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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE, NSC:
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Withdrawer

KML 5/16/2011

File Folder HONDURAS/RMTC: [08/18/1984-10/02/1984]

FOIA

M10-350/1

Box Number 90509

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32

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
109799	CABLE	PANAMA 10144 PAR 4/5/2013 M350/1	1	8/18/1984	B1
109800	CABLE	STATE 252475 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	3	8/25/1984	B1
109801	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 10698 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	6	8/27/1984	B1
109802	PAPER	RE HONDURAS	2	8/28/1984	B1 B3
109803	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 10849 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	4	8/30/1984	B1
109804	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 10946 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	1	9/1/1984	B1
109806	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11002 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	3	9/5/1984	B1
109807	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11447 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/13/1984	B1
109808	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11444 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	3	9/13/1984	B1
109809	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11542 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/15/1984	B1

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109813	CABLE	SAN ALVADOR 10906 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/18/1984	B1
109815	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11721 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	4	9/20/1984	B1
109816	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11840 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/22/1984	B1
109818	CABLE	PANAMA 10368 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	1	9/22/1984	B1
109819	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11893 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/24/1984	B1
109820	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11972 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/25/1984	B1
109821	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 11972 R 4/5/2013 M350/1	2	9/25/1984	B1
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PAGE 01
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DTG: 181610Z AUG 84 PSN: 020008
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E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PBTS, MARR, PM
SUBJECT: NORIEGA SCEPTICAL ON USARSA SUCCESSOR
- INSTITUTION

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, GENERAL MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA, COMMANDER OF THE PANAMA DEFENSE FORCES (PDF) WAS INTERVIEWED BY [REDACTED]

TOLD POLCOUNS THAT EVENING THAT SHE HAD ASKED NORIEGA ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THE BARLETTA GOVERNMENT AGREEING TO A SUCCESSOR INSTITUTION TO USARSA ALONG LINES SHE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN GENERALS NORIEGA AND GORMAN OVER THE PAST YEAR. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] NORIEGA LAUGHED AND --- EMPHASIZING THAT HIS RESPONSE WAS STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD --- SAID THAT "NO PANAMANIAN POLITICIAN WOULD EVER FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SIGN A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT ON A USARSA-TYPE INSTITUTION IN PANAMA." REPORTEDLY, NORIEGA WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT RECENT NEGOTIATIONS ON A SUCCESSOR INSTITUTION WERE STRICTLY FOR THE RECORD.

3. COMMENT: SINCE [REDACTED] IS A U. S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEE OF A U. S. NEWS AGENCY AND IS KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE WITH U. S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WE ASSUME NORIEGA'S OFF-THE-RECORD COMMENT WAS INTENDED TO COME TO OUR ATTENTION, AND TO BE A MESSAGE THAT NORIEGA WOULD NOT PRESS BARLETTA FOR FAVORABLE ACTION ON A USARSA SUCCESSOR INSTITUTION. BRIGGS
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DECLASSIFIED IN PART
NLRR MID-350/1 #109799
BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

~~SECRET~~

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PAGE 01 OF 03 SECSTATE WASHDC 2475 DTG: 250343Z AUG 84 PSN: 044165
EOB520 AN002829 TOR: 238/0941Z CSN: HCE432

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 0000
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~~SECRET~~ STATE 252475

EXDIS
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. WITH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FY 1984 SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLETED AND ALLOCATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE NOW MADE (SEE SEPTEL), IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MOVE RAPIDLY TO CONCLUDE WITH GOH FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RMTC. REASONS FOR URGENCY INCLUDE (1) NEED TO MEET PRESSING AND IMMEDIATE ESAF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; (2) DESIRE TO ASSURE CONTINUED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH SUAZO GOVERNMENT AND REMOVE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FRICTION WHICH ELEMENTS WITHIN HONDURAN ARMED FORCES OR POLITICAL GROUPS COULD USE TO UNDERMINE COOPERATIVE BILATERAL RELATIONS; AND (3) REQUIREMENT TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH CONGRESS ON FY 85 FUNDING, PARTICULARLY FOR HONDURAS AND FOR RMTC. AS POST AWARE, EXTENSIVE RECENT PRESS TREATMENT OF ALLEGED HONDURAN UNHAPPINESS WITH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND UNCERTAIN STATUS OF RAMIREZ CLAIM RELATED TO RMTC PROJECT CREATED SITUATION IN WHICH RMTC QUESTIONS BECAME A MAJOR FOCAL POINT OF DEBATE IN FINAL DAYS OF

CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST. IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR OVERALL FY-85 EFFORTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE CONVINCINGLY WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 5 THAT WE ARE MAKING CONCRETE PROGRESS ON RMTC ISSUE.

3. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, SHOULD MAKE EARLY DEMARCHE ON RMTC ISSUE AT SENIOR LEVELS, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF FY 1984 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR CENTRAL AMERICA. THE ADMINISTRATION UNDERTOOK A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND CONSIDERS THE FINAL VOTE TO BE SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR JOINT OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA.

(B) PRESIDENT SUAZO'S LETTER OF AUGUST 6 WHICH STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE JACKSON PLAN WAS VERY TIMELY AND USEFUL IN

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NLRR M10-3506 #109300

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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DTG: 250343Z AUG 84 PSN: 044165

THE CONGRESS IN DISPELLING MISPERCEPTIONS AND DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT BY DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FOR OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES.

