ah, a stern way in such a rapid way that I knew that probably knew what the truth was.

MORALES: What did you hear about that?

CI: About what?

MORALES: About the kidnapping itself and ah...

CI: Well, when I got out, I saw El Italiano.

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MORALES: What day did you get out.

CI: A guy that we call. El Italiano. I got out May or June of 1985. And he told me that Samuel and, and Lopez Razon had been along on, on the kidnapping. Well that's about as far as they got. I didn't, I didn't have much time to talk to him. Everybody was really busy looking for Ernesto at that time, the thing was very hot, extremely hot. Ah, Rafael had kidnapped, ah, Sergio Octavio's daughter. I mean, the whole thing was blowing up. The very things I told them would happen, were happening. Instead of saying, we should have listened to you they said, how did you know? You must be with them. Sure. They came down and told me. Italiano told me he was there, at the Camarena thing. Later on, Juan Ochoa, Juan Torres Ochoa, ah los dormidos, told me that, that it was true that Rafa. He'd been taken to Rafa's house, that Rafa had tortured him. That Ernesto had gotten angry. That Ernesto slapped Rafa's face. That Ernesto didn't think they were going to kill him. That he tried to get a doctor to him, keep him from dying. After they'd finished him off, Rafa's people had finished him off inspite of that. That the entire thing had been to look for a black book. They were looking for a black book. They were still looking for this black book. Camarena had, had been together with them, that they'd told him many things and they suddenly realized that he wasn't their friend. That he was their enemy and they wanted to get all this back.

MORALES: Who was telling you this, Gutierrez?

CI: No, Torres, Juan Torres Ochoa, uno de los dormidos. What's in the black book, I don't know?

M: Yea.

CI: The black book ever existed I don't know.

MORALES: Had you ever been to that house ah where the torture occurred?

CI: Yea.

MORALES: Who's house was that?

CI: Oh, originally it was Zuno's house. But ah, it was known as Rafa's house. Rafa had lived there for a long time. As a matter of fact, Rafa lived in that house and call on the radio from that house, and installed the radio at that house, early as, as, as January of 1984. So, if Zuno says that he sold the UI, the truth was that Rafa was already living there.

MORALES: Not necessarily purchased, but living there.

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CI: He was living there. He was living there. He moved there in January or February of 1984. Rafa was calling from there.

MORALES: Zuno had to have known, ah, Rafael Caro-Quintero.

CI: Well I know that he knew him, saw him at a party, went up and embraced Ernesto. It was Rafa's birthday party and he embraced Rafa too. You don't give anybody an abrazo if you don't know 'em.

M: Yep. Were you ever present when the two were talking together?

CI: No.

M: No, but he also knew Ernesto.

CI: Huh?

M: Zuno also knew Ernesto.

CI: It was Ernesto's house where the party was at.

MORALES: Did anybody tell you any, anything about, where the bodies were buried ah...

CI: Well, they told me that the bodies had been at La Primavera. That was their cemetery. A lot of other bodies were there too. I suspect that the bodies of the other Americans were there too.

MORALES: Who told you this?

CI: El Italiano.

MORALES: Did anybody explain to you why the bodies were dug, and if they were dug up, how they were transported to where they were found eventually?

M: El Italiano told me that they had been told to get the bodies and go to the El Mareno but they got there later and when they got there, there was a big cordon of police and military around it. And they couldn't get the bodies in. They had to leave them outside.

MORALES: How did they, did they, they tell you how they, ah, transported the bodies or anything like that.

CI: No.

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MORALES: Or put the bodies in the bags and something like that?

CI: It wasn't a detailed, I mean I just saw them, right?

MORALES: Yea.

M: El Italiano worked for whom?

CI: Ernesto.

M: Ernesto? Ah, what did he look like, El Italiano?

CI: This guy's about 5-10, he's got big eyes, swarthy, well built not not bulging or anything like that. But, ah, about 25 years old, black hair, combed back.

MORALES: Light skin, dark skin.

CI: Huh?

MORALES: Dark skin?

CI: Yea dark skin, not real dark but...

MORALES: Moreno?

CI: Not light.

M: Where was he from?

CI: From somewhere around one of the middle states, I don't know.

M: Oh.

CI: He wasn't from Jalisco, he wasn't from the south.

M: One place that you know of him being, is it Monterrey?

CI: Yea, I saw some guy that worked for us, that worked with us at the ah, at the IPS office. At a hair cut place in Guadalajara called Sur. It's own by them also.

MORALES: UI. Would you give us some information or do you know any, any information about the ah, electronic deals at the ah, UI the embassy there in our office.

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CI: The what?

MORALES: Guadalajara. The electronic deals, were there wire taps, were there anything like that?

CI: No, the only thing wire tapped there, was, was your UHF repeater system. I, I wire tapped it. I was told by the engineer in charge of Motorola. He gave me a roof top close to the consulate, ah, to put their repeater system. I noticed there was a UHF thing there and he told me it was with the DEA. So I, I didn't really bug it. I knew the frequency and everything but I didn't bug it. All I did was put a shut off on it. I could've shut it off with a tone anytime I wanted too.

MORALES: (overlapped conversation)

M: Would you, you had the capabilities to listen to every transmission DEA had.

CI: Yea.

MORALES: Shaking your head yes. UI you're not, taperecording.

- CI: Ah, okay. Yea, not because I wanted to.

M: Yea but who ordered you. That Motorola guy or was it Ernesto or who.

CI: No, no, he just said, I mean this is my business you know.

M: Yea.

CI: He just said, I asked him, who because it was UHF. There wasn't very much UHF in Guadalajara at that time. That was Motorola, right, it was a small transmitter. This was Motorola's repeaters are huge, and this was a smaller one could see it was newer. I asked him whose it was. Oh that's a DEA.

MORALES: What about the phones, was there, would you have a, if you . . .

CI: They never had me tap 'em, I don't know. It's just that, not all political work, things like embassies and consulates would probably be handled by the special unit under comandante Estrella, at Gobernacion, that was his job.

M: What was comandante Estrella's name, full name you know?

CI: No.

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M: Was ah Comandante Estrella there in Guadalajara or Mexico.

CI: He was in Mexico City. He was one of the people that was arrested for the Buendia killing.

MORALES: When the, ah, any electronics surveillance was gonna be conducted there at the consulate, you would've been contacted right because you had...

CI: Not necessarily, consulates and embassies and things really high level, probably would've done by, would've been done by the group under Estrella. I mean there was a time, there were some things that they didn't want me to know about. They would put me to bug ah, ah an opposition party politician or to bug Ernesto's house, or things like that. But, things that, that really involved high up stuff, national security stuff right, some things they would give me and some things they wouldn't.

