

November 5, 1996

(X7)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MEMO

TO: POL - Jim Wagner

RELEASED IN FULL

FROM: POL - Henry Bisharat

SUBJECT: General Robles's Asylum Request

On May 5, 1993, Gen. Rodolfo Robles and six family members asked for political asylum while in the Defense Attache's office on a farewell call. Robles was about to leave Peru for an assignment to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington. He asked for asylum because he planned to go public that day with information that Vladimiro Montesinos and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Nicolas Hermoza were personally responsible for army/intel death squads and that they had links to drug trafficking. Robles's information created an uproar and was instrumental in the conviction of nine military officers by a military court in 1994 for participation in the 1992 La Cantuta massacre. Though a military court decided not to press charges against Montesinos and Gen. Hermoza, a majority of a special congressional committee investigating the massacre found merit in the charges against them. As far as I can tell, Robles never did come forth with specific information linking Montesinos and Gen. Hermoza to drug trafficking.

During Robles's stay in the Embassy, the Charge explained to him that political asylum could only be requested inside the United States. Fearing for their safety, Robles and six family members, including two sons in the army, remained camped out in the Ambassador's conference room for two days until U.S. Embassy personnel managed to get them safely to the airport and onto a flight to Argentina. Robles returned to Peru in June 1995 after military officers who had plotted a coup against Fujimori received amnesty along with human rights violators. Though Robles did not participate in a coup attempt, the Peruvian Ambassador in Buenos Aires phoned him to say he was included in the amnesty.

Since his return to Peru, Gen. Robles has publicly stated several times that he continues to receive telephonic death threats and his name appeared on a death wreath, which was signed by the "Colina family" and delivered to a human rights organization in November 1995. This incident resulted in announcements by Fujimori and Gen. Hermoza that all amnestied members of the Colina death squad had retired from military service. A book Robles wrote on the Colina Death Squad was published by the Pro-Human Rights Association (APRODEH) in early 1996.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR  
 DATE/CASE ID: 15 OCT 2002 200102969

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