(C) UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION WE WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR HONDURAS FOR FY 84, BRINGING THE FY 84 TOTAL TO A LEVEL WELL ABOVE THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS.

(D) IN ADDITION, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THERE IS A SPECIFIC SEPARATE APPROPRIATION OF \$18.5 MILLION FOR THE REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER THAT HAS MADE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL SECURITY. WE CONSIDER THIS A MAJOR ENDEAVOR ON WHICH THERE IS NOW SUBSTANTIAL CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, EXPECTATION AND SCRUTINY.

(E) WE ARE DETERMINED TO BUILD ON THIS SUCCESS TO ASSURE THAT THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1985. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEGUN ACTIVE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF THE AMOUNTS WE HAVE RECOMMENDED WHEN THE CONGRESS RECONVENES ON SEPTEMBER 5.

(F) IT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES THAT WE DEMONSTRATE TO THE CONGRESS OUR CAPACITY TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE PROGRAMS JUST APPROVED IN ORDER TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS WITH FY 1985 FUNDING. -

(G) THE RMTC IS A PRIME EXAMPLE BECAUSE IT SYMBOLIZES BOTH OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH HONDURAS, AND OUR HOPES FOR BROADER REGIONAL COOPERATION. THE CONGRESS ALSO SEES THIS PROGRAM AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO DEFEND

EL SALVADOR FROM COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DEFEAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT -- AN OBJECTIVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS.

(H) WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON RESOLVING SOME ISSUES CONNECTED WITH SALVADORAN PARTICIPATION AT THE RMTC, INCLUDING A FORMAL REQUEST BY THE GOES AND AN EQUAL ALLOCATION OF TRAINING POSITIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS RAPID, DEMONSTRATED PROGRESS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN RESOLVING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE RMTC.

(I) WE VIEW THIS AS A SERIOUS MATTER BECAUSE WITHOUT EARLY ACTION ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT WE FACE THE ALMOST CERTAIN LOSS OF FY 1984 FUNDS FOR THE RMTC AND PUT IN JEOPARDY PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING BOTH FY 85 FUNDS FOR THE RMTC AND, IN ADDITION, THE MILITARY FUNDING LEVELS REQUESTED FOR HONDURAS FOR FY 1985. (AS AN EXAMPLE, THE LONG HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY DEFERRING ANY ACTION ON THE FY-85 RMTC REQUEST PENDING FURTHER STUDY.) IT SHOULD BE STRESSED MOREOVER THAT, IN ADDITION TO FY 84 RMTC FUNDS AVAILABLE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROJECT THAT THE FULL \$20 MILLION REQUESTED FOR FY 85 FOR THE RMTC BE APPROPRIATED. (TO DRAW ON AS APPROPRIATE: OF THE \$20 MILLION LISTED IN THE CPD FOR THE RMTC FOR FY 85, \$2 MILLION IS INTENDED FOR PACAMS, LEAVING \$18 MILLION FOR THE RMTC ITSELF. OF THE FY 84-85 TOTAL OF \$36.5 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT, APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION IS FOR TRAINERS AND O AND M, THREE MILLION FOR POSSIBLE SITE RELOCATION, THREE MILLION FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEER REQUIREMENTS, WITH THE ENTIRE REMAINING AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION.) IT IS OUR FIRM INTENTION TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS JUST ACHIEVED. WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK INTENSIVELY WITH YOU TO ASSURE THAT FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONCLUDED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH PARTIES.

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DTG: 250343Z AUG 84 PSN: 044165

EXDIS
(J) WE WOULD HOPE BOTH SIDES COULD AGREE: (1) TO ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE NEW RMTC FACILITY BY SEPTEMBER 5, SO THAT WE CAN BUILD THE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR NEXT YEAR. TO ACHIEVE THIS-OBJECTIVE, WE WOULD HOPE TO INCORPORATE THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED IN WRITTEN FORM BY SEPTEMBER 10, WITH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY FEASIBLE AS OF THAT DATE; (2) THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW FACILITY CLEARLY INDICATE GOH COMMITMENT TO ITS LONG TERM AVAILABILITY AS A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER OPEN TO ALL FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA; (3) THAT THE QUESTION OF LOCATION IS DEFINITELY RESOLVED; IN THIS CONNECTION,

USG IS NEUTRAL BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES OF IMPROVING THE EXISTING SITE OR MOVING TO A NEARBY SITE WHICH IS NOT

EXDIS
SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS OF LAND OWNERSHIP OR COMPENSATION. IN EITHER CASE, WE HOPE GOH WILL UNDERSTAND THAT APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION OF RAMIREZ CLAIM IS A SINE QUA NON FOR FUTURE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. WE WOULD URGE THAT WHICHEVER SITE HONDURAS SELECTS, STEPS BE TAKEN PROMPTLY TO REMOVE RAMIREZ CLAIM AS AN ISSUE IN RMTC CASE.