M: How about Ernesto, would he ever have you do things like that?

CI: Yea, he had me bug his own house.

M: How about DEA or consulate or any of that type people.

CI: No.

MORALES: Did you guys know or that any of Fonseca's ah, did any of Fonseca's people or Caro Quintero's people know where the agents, DEA agents lived in Guadalajara?

CI: There was a time in October or November of 1984 that they, they had a big thing going they said that, that DEA had sent two agents to Chapala and they, they had 140,000 dollars or something like that. They sent everybody out to look for them. Then they sent people around to look, to, to stake out some agent's houses. I don't know whose houses they were? That's about the same time I was having my trouble and I, I, I backed off from them at that time, and. That's the last thing that was going on then. When I was there. What their reasons were, I do not know. The official reason down there is that Ernesto was mad about Buffalo. But I personally know that Ernesto was mad at the Americans before that. They had attacked the consulate before that, they'd shot up Roger Knapp's car before that and.

M: Why was Ernesto mad at the Americans?

CI: Well I got the feeling, he didn't tell me right, but I got the feeling that he felt betrayed. That he felt that ah. . .

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M: Did he feel that. . .

CI: That he had a reason to believe that they should not be bothering him.

M: Oh.

CI: And that he was suddenly deceived or felt that he'd been deceived.

MORALES: Now run some things through to us on the landing of aircrafts and dope smuggling operations.

CI: The strips normally, at, at first, for many years the strips were strips that ah had been used for many years and were just given protection at the time. Later on, like Bella Vista, Ciudad Guzman things like that.

MORALES: Protection by whom?

CI: Huh?

MORALES: Protection by whom?

CI: By the army and by the federal judicial police and sometimes by Gobernacion, normally by the army. Ah, later on when, when those strips became hot, and things got a little more serious, they began getting compadres. One of the compadres they got was ah, Vicente Fernandez, he has a strip on his ranch. Ah, the word is they've used that strip five or six times.

M: The famous singer?

CI: Yeah.

MORALES: Whose they?

CI: Ah, people like ah, ah Oscar Cosio, ah Rigoberto Ontiveros, Leno Ontiveros. A lot of UI people you don't know yet, you will. In a little time, you'll know 'em. I was at Vicente Fernandez's birthday party at his ranch last year, this, this year right.

M: This year?

CI: Yeah, yeah, three months ago. They were all there. All the, all the major ones, and a lot of, a lot of, Jalisco politicians too.

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M: Can you name some?

CI: Yea, the chief of the medical services, the chief of the health department was there, the mayor of Sapopan was there Carlos Rivera Aceves, ah, I have that in notes. If you want I give you all the names of the people were there.

M: Who else?

CI: UI, Oscar Cosio was there, Rigoberto Olivero was there, ah all of Oscar Cosio's men.

M: What ah, when you first started working for Ernesto how would ah, did you ever get to participate in the beginning where ever they would order a load to fly in and you would have to go out to the strip and wait for it or anything like that?

CI: No. It was never ever handled like that. Not with me and not with anyone else.

M: Oh.

CI: You would be told, go do this, go do that, but they did not discuss their business openly. It was not, it was not that kind of a thing.

M: You, you were never involved with the handling of any of the dope as far as the air strips and stuff like that?

CI: Air strips no. I was sent to set up a communication system at a place where they were drying cocaine. They got a load in of cocaine base, they made it into cocaine. The guy that cooked it up was Lalito Fernandez, also known as El Mudo. Ah, they had probably five or six hundred kilos of cocaine drying in the sun in the patio of ah, of an este, an industrial, an industrial nave. How do you say nave? Sabes lo que es una nave industrial?

M: Is it like a big commercial complex?

CI: No, not commercial complex but a big building made of corrugated tin.

MORALES: Like a warehouse

CI: Yea warehouse. Warehouse with a lot of room around it. I was also putting radios in at that same place and fixing the electricity at that same place, when they were packing up UI the white truck. Specifically they ordered me to lift the UI

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M: Okay

CI: What do you want to know?

MORALES: About these, ah, airplane landings, when you went over there, what was your reason for going?

CI: What airplane landings?

MORALES: Any in the strips, ah, did you install any equipment, radar or any kind of radio system in the airplane?

CI: No.

MORALES: Did you ever see any airplanes? Land over there.

CI: No.

MORALES: Ever saw any ah, foreigners land in that part?

CI: I saw an American who was supposed to be an airplane pilot. Came in at the same time that they received a lot of guns but I wasn't actually at the strip.

MORALES: When was this?

CI: This must've been, October or September, November maybe of 83.

MORALES: What happened then?

CI: They came and changed his clothes at Ernesto's house. So everybody said he was a pilot. He was staying at the UI older guy, a moustache, thinning hair stocky...

M: Chinese or American?

CI: No, no, no, he's American. I guess he was American.

MORALES: How, how can you tell.

CI: Caucasian.

MORALES: Speak to him?

CI: No.

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MORALES: You don't know whether he was German or Italian?

CI: No, nobody said he was American. Everybody said he was a gringo, that means usually an American. He was staying at the Fiesta, the, the, Fiesta Americana Hotel. Came to Ernesto's once and changed his clothes. I saw him changing out of some coveralls and getting into regular clothes. About the same time some guns showed up. Two weeks later they got an shipment of cocaine paste and made cocaine out of it. Whether he brought it in or didn't bring it in, I couldn't tell you. The strip was out somewhere by (Sapultepic).

MORALES: Never saw the aircraft then?

CI: No

MORALES: Any other time?

CI: No, well once in, in Ciudad Guzman but I never saw the airplane there either or the strip.

M: You said that ah, large shipment of guns came in. How did you know it was a large shipment of guns?

CI: Because they started handing them out to everybody.

M: What kind of guns?

CI: AK-47 rifles, some HK-7 rifles German rifles and one HK-9, 308. HK-7's were nine multimeter. They got a whole bunch of AK-47's and some M-16's.

MORALES: No handguns?

CI: Huh?

MORALES: No handguns?

CI: Well I don't know if they got handguns at that same time. I didn't see the handguns. I saw the rifles.

M: Did you get one of those rifles?

CI: Well they had given me an HK-9 before that. It had a bullet stuck in the, in the barrel.

M: What the, where did you hear that they'd gotten this load of guns in, or told you, or how'd you find out?

