

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 10, 1995

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: CHAT BLAKEMAN *CB*  
Inter-American Affairs; 6-9136

SUBJECT: JENNIFER HARBURY *file*

This note is in reference to the letter the First Lady received from Jeff Maguire regarding Jennifer Harbury.

Richard Feinberg and Tony Lake discussed the Harbury case yesterday. Both recommend the First Lady not meet with her; Richard plans to meet with her this afternoon.

In responding to Maguire's letter, feel free to draw from the attached letter which we have used to respond to similar inquiries in the past. Alice Pushkar and I have worked on responding to previous letters to the First Lady on the Harbury case, so she is familiar with the case.

Please let me know if you require additional information.



JEFF MAGUIRE  
2108 MAGNOLIA AVENUE  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90266

Via Fax

Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

2/28/95

Dear Ms. Clinton,

I am an admirer of yours and the President's. As a lifelong Democrat, I'm proud of the way you've handled the storms of the past two years and stuck to your principles despite often downright cruel opposition.

I wrote the movie IN THE LINE OF FIRE and am currently working to develop a feature film based on the case of Jennifer Harbury, the American woman who is struggling against another form of cruel opposition to learn what happened to her Guatemalan husband. I hope you are familiar with her story and with her plan to begin a hunger strike on March 12 in front of the White House. I have also written the President on this matter but knowing how swamped he is, I'm hoping that you, as a woman, a wife, a decent human being and a lover of God, will get involved, not only in Jennifer's struggle but in the struggle of the Guatemalan people to emerge from decades of oppression and human rights abuses under a military government that our country put in power with the CIA-engineered coup of 1954.

Last year, after a peace agreement was signed in Guatemala, insuring continuation of U.S. aid and trade, human rights abuses skyrocketed. I believe we must work to stop the Guatemalan military and a wealthy white minority from terrorizing the Mayan majority. If we were able to help bring about dynamic and peaceful change in South Africa, why not in our own backyard?

It's my hope and prayer that you will find a way to at least meet with Jennifer (who is one of the most positive, remarkable people I've ever met, and your fellow-Harvard law school grad I might add). I would also love to meet you and express my admiration in person if the chance ever arises. I will be in Washington March 9 through 15 and am available anytime. If not at that time, then perhaps our paths will cross in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Maguire

Tel. (310) 545-0731



Sample

January 19, 1995

Ms. Linda DeStefano  
5031 Onondaga Road  
Syracuse, NY 13215

Dear Ms. DeStefano:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding human rights conditions in Guatemala.

This administration has no higher priorities in Guatemala than strengthening democratic governance and ensuring that the human rights of all Guatemalans are respected. We share your concerns about allegations of human rights abuses and have made these concerns clear to the Government of Guatemala. We shall continue to do so at every appropriate opportunity.

In the particular case of Efraim Bamaca, we have stressed at the highest levels the importance we attach to Ms. Jennifer Harbury's receiving an accurate accounting of what happened to her husband following his capture by security forces. Administration officials have met with Ms. Harbury on many occasions to discuss this matter and to assure her of our desire to see it resolved in an acceptable manner.

We believe the peace process underway in Guatemala offers the best avenue for resolving long-standing political differences in that country and for ending the cycle of violence that has taken so many Guatemalan lives. We fully support this process and will continue to encourage all sides to negotiate in good faith.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Feinberg  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Senior Director for Inter-  
American Affairs