EXDIS
4. EMBASSY SHOULD TRY TO DEFLECT FURTHER GOH EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN RMTC AND RESOLUTION OF BORDER ISSUES BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HNDURAS. WE BELIEVE EFFECTIVE INFORMAL EFFORTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY AMBASSADORS NEGROPONTE, PICKERING AND SHLAUDEMAN REPRESENT BEST U.S. CONTRIBUTION UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. AS DISCUSSED DURING AMB. NEGROPONTE'S RECENT VISIT, WE WOULD ALSO PREFER TO TREAT RMTC ISSUE SEPARATELY, ON ITS MERITS, RATHER THAN AS PART OF OVERALL BILATERAL "TERMS OF REFERENCE" PACKAGE.

EXDIS
5. WASHINGTON AGENCIES RECOGNIZE THAT RESOLUTION OF RMTC ISSUE IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND FLEXIBILITY GIVEN COMPLEX FACTORS INVOLVED. WE INTEND TO PROVIDE FULL PERSONAL BACKSTOPPING AS NECESSARY TO HANDLE -LEGAL AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON RMTC PROJECT. WE WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ON BEST METHOD TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THIS CRITICAL PROJECT. DAM
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 0698
SIT634 AN002348

DTG: 272329Z AUG 84 PSN: 049208
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 10698

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC
REF: (A) STATE 252475 (DTG: 240343Z AUG 84)
- (B) TEGUCIGALPA 10656
- (C) TEGUCIGALPA 10555 (DTG: 241440Z AUG 84)

1. ~~(S)~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.
-

3. SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF
RESOLVING RMTC ISSUE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF CENTRAL
AMERICAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDING. WE HAVE ARRANGED

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 0698

DTG: 272329Z AUG 84 PSN: 049208

MEETING ON AUGUST 29 WITH HONDURAN CHIEF OF STAFF TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTRUCTION REFTTEL; SOUTHCOM WILL PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, THE LINKAGE TO THE BORDER ISSUE WHICH THE GOH HAS BUILT INTO THE RMTC EQUATION HAS BEEN HARDENED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS BY GOH PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND BY THEIR REJECTION OF A FORMAL REQUEST BY SALVADOR TO BRING A NEW GROUP TO THE CENTER TO BEGIN TRAINING. WE FEEL THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF THE SALVADORAN PRESENCE AT THE RMTC IS BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM FOR THE REGIONALIZATION OF THE FACILITY. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S THINKING ON POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR REGIONALIZATION OF THE RMTC WHICH OVER TIME COULD DILUTE THE SALVADORAN PARTICIPATION AT THE CENTER, THUS FACILITATING THE DELINKING OF THE RMTC FROM BILATERAL HONDURAN-SALVADORAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

4. EMBASSY WELCOMES GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF A. WE WILL BE CALLING ON CHIEF OF STAFF GONZALEZ AUGUST 29 (GEN. WOERNER OF SOUTHCOM WILL JOIN US FOR THE MEETING) AND WILL DRAW ON TALKING POINTS TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE RMTC PROBLEM FORWARD AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE ON SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY DEPARTMENT. OBVIOUSLY, PASSAGE OF JACKSON PLAN LEGISLATION, INCLUDING \$18.5 MILLION FOR RMTC WILL ASSIST US ENORMOUSLY IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, AND WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS MADE BY DEPARTMENT IN THIS REGARD. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INITIATIVE TO CAPITALIZE ON CONGRESSIONAL MOOD AND TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY ON FOLLOW-ON FUNDING FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN PROGRAM, AND WE WILL NOW BE WORKING THE PROBLEM HARD FROM HERE.

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 0698

DTG: 272329Z AUG 84 PSN: 049208

5. THE QUESTION OF THE RMTC (APART FROM THE RAMIREZ LAND QUESTION) HANGS ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE HONDURAN/SALVADORAN RELATIONSHIP, THEY INCLUDE:

- -- THE BORDER DISPUTE;
- -- PARITY OF ACCESS TO THE RMTC;
- -- REGIONALIZATION OF THE FACILITY.
-

6. EITHER REAL PROGRESS MUST BE MADE ON THE BORDER QUESTION OR IT MUST BE DELINKED FROM THE QUESTION OF SALVADORAN ACCESS TO THE RMTC. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, HOWEVER. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AUGUST 2 GOH NOTE ON RMTC (TEGUCIGALPA 9681) STATES THAT THE TRAINING OF NEW UNITS FROM EL SALVADOR WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN UNDERSTANDING TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND THE GOH. THE NOTE CONCLUDES THAT THE GOH STANDS READY TO CONTINUE OFFERING COOPERATION TO EL SALVADOR "AS LONG AS IT OBSERVES SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF EXISTING BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS" (I.E., THE BORDER ISSUE). THIS LINKAGE WAS SPECIFICALLY REITERATED PUBLICLY LAST WEEK BY FONMIN PAZ BARNICA IN REPLY TO A PRESS INQUIRY. THE GOH POSITION WAS FURTHER REAFFIRMED FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, IN A TELEX FROM HONDURAN CHIEF OF STAFF GONZALEZ TO HIS SALVADORAN COUNTERPART COL. BLANDON (REF B). THAT TELEX AUTHORIZES THE GOES TO COLLECT A UNIT AT THE RMTC WHEN IT COMPLETES

ITS TRAINING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND CONCLUDES: THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE ARRIVAL OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES TO BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC WHILE A BILATERAL ACCORD HAS NOT BEEN NEGOTIATED. (A SMALL, NEW GROUP WAS TO ARRIVE FOR MORTAR TRAINING BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1.) WHILE
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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 0698
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 10698

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC

THE SALVADORAN BATTALION DOES NOT FINISH TRAINING
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28, THIS IS FIRST EXPLICIT REJECTION
OF A GOES REQUEST TO SEND A SALVADORAN UNIT TO THE
RMTC FOR TRAINING.

7. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME PROGRESS WILL BE
MADE IN FORTHCOMING MONTHS ON THE BORDER ISSUE AS
A RESULT OF OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AND THE
EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS OF PRESIDENTS DUARTE AND SUAZO
TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE. IT IS ALSO
CONCEIVABLE THAT THESE STEPS MAY SATISFY HONDURAN

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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DTG: 272329Z AUG 84 PSN: 049213

REQUIREMENTS FOR "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" AND THAT TRAINING FOR SALVADORANS AT THE RMTC COULD GO AHEAD. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR PROGRESS ON THESE MATTERS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF HOW SALVADORAN-HONDURAN BILATERALS MIGHT PROCEED, WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE BORDER ISSUE MAY WELL HAVE TO BE DELINKED BEFORE A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IS MADE IN A PERMANENT RMTC.

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8. WE BELIEVE OUR BEST AVENUE OF APPROACH TO DELINKAGE IS TO CONVINCE THE HONDURANS THAT WE HAVE CONCRETE AND REALISTIC PROPOSALS FOR REGIONALIZATION OF THE RMTC. WE FEEL THAT BY PRESENTING SUCH A PROGRAM FOR MEANINGFUL, LONG-TERM REGIONALIZATION WE CAN DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOH THAT THE SALVADORAN PRESENCE AND VISIBILITY AT THE RMTC CAN BE DILUTED TO THE POINT WHERE IT SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE IN THE OPERATION OF A REGIONAL FACILITY. IT IS POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GOH MIGHT REQUEST GUARANTEES THAT TRAINEES FROM ANY ONE NATION WOULD NOT EXCEED A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL STUDENT BODY OF THE CENTER AFTER SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. TO DO THIS, WE WOULD NEED TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR THE RMTC THAT WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO HEMISPHERIC NATIONS--A PROGRAM THAT IS NEEDED OVER THE LONG TERM (PERHAPS AS IS SUGGESTED IN REF C, SOME PART OF THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS)--SO THAT REGIONALISM AT THE FACILITY WILL REFLECT OUR SERIOUSNESS AND SYMBOLIZE, AS DEPARTMENT MESSAGE POINTS OUT, OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH HONDURAS AND OUR HOPES FOR BROADER REGIONAL COOPERATION.

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9. AT PRESENT, WE DO NOT HAVE A VERY CONVINCING REPLY TO GOH PROBING ON THIS SUBJECT. WE HAVE AGREED TO REGIONALIZATION IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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HAD LITTLE CONCRETE TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF SUGGESTIONS OTHER THAN TOKEN PARTICIPATION BY NATIONS OTHER THAN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR. THUS, TO THE HONDURANS, REGIONALIZATION IS STILL A CODE WORD FOR TRAINING SALVADORANS. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW FAR THE USG, ITSELF, HAS GONE IN THINKING THROUGH A LONG-TERM REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE RMTC. REQUEST ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO GIVE US ON THIS POINT.

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10. WE THINK THAT ARGUING TO THE GOI THAT FY '85 FUNDS MIGHT FALL INTO JEOPARDY IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED ON THE RMTC WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. EMBASSY HAS MADE A SIMILAR ARGUMENT IN A POSITIVE VEIN TO GOH OFTEN, NOTING THAT AN EVER CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BUILDS A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN. HOWEVER, GIVEN GOH ANXIETY OVER OUR INABILITY THUS FAR TO FUND THE CRITICAL ANTI-SANDINISTA PROGRAM, WE FEEL WE SHOULD NOT MAKE ANOTHER ARGUMENT THAT WOULD REFLECT NEGATIVELY ON THE NATURE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO HONDURAN SECURITY. NEGROPONTE

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FOR ARA/CEN
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC
REF: (A) STATE 252474 (DTG: 250343Z AUG 84)
(B) TEGUCIGALPA 10698 (DTG: 272329Z AUG 84)