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CI: They didn't have to tell me, they couldn't break 'em down. I was the only person that could break 'em down. They didn't know how to clean them. One of the HK-7's was given to Ernesto and he kept it. About a week later he gave it to me cause he couldn't clean it. And I took it apart. As a matter of fact, after I had taken it apart, they sent me some place else and he got mad at me when I came back, because I put it together again and they couldn't put it together. They tried to put it together and UI.

MORALES: Did they have any markings on them?

CI: They had like Czechoslovakian and and and ah Chinese markings on them. They weren't, before they had some that were, the kind that, that were marked with International Arms on them. Ones that had been picked up in Egypt and brought back to International Arms. But they only had two or three of 'em. I saw that they had a whole bunch of 'em.

MORALES: Did you ever hear any conversation as to who, how it was paid for, whether it was a gift,

CI: No.

MORALES: Purchased or . . .

CI: They just suddenly had 'em. I understand that this guy had brought 'em in. I later heard that, that he was flying a DC-3. But I don't know. That I can't, I mean I never saw it. I never went out to that strip. I've been out to it since then but...

M: Where's that strip at?

It's out by (Sapultepic), by, by the road that goes to Colima, where a dry lake is. It's used today by the federal judicial police and by the customs people. That's where they bring in contraband, fayuca.

MORALES: Mostly by night.

CI: No, I saw them in the daytime.

MORALES: Did we put a date on that, when you saw that pilot?

CI: Well, they were still at Quartzo. And I think that Ernesto must've left Quartzo around November, December of 1983. So it had to be the last part of 1983.

M: How many guns were brought in, do you know?

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CI: I don't know. To Ernesto's house he got two long boxes of guns, plus guns that they handed out to everybody.

M: Any markings or. . .

CI: They were green boxes, I didn't. He had a secret room off his, off his ah dining room. So, all glass, all mirrored walls there.

M: Did you ever see any U.S. Army guns or anything like that with U.S. markings on it or anything like that.

CI: They looked like U.S. Army boxes to me but I, I didn't get that close enough to. I did see night vision stuff, infra-red stuff that was almost assuredly a, army. It had camouflage painting on it, it was green, ah.

MORALES: Do you know anything about the Cubans coming in or the, anybody else flying in loads, or flying loads out?

CI: I know that the Cubans came and talked to him at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Ernesto especially went and talked to 'em.

Tape #2 side 1:

M: The date is September 20, 1989, the time is 2PM.

M: Okay, well, tell us about those Cubans.

CI: They came to the Hyatt Regency Hotel, UI a caravan. Ernesto went up to the room, talked to them. He came back down, I think Barba was with him. I know that they had another meeting, I think at the Fiesta Americana but I wasn't there. The told me about it. Barba also told me that they could do whatever they wanted with the Americans or the Cubans. I took that to mean that they could do deals with the Americans or the Cubans.

M: Who told you this?

CI: Barba, Javier Barba

M: Barba, Javier Barba?

MORALES: When was this?

CI: Huh.

MORALES: What year?

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CI: 1983 at Quartzo, after they come the first time, also two Americans came and talked to them there. I thought that they were Americans anyway. They said that they were working with the Contras. One of the guys said he'd been a mercenary, that he worked with, in South Africa. He said that he'd been in Berlin. Asked me if I knew where Hilopango was. He said he'd been in, in ah El Salvador. Said, he asked me if I'd ever been to Uruguay. Asked me if I'd ever been to Argentina. Asked me about airstrips, asked me about gas, high octane aviation gas, 120. Asked about turbocino for jets. I told him if he got to close to the border that he'd have trouble with the U.S. radar. He said he was the U.S., that he didn't have any problem. He could do anything that they wanted. The next day, Barba said they could do it with the Americans or they could do it ah, with the Cubans. After, he said that after the Cubans. The guy talked to me for about a half an hour.

M: Did he give you a name or anything?

CI: No.

M: Can you describe him?

CI: He was about 35 or 40. About 5-10, 160-170 pounds, he had blond hair, weather beaten face. I think he had blue eyes, pale blue eyes and ah, I didn't, I couldn't place any accent or anything. Seemed kind of neutral. He had another guy with him, about the same age dark hair, a little bit taller than him but didn't talk. They talked to Ernesto in his office. Came with ah, Latin American guy, probably Central American. He went into Ernesto's office first. One of these guys stayed outside and talked with me. We saw the weapons there, talked about all the weapons. He was very knowledgeable about weapons. He talked about tanks, he talked about ground to air missiles, he talked about jets, he talked up lining ah, colored people up in South Africa. He said he used to line them up sitting down and he'd fire one bullet, so he'd kill them all with one bullet.

M: Did ah,

CI: He said he was working training the Contras.

M: You've seen pictures that, that have been shown to you by our guys. Did you ID any of them?

CI: They showed me two things, two pictures that were made of pencil, like pencil shaving pictures.

M: Oh.

CI: I couldn't make very much of them because they weren't very good pictures. They showed me one picture of a pilot who I think was the pilot that was, that

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was there Ernesto's house and changed his clothes,

M: Oh.

CI: And was supposed to have a DC-3.

M: Yea.

MORALES: Do you know, did you find out later or, or do you know what the conversation was about, whether, it was about landing the plane there on the strip or was it for a dope deal with Ernesto or what they talked about?

CI: Conversation with who?

MORALES: The pilots with ah Ernesto.

CI: I don't know.

MORALES: You don't know what the conversation...

CI: I assumed that he was flying something for Ernesto. I assumed that he brought the guns in.

MORALES: What makes you assume?

CI: They showed up at the same time, it was the only plane they were talking about and the only operation they were doing that I knew about.

MORALES: Was it smuggling dope?

CI: What?

MORALES: That was the only thing that was occurring there.

CI: Well when he came the guns came. Two weeks later, they got a shipment of, of cocaine paste that they were making cocaine.

MORALES: That's the same time the plane came?

CI: Two weeks later, yea. Will they have anything to do with each other, I don't know? But they didn't, special business with me.

MORALES: Okay, you are familiar or do you know anything or have you heard anything about any special training for the ah, any of the ah, federales, DFS or the MFJP or IPS for the Caro crew, Caro Quintero crew or the Fonseca crew.

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They've been trained by anybody in ah...

CI: I can only say that in the Colombian deals, the Colombians come up. They're very strict with the people. They don't let them smoke base, they don't let them take too much cocaine. They watch them, they carefully control everything. They normally put in their own communication systems. They don't put them in but they bring their own radios with them and they use the high frequency radios. Normally bring their own antennas. They normally control all the aspects.

MORALES: These are the Colombian traffickers?

CI: Yea.

M: When did they come in.

CI: Well, they have been getting more and more frequent that they should come and, and, and take over these things. For instance there was time when, when ah, Cochiloco controlled the strip of Mazatlan. He used to work with American pilots, I knew these American pilots. Ah, they worked for them for a number of years only in marijuana. This is many years ago. And they always complained that he wouldn't give them very much money and that ah, UI.

MORALES: Give us the year.

CI: It must've been 1978, 77, 76. Many years ago. Well UI said, that he didn't, he'd give them a percentage of his loads and he would only give them a small percentage. I think they talked about eight or ten percent, something like that. And they felt that they, they couldn't do it on that. If, they, they weren't satisfied with what he was given them. They were looking for other ah, opportunities in Mexico, they could do on their own. Lately, the people that I know that have seen Cochiloco, say that he's, hangs out with pure Colombians. I was told by Tonio Garrate to put a radio system in for our Colombian operation in 1985. They tell me it was, that he was working for the police and that it was police operation. That I was to report everything that was said or done there to him. He didn't tell me which police, I later found out he was working for the DEA but I didn't know that he was working for the DEA then. I didn't know what police agency, I've always known him as a police officer, I knew that he was working for some police agency. This is not done as ah, on, on his part, on my part, and was ah, an agreement between he and I that, to do surveillance on it. And I was assuming that that was to later lead to an arrest or that, this was on official investigation. He gave me to understand that I should say nothing to them. That it was not a, the types of operations that they'd had before with the police cooperating with the, with them or anything like that. But that he was personally investigating this. I did that, they got rid of him about the middle of the operation, he asked me, he told me specifically I want you to stay behind

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and be my eyes and ears and report to me everything that happened. I, I did that, reported everything to him. They talked about getting rid of him.

M: Who are they?

CI: The Colombians. They sent him up as a matter of fact with ah, with one of the Colombian's son because he had an eye problem. They sent him to the border, supposedly to get him to an eye doctor so that he could fix his eyes. The truth was that they just wanted to get him out of there. They were doing this with a guy named Manuel Villareal at a ranch called El, El Quintino, well it's a ranch in Durango right outside of Durango. UI to Manuel Villareal. They landed cocaine, what I assume was cocaine in Ciudad Guzman. I didn't see the plane, I didn't see the strip, I put in the radio system. I was always 45 minutes away from the strip. I directed the plane to Ciudad Guzman. I lost the plane somewhere around, it was on HF, the frequency went out. They were in direct contact with the Colombian, a guy name Gomez, bald headed guy. Ah, the plane crashed, for what they said the second plane maybe. The first plane came in, left about 40 bags, duffel bags, they stored these duffel bags in a place where the radios were. They didn't open them. They brought in a second plane about a week later. The plane crashed according to them, they all came back, they didn't have anything with them. Everybody left, everybody got scared. Later the Colombians came back and said, to load up these duffel bags in a truck and then we took 'em to Durango. We loaded 'em on another plane. That plane crashed also. There were American pilots in it, they said the American pilots were killed. I don't know because I didn't see the plane crash and I...

MORALES: What year was this?

CI: This was 1986 probably. Or maybe I, 1987 I guess, no, no, must've been 19 wait a minute. No must've, had to have been in 1985. Cause I had just gotten out of prison and I was still in crutches. Couldn't walk very well. Ah, these people, I learned their frequencies, I learned the way they acted, I learned the way they, they ran the operations. I was taken there, in a, in a Jalisco state police car. The people that had been at this ranch, that were, that I knew as Manuel Villareal's people. I later saw them in Mexico City about two, three months later, they were all working for Manuel Alonzo, secretary, social secretary to President De La Madrid. I understood that later ah, the Colombians gave 500,000 dollars to General Arevalo Gardoqui, and he then gave the ranch, I know he gave the ranch back. The army had taken the ranch.

M: Is that the ranch where Villareal lived at?

CI: Ah ha.

M: How did you learn that the Colombians gave them...

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CI: Cause he told me that

M: Arevalo told you that?

CI: The Colombians.

M: Oh the Colombians.

CI: They said that they were being pressured by Manuel Villareal, but he didn't have the money and he was leaving it up to them. And he thought that it was their responsibility. Then they told me that they'd given him, 500,000 dollars and about two or three weeks later, it came out in the newspaper that this plane had belonged to the Herrera's. But it didn't belong to them. It didn't have anything to do with them, but they blamed it on them in there, in the newspaper. And they gave, they gave the ranch back, Manuel Villareal. I later talked to Manuel Villareal's brother in Guadalajara, at a house in Sopapan. He told me that they had paid, that the Colombians had paid the 500,000 dollars and they were given the ranch back.

M: Who do you think they would've paid that money to?

CI: Juanito Arevalo, the general's son.

M: The general's son?

CI: Yea.

M: Do you remember any names for these Colombians.

CI: Just that guy Gomez and there was another guy there, a taller guy, who said he was from Santa Marta, that was a coastal place. And that they had marijuana there and they had big ah, lockers they had, fish lockers or shrimp lockers or something like that. They kept it there, the boats came in and filled up with marijuana.

M: You told me before that you had seen or met ah, Jose Ramon Matta Ballester

CI: I saw him two or three times at Ernesto's house, I didn't know him. He was dressed very well, he's a short person, skinny, ah they treated him specially Nobody talked to him very much.

M: What years were, were those when you saw him.

CI: 83-84.

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MORALES: How much of the ah...

CI: My understanding is that he was Miguel Felix's man, more than Ernesto's.

MORALES: Back to the training, have you ever heard of any, anybody doing or given training courses to ah to a Gobernacion.

CI: What kind of training courses, training courses. What type of training, military training?

MORALES: Military training, ah, jungle training, ah spy training, any kind of training.

CI: There was some talk, that there was some Israelis that were supposed to have given electronics techniques training. Arms training, I don't know anything about that.

MORALES: Who was doing the talking.

CI: Huh?

MORALES: Who was, who were you getting the information from.

CI: I got the information from Estrella. Estrella and I knew each other because he was the head of special electronics operation. He was the head of, the heaviest into electronics, like stuff in Mexico City.

MORALES: He said that his people were being, were being trained by those ah, Israelis?

CI: Yea, that they'd gotten special equipment.

MORALES: They got special equipment?

CI: Yea.

MORALES: For ah, evesdropping type of equipment or ah...

CI: UI, had to be electronics equipment, that was his field.

M: Estrella's name is, full name?