1. ~~1~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. EMBASSY-SOUTHCOM TEAM LED BY DCM LOWMAN AND MGEN. WOERNER MET WITH HONDURAN CHIEF OF STAFF COL. GONZALEZ AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS CONTINUED MILITARY COOPERATION ON A PERMANENT RMTC. DCM PRESENTED POINTS PROVIDED PARA THREE REFTEL A AND OUTLINED U.S. VIEW OF NEED FOR AND ADVANTAGES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION SYMBOLIZED BY RMTC. PRESENTATION CONCLUDED WITH DESCRIPTION OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS THAT RECENT HONDURAN ACTIONS ON RMTC HELD FOR FUTURE U.S. EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE RMTC AND ON THE GENERAL CLIMATE OF CONSIDERATION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS OF ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. DCM TURNED DISCUSSION TO GREATER REGIONALIZATION OF RMTC AS A SOLUTION, AT WHICH POINT, MGEN. WOERNER REVIEWED POSSIBILITIES FOR NEAR TERM AND FUTURE REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS. HONDURANS CONCLUDED THAT U.S. EFFORTS THUS FAR TO MEET HONDURAN REQUESTS ON RMTC WERE ENCOURAGING AND THAT REGIONALIZATION COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF RMTC "IMAGE PROBLEM" FOR DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION. GONZALEZ AGREED TO REQUEST THE RECONSIDERATION OF THE RECENT DECISION TO REFUSE ENTRY TO THE MORTAR PLATOON WHICH WAS TO ARRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 1. THUS, TRAINING FOR BOTH MORTAR PLATOON AND CURRENT SALVADORAN BATTALION IN TRAINING WOULD NOT TERMINATE TRAINING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 28 WHEN BOTH UNITS WOULD BE SCHEDULED TO GRADUATE. TALKS ON A GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE RMTC COULD THEN PROCEED AS SALVADORAN TRAINING CONTINUED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. GONZALEZ FELT THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR REGIONALIZATION AS DESCRIBED BY GEN. WOERNER COULD WELL CONVINCE PRESIDENT SUAZO TO APPROVE CONTINUED ACCESS TO A PERMANENT RMTC FOR EL SALVADOR. GONZALEZ ALSO FELT THAT, THOUGH A PART OF THE OVERALL U.S./HONDURAN RELATIONSHIP DESCRIBED IN THE PAPER ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE RMTC IN ADVANCE AD REFERENDUM ANY SUBSEQUENT BROADER

AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE REACHED. A MEETING TO BEGIN DISCUSSION ON THE REQUESTED GENERAL AGREEMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 3. GONZALEZ ALSO SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BRING TO THE MONDAY MEETING A GOH STATEMENT THAT THE NEW RMTC SITE IS LOCATED ON NATIONAL LAND, IN ORDER THAT ENGINEERING STUDIES CAN GO FORWARD.
END SUMMARY

3. DCM OPENED MEETING BY PRESENTING TO HONDURANS SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF POINTS PROVIDED PARA THREE REF A. HE THEN OUTLINED MUTUAL CONCERNS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY WHICH DROVE DECISION TO ESTABLISH RMTC. DCM NOTED THAT RMTC WAS ONE OF MANY AREAS OF COOPERATION IN SECURITY FIELD, BUT REGIONAL ASPECT WAS STRONG, POSITIVE IMAGE OF SHARED SECURITY GOALS. HE CONTINUED THAT THE PROSPECT OF A PERMANENT RMTC HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RMTC AT HONDURAN REQUEST AND THAT HIGH-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIALS HAD ARGUED STRONGLY FOR SUCH A FACILITY BEFORE CONGRESS. THEY WERE JUSTLY PLEASED WITH THEIR SUCCESS IN OBTAINING FUNDING FOR A PERMANENT FACILITY AND WOULD SOON GO BEFORE CONGRESS AGAIN TO TESTIFY FOR THE RMTC FUNDS PROPOSED FOR THE 1985 BUDGET. THE DCM THEN TURNED THE DISCUSSION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATER REGIONALIZATION AS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE IMAGE PROBLEM OF THE RMTC AS A TRAINING FACILITY FOR SALVADORANS. HE NOTED THAT WITH THE NEW FUNDING, THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A PERMANENT FACILITY OF IMPORTANCE TO HONDURAS AND THE U.S.

4. COL GONZALEZ NOTED HIS SATISFACTION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD OBTAINED THE FUNDS FOR A PERMANENT RMTC. HE SAID THAT FOR HONDURAS A REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER CREATED NO PROBLEMS AND, AT THE TIME HONDURAS WOULD SUBMIT A NEW AGREEMENT TO CONGRESS, HE EXPECTED THAT CONGRESS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM EITHER. WHAT BOTHERED THE HONDURAN PEOPLE, HE SAID, IS THAT THE RMTC ORIGINALLY WAS FOR SALVADORAN USE AND TAILORED-MADE FOR THAT PURPOSE. HE NOTED THAT FOR HONDURAS
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THE RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER IS A VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM BUT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE FOR SALVADOR. HONDURAS COULD ALLOW TIME TO PASS AND THEN SUBMIT THE BORDER DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN LATE 1985. IN THE INTERIM, HOWEVER, THE CONTINUING OPERATION OF THE RMTc WOULD NOT LOOK GOOD TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HONDURAS WAS MAKING CONCESSIONS WITHOUT COMPENSATION. THE RMTc COULD CONTINUE, HE THOUGHT, AND SALVADORAN TROOPS COULD COME TO TRAIN THERE AS LONG AS TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO CAME AND SALVADORAN NUMBERS WERE IN PROPORTION TO THOSE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. WHAT BOTHERED THE HONDURAN PEOPLE, HE SAID, WAS THE IMAGE THAT HONDURAS WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRAINING OF SALVADORAN COMBAT TROOPS. THAT IMAGE, HE SAID, WAS WHAT THE GOH NEEDED TO CHANGE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HONDURAS WANTED TO COOPERATE IN REGIONAL SECURITY MATTERS BUT THAT HONDURAN COOPERATION HAD LIMITATIONS AND THAT THE GOH COULD NOT RISK LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. THIS WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID, NOT THE HONDURAN MILITARY. (COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS ISSUE IS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT TO THE HONDURAN MILITARY AS THE HONDURAN PUBLIC; PROBABLY MORE SO, BUT REPEATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT HAVE TURNED IT INTO A PUBLIC ISSUE.) THE IMAGE PROBLEM HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HONDURAN FOREIGN RELATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, HONDURAS COULD NOT GIVE DIRECT SUPPORT TO SALVADOR. WHILE EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING FOR THE GOH'S CONCERNS, THE DCM NOTED THAT TIMING WAS A PROBLEM. THE RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER ISSUE WOULD TAKE TIME. WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK TOWARDS AN RMTc THAT WAS TRULY A REGIONAL FACILITY, BUT THAT ALSO WOULD TAKE SOME TIME.