CI: Comandante Estrella

M: That's all you know him as, Comandante Estrella?

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CI: UI, one of the people arrested with, ah, the Buendia investigation.

M: Oh.

CI: And Prado y Carmona and all those who'd been assistants to Javier Garcia Paniagua.

M: Okay.

CI: During 84 and 83 and parts of 82 they were assistants to Antonio Zorrilla.

MORALES: Can you tell us the time that you heard about the Zuno, what his ah final work is.

CI: Zuno?

MORALES: Yea.

CI: Zuno is a person that from 1976 probably before that, has been a, has been a trafficker he used to work mercury and then two attorneys in Texas were, do all Federal cases, they were the attorneys of a, of a defendant that I was defending on a fraud charge. Not a fraud charge in Mexico but here UI to Mexico. And ah, authorities in Atlanta, Georgia were typing to extradite him. The FBI came and tried to take his passport away at the, at the consulate. I was defending him on the immigration charges, and they had these other two attorneys in, in, Texas. And they told me that they, that they'd gotten mercury. They use to come down and, and smuggle mercury through Zuno. I know Zuno used to do heroin. I know that he got ah cocaine base from Guerrero and that they refined it, together with, with Juan and Eduardo Avina Vacas. When Juan Avina Vacas was the mayor of Guadalajara. I know that they sold heroin. They also worked together with a family known as the Cabrera brothers, specifically Miguel Cabrera. This was 1976, 77, 78, 79. I know that he used to smuggle marijuana in planes of the Conasupo, which is an organization of, of ah, food products for the poor in Mexico, when his brother-in-law was the President of Mexico. I know that he, I know that that Rafael Caro Quintero was in that house on, on a, Lope De Vega before, long before Camarena. Cause I heard him, I saw him dispatching out of that house.

M: Give me a date.

CI: 1984, January, February,

M: January, February 1984.

MORALES: Did you see Zuno there at the house?

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CI: No, never. I saw Zuno at one of the parties and I saw him come to Ernesto's house once.

MORALES: This was when?

CI: 1983, 1984.

MORALES: Did you know if he, ah, have you heard any rumors or do you know for a fact that he's a distributing now in 1988-89.

CI: Yea. I know that he's distributing now. I know that Rafael Pinilla Gonzalez who is an attorney that works with Alvaro Zuno, they have an office together at a building on Vallarta, Vallarta and ah Chapultepec, Guadalajara. And UI the cincuenta ocho buildings where the radio station is called Canal Cincuenta Ocho have an office on the second floor. I know that this attorney also works as the attorney for the wife of Javier Garcia Paniagua, he has an office in UI. He's worked for Florentino Robles, he's chief of assistants of, of Javier Garcia Paniagua. He and his brother Juan Manuel Pinilla Gonzalez and a kid named Tomas Ignacio Gonzalez ah, in prison have an organization that's under Ruben Zuno that is blasting out airstrips. Sending something out of the country. They haven't told me what, they've had, I've seen them with cocaine, for their own personal use. I've seen them with marijuana, fresh marijuana, the kind of marijuana that you can only get from the hills. Ah, I caught Tomas at his mother-in-law's house about 3 or 4 weeks ago with a truck full of dynamite. He told me he was blasting out strips, but that there was a lot of roadlocks and he had to leave a lot of the equipment up in the mountains. I know that they're presently working with Zuno. I know because they used to work for me. Manuel, Juan Manuel Pinilla Gonzalez and Tomas were my people, they were my assistants before and then they went to work for Zuno. Ha?

MORALES: Your assistants in doing what?

CI: In ah, electronics and things around the house, they were part of my group.

MORALES: You were, you're group is what, ah, for the IPS.

CI: Ah ha.

MORALES: That was in the electronic field, you were chief of that group?

CI: Yea. I put Juan Manuel Pinilla Gonzalez through school. I paid all his school, I helped him graduate.

MORALES: In Mexico, Guadalajara?

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CI: Ah ha. University of Guadalajara, UI.

MORALES: His field was in electronics for graduation?

CI: No, no, he had nothing to do with electronics, he was helping me. Maybe he learned a lot of things.

MORALES: Do you have knowledge of any smuggling deals as far as ah, routes from Guadalajara to the U.S. border, or do they go mostly for the city of Tijuana or ah...

CI: I know that Tomas told me that they were blasing out strips in the hills close to Mascota in, well, in Jalisco. I don't think that they're making those strips to send anything south. I know that Juan Manuel makes trips to the border all the time and up around the northern states of Mexico and all the UI interconnected by a beeper system that they have. They all have the same beeper. Ah, I've seen 'em together, I've seen them talking together. They all deny knowing each other. Juan Manuel has suddenly got a new car and a new house. Ah, he's ashamed to talk to me because he feels like, like he betrayed me by going and working for these people.

MORALES: Ah, can you tell us about the ah, electronics deal that you set up, the communication deal giving them their code numbers and everything else, and give us the names and the code numbers that they used.

CI: Well, I didn't give all the code numbers that was that was an arrangement between Antonio Garrate and I. Eh, I put in the system and ah...

MORALES: Where's this?

CI: In Guadalajara.

MORALES: When?

CI: 1983 and the, the repeater system, and we began making up names. Tony made up the majority of the names. Ah, basing on, on Greek mythology.

MORALES: For example.

CI: Gamma Siete was, was Ernesto. Ah, Ariano, was a name I made up for Rafa. Ese Uno, is a name I made up for Samuel. Se Uno was, was Jose Maria Carloso the judicial police and was also used by Benjamin Locheo. Ah, Centurion, was Comandante Molina. There was a Torre Blance there. I don't know who the hell he was.

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M: What was Tony's.

CI: Tony, Tony didn't get one because they were mad at him at that time. He had one for awhile.

M: Castel

CI: Huh?

M: Castel del Oro?

CI: He didn't have one.

M: He didn't have one

MORALES: The army?

M: Espino?

CI: Espino they used to call him comandante. Ah, the army didn't have one.

M: Who do you know there in the army in Guadalajara?

CI: Well, I saw General Tapia 2 or 3 times, talking with them. And I had an extended relationship with Teniente Coronel Salas, who was the chief of staff to Tapia. He was stationed in Ernesto's house. We used to talk all the time about, about the radio systems and the differences between the army radio system and the kinds of radio systems that I put in.

MORALES: You say that you were in convoy, or escort, for this ah drugs.

CI: Yea.

MORALES: Did you ever see the DFS, the MFJP or the army as convoys also?