5. GEN. WOERNER THEN BEGAN A DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF REGIONALIZATION OF THE RMTc. HE NOTED THAT WE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BUT HE FELT THAT AS MILITARY MEN WE SAW THE NEED TO DELINK THE BORDER PROBLEMS FROM THE RMTc. HE INFORMED THE HONDURANS THAT, AT THE MOMENT, WE WERE NOT CERTAIN OF THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS, BUT THAT DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE SOON AND ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL.

THE SCHOOL WOULD CONTINUE, HE SAID, BUT PROBABLY IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER TO CONDUCT SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS COURSES AS A FIELD ACTIVITY AT THE RMTc. SUCH COURSES MIGHT INCLUDE THE TRAINING OF NCOS, SMALL UNITS, AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING. HE NOTED, HOWEVER THAT TO SELL THE CONCEPT OF REGIONALIZATION AND TO ATTRACT OTHER COUNTRIES TO THE RMTc IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE REPUTATION OF ANY PART OF THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AS AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION. THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS IN SELLING THE CONCEPT OF A "PANAMANIAN SCHOOL" IN LATIN AMERICA, THE SAME PROBLEM WOULD APPLY TO HONDURAS. GEN. WOERNER NOTED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO SELL THE IDEA OF SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS COURSES GIVEN AT TRUJILLO. AS A STEP TOWARDS REGIONALIZATION IN THE SHORT TERM, GEN. WOERNER SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SEND A UNITED STATES RANGER COMPANY TO TRAIN AT THE RMTc TO GIVE IT A GREATER REGIONAL ASPECT. HE NOTED THAT AT THIS MOMENT THERE WERE MORE HONDURANS TRAINING AT THE RMTc THAN SALVADORANS, AND THOSE NUMBERS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR. AT THAT TIME, THE NUMBERS OF SALVADORANS WOULD AGAIN INCREASE AND BE LARGER THAN THE NUMBER OF HONDURANS UNDER PRESENT PLANS. HOWEVER, WITH A MINOR ADJUSTMENT, THE CAPACITY OF THE RMTc COULD BE INCREASED TO ACCOMMODATE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HONDURANS. BETWEEN OCTOBER AND THE END OF THE YEAR, THERE WILL BE SOME 400 SPACES AT THE RMTc THAT COULD BE FILLED BY HONDURANS OR STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ALMOST COST-FREE SINCE THE COST OF THE TRAINERS AT THE RMTc AND THE SUPPORT CONTRACT HAD ALREADY BEEN FUNDED. GEN. WOERNER SAID THAT HIS INTENTION WAS TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM FOR EL SALVADOR AT THE RMTc. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD A PROBLEM IN CONVINCING SALVADOR

TO CONTINUE TRAINING AT THE RMTc WHILE HONDURAS HAD TAKEN A POSITION TO DISCONTINUE SALVADORAN TRAINING AT THE RMTc WITHOUT PROGRESS ON THE BORDER. GEN. WOERNER ADDED THAT THERE WAS STRONG SENTIMENT IN EL SALVADOR TO CONSTRUCT A TRAINING CENTER FOR UNIT TRAINING AT LA UNION; THEREFORE, HE SAID, HE HAD LITTLE LEVERAGE WITH EL SALVADOR. SOUTHCOM WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE IDEA OF ANOTHER CENTER IN CENTRAL BT

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AMERICA FOR UNIT TRAINING, HE SAID. GEN. WOERNER NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOLUTIONS TO THE RMTc PROBLEM, BUT WE NEEDED TO AGREE TO CONTINUE THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SALVADORANS WHILE THESE WERE DISCUSSED. HE AGAIN NOTED THAT HE COULD WORK VIGOROUSLY TO HAVE CERTAIN COURSES FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS CARRIED OUT IN TRUJILLO AS A FIELD ACTIVITY OF USARSA. THE SCHOOL WOULD THEN TAKE ON A STRONGER REGIONAL IMAGE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A LOGICAL PROBLEM THAT HE WOULD FACE IN THIS DISCUSSION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. IF HE WERE TRYING TO SELL A REGIONAL CENTER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THAT POINT CONVINCINGLY WHILE HONDURAS WAS TAKING STEPS TO STOP TRAINING OF SALVADORAN STUDENTS.

6. COL. GONZALEZ NOTED THAT THERE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THAT PRESIDENT SUAZO HAD ALREADY SENT A MESSAGE TO SALVADOR NOTING THAT SALVADOR COULD NOT SEND MORE TROOPS TO THE CENTER UNTIL THERE WAS A BILATERAL AGREEMENT. THE LETTER, GONZALEZ SAID, HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. GEN. WOERNER THEN ASKED WHAT WOULD BE THE MINIMUM ACT SALVADOR COULD TAKE TO SHOW GOOD FAITH IN ORDER THAT THE MILITARY PROGRAMS COULD CONTINUE. GONZALEZ FELT THAT A TALK BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL MIGHT SATISFY THE GOH. HE NOTED SUCH TALKS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF DUARTE COULD COME TO HONDURAS.