CI: Oh yea. That's why we had to go on escort. We often had, often had ah, roadblocks. Not only the judicial police but the army. As a matter of fact or the first one to Ameca, before I got to the checkpoint, they all said that that was where there could be trouble if there was gonna be any trouble. I remember checking to see if the safety was on the rifle. I took it off, check and see. I had a round in the chamber. Later on they got, they, they ridiculed me. They said I was nervous. I said I didn't think I was nervous, it was just an intelligent thing to do. They said that there might be some kind of a problem. They said what kind of problem could there be, it was all set up. It was all set up, how come you take escorts? Because they don't always, sometimes they

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back on their word.

MORALES: Who was telling you that you were nervous?

CI: Pepe went and told Ernesto that. Ernesto called me in and balled me out. Pepe said you were nervous. There was another guy named Hector there, who was later killed, who defended me. He said I wasn't nervous I was just checking to see if the safety was on the rifle and if I had a round in the chamber. The reason that they said I was nervous was, why I was I checking, none of them checked their rifles or anything and they all laughed at me later and said it was because it was all set up. I, I knew, I already knew it was all set up but they also had been a lot of trouble with the army. And the army didn't always go along on that. Sometimes they went back on their word.

MORALES: So, how many people would go on the convoy, say if ah, there was a, how many. If there was one truck. Was there always one truck coming through or two trucks or three trucks?

CI: Once there was two trucks. UI Mecca, once, the other times there was one.

MORALES: So how many people would go on a convoy, say in one car?

CI: About 4 people to a car

MORALES: Four people to a car?

CI: Sometimes 5.

MORALES: Who was designated the driver, eh, anybody would be the driver or was there somebody pointed out.

CI: Well each time somebody would drive, I mean ah. Main thing was, that around the house these times that would say who has a credential. Cause they only wanted people to go who had credentials.

MORALES: Okay let's take a hypothetical thing, what would happen say if the army, if you approached the roadblock of an army roadblock, you came to a stop. You would come to a stop or they would open the gate for you to come through if you had your red light on?

CI: There was no gate. The roads, they're on the side of the roads.

MORALES: Okay

CI: Normally they would just let us go by.

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MORALES: How would they know who you are?

CI: Well, I would assume that they'd been told what time we were gonna be and to, to be expecting it.

MORALES: So you didn't have any, ah, any thoughts of stopping or anything.

CI: No.

MORALES: So you wouldn't, instead of coming off the side of the road, you just kept on going straight?

CI: That's right.

MORALES: And the truck was right behind you?

CI: That's right, always.

MORALES: So as the soldiers stood there with their arms pointed at you, the guns pointed at you.

CI: No, they ignored us.

MORALES: But if they did, what would happen?

CI: We would've opened fire.

MORALES: Okay.

CI: Clarifying, that we would've opened fire, at least I would've. I'm not gonna get shot by the army. I'm not gonna sit around think about who, who is right or who is wrong or, or whether it was proper to be doing what we were doing.

MORALES: But when you left Fonseca's house, you were under the orders of saying you will take this load through.

CI: Yea. We were under the orders to escort.

MORALES: The shipment.

CI: The shipment. And you were under general orders and, and all the DFS or IPS office, to not let anybody disarm you. And not to be taken by any other corporation. Not, not in terms of right or wrong or whether they had any right or whether it was legally proper or anything like that. Just as a part of the esprit de corps of the, of the ah, ah the corporation. As a matter of fact, I

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personally was just the electronics, I mean I was chief of their communications. But they made me carry a gun and they said that if I allowed my weapon to be taken away from them, from me, that then they would try to take their weapons away from them. And that I would be, hurting my companions by, if I allowed myself to get pushed around by any other corporation. There are normally fights between the corporations.

MORALES: UI, this was ruling put up by Fonseca himself or was it the...

CI: No, that was ruling of the entire country. Never let your gun be taken away from you. You, you weren't to allow yourself to be disarmed. There were many places, for instance in Oaxaca. In Oaxaca we had lots of fights with the federal judicial police, under El Chicano, Comandante UI, Comandante Miguel and ah, we did not let them disarm us at their roadblocks and they didn't let them, us disarm them in our roadblocks either. See like Tuesdays we put up roadblocks for them and Thursdays they put up roadblocks for us.

MORALES: Talking about the IPS.

CI: Yea. Well, in Oaxaca it was more specifically DFS.

MORALES: So you were working for both?

CI: Yea.

MORALES: Federal?

CI: Well both of them are for Gobernacion. In places like Oaxaca there's only, only one comandante.

MORALES: What was a, what were they paying you when you were IPS or DFS and Fonseca. There was three deals, were you being paid by one person or by both?

CI: UI I was paid by the comandantes. And when I was at Ernesto's house, he paid me.

MORALES: You weren't getting nothing from the comandante there?

CI: Sometimes, Sergio would give me money, apart.

MORALES: What would've, what would be an amount say on a monthly deal?

CI: Between 5 and 800,000 pesos a month.

MORALES: Equivalent to how much American money?

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CI: Well, in 84, in American money it was probably 1200, 1500 dollars. Something like that. It was good money for that time.

MORALES: The car was furnished by?

CI: Fonseca.

MORALES: The guns were furnished by?

CI: Fonseca.

MORALES: So the ah, comandante didn't give you anything except just a little bit of money?

CI: They, everybody was supposed to have their own car in Gobernacion and everybody was supposed to have their own gun. They did not furnish guns to you. Ah, operativo usually had 20 or 30 guns. But you took them out on, on specific assignments and you brought them back. And, as a matter of fact, the guns in Guadalajara that, that Sergio had, were mostly Ernesto's anyway. Remember though, Sergio, I mean Ernesto, had a authentic credential that was probably just as good as Sergio's.

MORALES: Do you know how much he paid for that credential?

CI: No.

M: Did you ever know of anybody buying credentials?

CI: Well, it was generally said, that some people had their regular credentials and other people had the officios de comision because they didn't want to pay for the credentials for everybody. But how much they paid for 'em and who they paid it to, are what they're...

MORALES: What is that, the comision de?

CI: Oficio de comision, is a piece of paper made by the local comandant, put your picture on it, stamps, stamp over it, it says you're appointed to this office here in this comandancia.

MORALES: On paper only?

CI: Yea. Normally it would have that, put on plastic and reduced, and carried around in a regular credential. But they weren't the official credentials from Mexico City. They were just as good. But ones from Mexico City were ah machine like when, when they take your picture in a driver's license department. You had to go Mexico City.

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M: Do you know personally or did you see yourself, ah, or ever were involved with any pay offs, as far as money to some of these guys around the comandantes or anything like that?

CI: Well, not payoffs in the way that you're talking about it. Ernesto gave Sergio a house.

M: Is that all?

CI: Ah, bought him a new car.

M: Sergio Espino?

CI: Ah ha. He bought a car for ah, Nicolas el Comandante Nicolas de la federal judicial police.

M: Yea.

CI: Paid the salaries of the agents that were assigned to other comandantes in his house. I knew that he regularly gave 50 or 60 million pesos, regularly, on a regular basis to, to the comandants but, they didn't pay them off in front of me.

MORALES: Oh. Did you see any, did you hear of any payments paid out to Castel del Oro?

CI: Well I can only assume that they were paying him off because when he came in to town, he located me and he asked me if I would tell Ernesto that he had come into town and that he was looking for him. Then later on, he began to report regularly with Ernesto and to begin to work regularly with him. So that would assume that, he had been paid off by Ernesto. UI.

MORALES: Was ah, Salcido, Manuel Salcido, was he active during that period of time in Guadalajara.

CI: Yes, but UI. Told you they would get together the four of them, after Miguel wasn't around. Miguel had this fight with them.

M: When was that?

CI: Probably the last part of 82.

M: Last part of 82, Miguel...

CI: UI in 83 when they got mad at each other and Miguel told them that they, that they were too rough and they were attracting too much attention. That the people

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in Mexico City were mad at them.

MORALES: When they talk about the people in Mexico City, who are you indicating?

CI: Well I know that the, the protection for them was ordered directly from the Procuraduria, and they regularly got tips from Mexico City if special groups were to be sent to look for them. Sometimes there would be pressure put on them to, to find them. And they sent the UI or, or El Grupo Aguila to look for them. But they always knew in advance that they were coming, they always moved to another house. They'd set up a special screening operation, make sure that they'd never get close. As a matter of fact they never got close.

MORALES: Look for them, for what purpose.

CI: Well, it's to be supposed that it was like a cat and mouse game, right. Go find them but don't find them.

M: Yea.

CI: But if you do happen to stumble on em, you have to bring 'em in.

M: Yea.

CI: They never had that problem.

M: Yea.

CI: The problem never arose.

MORALES: You were in Guadalajara in 1985, during the Camarena deal.

CI: After the Camarena deal.

MORALES: Yea, after the Camarena deal, when the, were you still associated with ah, Fonseca?

CI: No.

MORALES: You had no association with anybody there?

CI: Well I had an association with Los Dormidos, los Torres Ochoa.

MORALES: Did you hear the ah, rumors, scuttlebutt going around about, okay that they anglos could come around looking, ah. Everything is set up not to find nothing or anything like that.

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CI: What?

MORALES: Did you hear anything about, that they were out searching Camarena, that they...

CI: Oh, that was all over by then.

MORALES: You came out?

CI: It was all over. I didn't get out till May or June of 1985.

MORALES: You went in when?

CI: Last part of 1986, I was in there 6 months.

M: So it would've been 84 when you went in?

CI: Yea.

M: Came out in '85.

CI: Yea. It all over, it all happened when I was inside.

MORALES: Did you hear any rumors or did somebody talk to you about you know what they're doing or anything like this. As far as ah, not searching the right places or the ah, the ah...

CI: We knew about the coverup, the El Mareno coverup. Everybody laughed about it.

MORALES: Can you tell, can you tell us about something, what you heard about that?

CI: Just that they had, that they'd, that they'd done a very stupid thing. That they'd tried to throw it off on to ah, Michoacan. Ah, the governor of Michoacan kinda got angry, they'd got there late, that he UI troops around the place the next day and they, they couldn't dump off the bodies off inside. Had to drop 'em off outside. They got there late. That's all.

MORALES: Did you hear anything about who had transported the bodies or...

CI: No.

MORALES: Anything like that?

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CI: No. Or any of that.

M: Ok, talking about these cowboys, Fonseca, Caro Quintero and all that stuff.

CI: All right the truth.

M: Yea.

CI: The whole truth. Somebody had to call 'em and tell them that, that, that Camarena was the one. They didn't have any intelligence operations of their own.

M: Yea.

CI: Somebody had to put the blame on him. And somebody had to be able to set it up with them, that they would go get him, and they'd UI, but that they could be there and make a tape. These guys never made a tape, ever. In all the years I worked with them, they never ever thought about making a tape in an interrogation. No comandante ever made a tape of the, conversation. Ernesto never made a tape of an interrogation. Think that was the first person they ever killed? I guess the, the first person they ever tortured or beat up. They never never ever made a tape.

M: Well

CI: I'll tell you what, other authorities there during the Camarena interrogation. They had to have said to them, look this is the guy that screwed you on Buffalo. This is the one that wants to put you away. We have to abandon you because these, this is the guy that, that's writing everything down about you. Right? They had to, to steam 'em up so they'd go do this. And at the same time they had to say, just let us be there please.

M: Why do you think they made a tape?

CI: I think they made a tape for somebody else in Mexico City. I don't think it was necessarily them that made the tape, they wouldn't even know how to turn the taperecorder on.

M: That, that was my next question.

CI: They'd never done that. They didn't work with that kind of equipment. They never ever had done that.

M: Yea.

CI: And I don't think they were the only ones there either. If they weren't the only ones there, you have to picture them getting these guys to take the blame.

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Sending their man, taking him to their house, and having their people torture him, while these other people are standing by looking on making tapes. They covered themselves very well. Wasn't any army people in the car that went and picked him up. They didn't take him to any army house. They didn't take him to any regular police house. They took him to their houses and they sent their people and they blamed it all on them afterwards. Said okay only them, it's all settled now. Ernesto and Rafa they did the whole thing, and they didn't do the whole thing. That's not their style. Beating up, torturing, that yes, I don't say no. Alright? I do know one thing, I don't think they'd ever pick somebody up and then take him back. I can't picture in my mind, I can't reconcile it in anything that I've ever known about them and I know them pretty well, to pick somebody up openly without mass on anything. In broad daylight, in a public parking lot, and take them away and then bring them back the next day. Okay we tortured you, you can go now. Go and tell your people what we asked you. How could they do that, how could they bring him back?

M: Ah, looking at it in a different way, how about Tony and Victor, they got picked up.

CI: Somebody ratted on them.

M: -Somebody ratted on them.

CI: Somebody rat 'em out. I don't know what they interrogated, them on. When they took them in there.

M: Yea.

CI: But I don't think they interrogated them on any dope deals. I think they interrogated on 'em, them on what they knew.