7. GEN. WOERNER SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THE HONDURAN LINKAGE BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE RMTc, WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT LINK. DCM NOTED THAT WE COULD NOT USE THE MONEY CONGRESS HAD APPROVED FOR THE RMTc WITHOUT THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RMTc WOULD BE A REGIONAL FACILITY. GONZALEZ REPLIED THAT THE RMTc COULD CONTINUE WITH SALVADORANS, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AT A LOWER RATIO. THE DCM NOTED THEN THAT THE REAL QUESTION WAS WHETHER WE COULD REACH ACCEPTABLE FIGURES IN THE SHORT TERM AND IF WE COULD CONTINUE THE SALVADORAN PROGRAM WHILE WORKING TOWARDS REGIONALIZATION. GEN. WOERNER SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN EXPANSION OF REGIONALIZATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. THE HONDURANS HAVE A MAJORITY NOW, AND IT WILL CONTINUE. IN THE SHORT TERM, U.S. FORCES

COULD BE BROUGHT TO THE RMTc TO TRAIN, AND, WITH A BIT MORE TIME, HE WOULD WORK TO SELL THE IDEA OF COURSES ESTABLISHED AT THE CENTER FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS. BUT, HE NOTED, TO GET THE FUNDS FOR THE PERMANENT CENTER, WE NEEDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE SALVADORAN PROGRAM. ONE COULD MAKE THE CASE TODAY HE SAID, THAT THE CENTER IS NO LONGER PRIMARILY A SALVADORAN TRAINING FACILITY.

8. COL. GONZALEZ FELT THAT WITH THE NEW LIGHT SHED FROM TODAY'S DISCUSSION IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT SUAZO TO RETHINK THE RMTc DECISION. COL. GONZALEZ NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION TO STOP THE MORTAR PLATOON FROM COMING TO THE RMTc HAD BEEN MADE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSULTED AGAIN ORDER TO ALLOW THE MORTAR PLATOON TO COME TO THE RMTc AS SCHEDULED. THE DCM SAID THAT OUR PROBLEM IS NOT WITH THE TRAINING OF THE MORTAR PLATOON BUT WITH THE FACT THAT THE REJECTION OF THE REQUEST TO SEND THE MORTAR PLATOON WOULD GIVE THE IMAGE THAT THE RMTc TALKS HAD BROKEN DOWN. HENCE, THE SYMBOL WAS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATED TO HEARINGS BEFORE CONGRESS. COL. GONZALEZ SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE DECISION ON THE MORTAR PLATOON TO GEN. LOPEZ AND TO THE PRESIDENT. GONZALEZ ADDED THAT THE RMTc TALKS COULD GO FORWARD INDEPENDENT OF THE WIDER BILATERAL NEGOTIATION. THERE WAS NO REASON, HE SAID, TO DELAY TALKS ON THE RMTc PENDING THE BEGINNING OF TALKS ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND HONDURAS IN GENERAL. GONZALEZ ACCEPTED THE DCM'S SUGGESTION FOR A MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, TO CONTINUE TALKS ON THE RMTc.

THE EFFORT AT THAT TIME WILL BE TO AGREE ON A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO UNDERLY THE FUTURE TERMS OF REFERENCE ON A PERMANENT, REGIONAL RMTc.

9. COL. GONZALEZ CONFIRMED THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO LOCATE A PERMANENT RMTc ON A NEW SITE LOCATED NEARBY BUT NOT ON RAMIREZ PROPERTY. HE COULD NOT PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE GOH'S PLAN FOR DEALING WITH RAMIREZ. GEN. WOERNER NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOMEWHAT OF A CRISIS SITUATION ON

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CONTINUING ENGINEERING STUDIES FOR THE NEW LOCATION OF THE SITE, AND WONDERED IF THE GOH COULD SOON PROVIDE A LETTER STATING THAT THE LAND TITLE AT THE NEW SITE WAS CLEAR. THE LETTER WAS NEEDED SO THAT STUDIES COULD GO FORWARD. GONZALEZ SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THE LETTER PREPARED IN TIME FOR THE MONDAY MEETING. COL. RICE AGREED TO REPRESENT SOUTHCOM AT THAT MEETING. WREWQRR

10. COMMENT. THE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE HONDURANS REGARDING REGIONALIZATION UNDERLINES THAT, AS A CONCEPT, REGIONALIZATION IS THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE GOH'S POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH THE RMTC. BY SEEKING WAYS TO TRULY REGIONALIZE THE RMTC, AND DILUTE THE PRESENCE AND VISIBILITY OF THE SALVADORANS, THE GOH MAY BE ABLE SUBSTANTIALLY TO DELINK THE FACILITY FROM BILATERAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, BY OFFERING A WIDER RANGE OF COURSES AT THE RMTC, THE SALVADORAN INCLINATION TO GO FORWARD WITH ITS OWN UNIT TRAINING PLANS MIGHT BE DISCARDED, AND QUALITY U.S. TRAINING COULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. END COMMENT.
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PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN AND GENERAL WOERNER IMMEDIATELY
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTG: GENERAL PRINCIPLES
REF: STATE 252474 (DTG 250343Z AUG 84)

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, REQUESTED PARA J REFTEL, WHICH WE WILL SUBMIT AD REFERENDUM TO GOH AT SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING.