M: Yea.

CI: If they interrogated them on what they knew, then they already knew who they were. It wasn't necessary that the consulate official should get there and say these are from the DEA. They must've already known. But they wanted to know how far they'd gotten. To what Tony had told them. They're lucky to be alive.

M: You're right, right there.

MORALES: Why do you suppose that they were taken to the station instead of like what they did to Camarena?

CI: If these were arms, if this is an arms thing, if they'd got them for the guns, they should have turn them over to the federal judicial police. It was not

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a state beef, it had nothing to do with the state. If it was a dope deal it had nothing to do with the state. It was not a state beef. It was a federal judicial police jurisdiction. The federal district attorney jurisdiction, had nothing to do with the state police. I think they picked them up because the state police are the ones that are more in the pay of these people. And that somebody went and told them, Tony has sold out to these people.

M: Well, I'm going to go over it again okay? All these years that you've known these guys, worked with them, has there been one instance where they've asked you, since you're the electronics expert, to tape any interrogation?

CI: Never.

M: Never.

CI: Never.

M: Never.

CI: They don't do that. They never did that. Never. Why would they do it? So they can play the tape back later and listen to it and laugh? Never. I've heard them talking about many years before. They never ever said anything like that. I don't think they know how to turn a taperecorder on. They didn't have any taperecorders.

MORALES: Give me your personal opinion on your own opinion as to why Fonseca was picked up and ah, had tapes on him.

CI: Well, I first didn't know that he had the tapes on him. No, I don't know who gave you the tapes. Why he would've had them. He might've had them for evidence. He might've had them because they'd never want them again. Might've had them because they'd already grabbed them and they'd already had copies of them.

Tape #2 SIDE 2:
Side 2

M: UI.

CI: How long after they picked him up, did they give you the tapes?

MORALES: We don't know we don't know what the length of time was. We don't know how the transfer of the tapes were. You know Fonseca for so long, why would he want to be carrying tapes.

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CI: Maybe to protect himself.

MORALES: That would be more incriminating wouldn't it?

CI: Not necessarily, if he knew he was gonna be picked up. If he knew it was all over, he might've wanted evidence to be able to protect himself, or to make a deal. I know that all of his people now say that this is a political matter. That it is not a judicial matter. That the whole thing is political.

M: One of my understandings was that ah, the CIA was involved along with the, the tapes. Whether they got it or whether they picked them up, or anyway the CIA is involved one way or another.

CI: I can't comment on that cause I don't know it and...

M: You never met any people that identified themselves as CIA to you?

CI: Yes.

M: You did?

CI: Yes.

M: When was that?

CI: Those two people I told you, they said they were working for the, they didn't say it they gave me to understand they were working for the CIA.

M: Okay.

CI: But I don't think the CIA would've gone directly, they would've sent the Mexicans. The CIA are not so stupid, they were gonna go in there themselves. There are gonna send some of their own minions in there. One of whom would be Miguel Nazar Aro, who they had been, he'd been on, had been on their payroll for 10 years. He was their chief agent. So chief that, you can't even arrest him down there. You've got a valid arrest warrant, you've had it since 1983, can't do anything about it, 1982. You still today can't, but who'll arrest him.

M: How'd you find that out?

CI: You don't think we know that?

M: Well, that's what I want to know, is how, how you knew that.

CI: How I know that?

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M: Yea.

CI: I would know cause he was my comandant. You don't think we know why he got, kicked out of the DFS. You don't think we know that they processed him on those stolen car charges? You don't think that we know about the cars that you guys know about? The cars that he gave to people in Mexico City. That they had in their houses. That were listed as stolen in California and Arizona. That there was an arrest warrant, liberated by a U.S. Magistrate. That they went to the Embassy, that the FBI went there to serve the warrant. That the CIA came into the Embassy and said no this is our chief agent. We know that.

MORALES: How come he's still alive?

CI: Miguel Nazar, Ibarra, Aldana, they were all saved. They were taken out in time, put in to a safe place and brought back again. Ibarra and Aldana, como es es es and also Miguel Nazar as security for the present the present president. Miguel Nazar was the security for the president's wife during the campaign. Aldana was the security for the president. And these people were the most involved and yet they were taken out in time. They were taken out before Ernesto fell. They were taken out, put in a big office as lawyers. They let the, the, poor Pavon Reyes holding the bag. Shit. I'll tell you one thing, they sure had good advice. They sure knew their timing. They sure knew something was coming. Or they made it happen themselves. They wanted Rafa and, and Ernesto go down, they made them go down. They went down. They blamed it all on them, and the other people, are happy and well, thank you.

M: How come Felix went down?

CI: Well I guess you guys just made too much pressure.

M: Well, we, were also yelling for Cochiloco, how come he hasn't gone down?

CI: Well Cochiloco is still there, he's stupid. He doesn't realize that they told Rafa that he, he was untouchable and then they got him. And they told, ah, Ernesto he was untouchable and then they got him. They told Miguel that he was untouchable and they got him. They told Blue that he was untouchable and they still got him. If he hasn't read the handwriting on the wall by now. Besides that, there's something about Manuel that you guys aren't thinking about. He is hand and glove with the Colombians. He only runs around with the Colombians now and they are not wiping out the Colombians in Mexico, because they're controlling the whole thing. That's where the money is coming from right now. The big money, and more money then these guys ever had. And more carefully controlled.

M: Well, knowing what we know, and knowing what you know, about Mexico, how

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dangerous it is. Ah, we just want you to know that we don't advise you going back into Mexico and you're doing it out of your own free will.

CI: It's my home. I live there. It's the only place I have any friends.

M: Yea.

CI: My wife and my children are there. I have to see, to getting them out of there. If I have to come out of there, I've got to prepare them. I can't have just some guy come up to my wife someday. She won't believe him. UI come up to my wife. Okay, load the kids up, pack you stuff, you're going with us.

M: Yea.

CI: They're not going to do that. It'll scare 'em to death. It will blow their minds. They shouldn't have to suffer for this, it isn't their fault.

End

CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE:

1. Exhibit N-558, two AVX 90 cassette tapes, was utilized to record this debriefing of ISPR-89-0008. Exhibit N-558 was maintained in the custody of the Leyenda group, LAFD, until it was turned over to the LAFD Evidence Custodian.

INDEXING SECTION:

1. FONSECA-Carrillo, Ernesto
2. FELIX-Gallardo, Miguel Angel
3. CARO-Quintero, Rafael
4. SALCIDO-Uzueta, Manuel