3. BEGIN TEXT: RMTG/USARSA - HONDURAS: GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGREES TO CONSTRUCT A PERMANENT FACILITY FOR A REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COLON ON LAND TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS. THIS LAND WILL INCLUDE MANEUVER AND TRAINING AREAS, AS WELL AS, A CANTONMENT AREA. WITH RESPECT TO CANTONMENT AREAS, UPON WHICH PERMANENT FACILITIES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WILL PROVIDE THE USG ASSURANCES THAT THE GOH HAS PROCURED SAID LAND AND THAT THE TITLE TO THAT LAND IS FREE AND CLEAR.

4. THE RMTG WILL BE A HONDURAN INSTALLATION WITH A HONDURAN COMMANDER.

5. WITHIN THE RMTG WILL BE SEVERAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND COMPONENTS.

- A. ONE SUCH COMPONENT WILL BE THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (FORWARD) WHICH WILL CONDUCT ACADEMIC AND FIELD TRAINING ACTIVITIES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH USARSA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, THE USARSA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE SCHOOL, THE RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE USARSA TRAINING PROGRAM.

- B. OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE RMTG WILL INCLUDE TRAINING WHICH TAKES PLACE OUTSIDE THE AUSPICES OF USARSA; E.G., U.S. RANGER TRAINING, AND OTHER TRAINING NOT FUNDED BY U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE RESOURCES.

- C. CONSULTATION ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMS DESCRIBED

ABOVE WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF AN ANNUAL BILATERAL PLANNING CONFERENCE. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO HONDURAN TRAINING NEEDS.

6. THE USG UNDERTAKES TO BEAR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS. THE GOH UNDERTAKES TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE INSTALLATION.

7. APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE IMPLEMENTING THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOH. END TEXT.
NEGROPONTE
BT

*Honduras
RMTG*

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NLRR MID-350/1 #109804
BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 11002

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HQ, ES
SUBJECT: RMTc AND BORDER ISSUE

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING CALL ON PRESIDENT SUAZO AUGUST 31, J.S. TEAM LED BY A.S. MOTLEY DISCUSSED THE RMTc AND THE RELATED BORDER ISSUE. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT, HONDURANS PRESENT WERE GENERAL LOPEZ, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY UBODUO ARRIAGA, FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA, AND AIR FORCE CHIEF ZEPEDA. CHIEF OF STAFF GONZALEZ WAS NOT AT THE MEETING. THE AMERICANS INCLUDED GENERAL GORMAN, AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE, AMBASSADOR SHLAUDENBERG, AMBASSADOR PICKERING, AMBASSADOR BRIGGS, DAS MICHEL, AND NSC STAFFER BURGHARDT.

3. SUMMARY. THE MEETING COVERED THE RMTc AND THE STATE OF THE HONDURAN-EL SALVADOR BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY EXPLAINED THAT AN AGREEMENT ON A PERMANENT RMTc WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE MOMENTUM OF CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING. GENERAL GORMAN OUTLINED FOR PRESIDENT SUAZO THE CONCEPT OF REGIONALIZING THE RMTc BY ESTABLISHING AT THE CENTER A PART OF THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS. THE HONDURANS DID NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE CONCEPT AT THE MEETING, BUT GENERAL LOPEZ AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES ON THE TITLE TO THE PROPOSED NEW SITE IMMEDIATELY. ON THE BORDER, AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA EXCHANGED THEIR VIEWS OF THE SALVADORAN WILLINGNESS TO GO FORWARD ON THE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. PICKERING NOTED THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT DUARTE WAS COMMITTED TO TAKE STEPS TO ENERGIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING NAMING TWO HIGH COMMISSIONERS TO NEGOTIATE THE ISSUE AND A DUARTE VISIT TO HONDURAS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SUAZO. PAZ BARNICA CONFIRMED THESE PLANS FROM HIS EARLIER TALKS WITH THE SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

4. THE RMTc. ASST. SEC. MOTLEY OPENED THE MEETING BY GIVING PRESIDENT SUAZO THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN, NOTING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD WANTED TO DISCUSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS IN THE WAKE OF THE PASSAGE OF THE JACKSON PLAN. AT TODAY'S MEETING, MOTLEY SAID, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT AN IDEA NOT YET FULLY BLESSED BY WASHINGTON. THERE WAS A NEED TO ADDRESS THE LONG-TERM PLAN FOR USE OF THE RMTc. ON OUR SIDE, MOTLEY CONTINUED, CONGRESS WILL RETURN AFTER LABOR DAY AND MEET FOR SOME 30 DAYS; IN THAT TIME, WE NEED TO REAFFIRM ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN AND MOVE FORWARD ON THE 1985 BUDGET. MOTLEY THEN TURNED TO GENERAL GORMAN TO EXPLAIN OUR PLAN TO EXPAND THE RMTc THROUGH TRUE REGIONALIZATION.

5. GENERAL GORMAN NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH THE RMTc SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND RECALLED IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE ASPIRATION OF THE GOH THAT THE RMTc BE A PLACE WHERE FREE NATIONS IN THE REGION COULD BE TRAINED TOGETHER. HE CITED THAT \$18.5 MILLION THAT HAD BEEN APPROVED SEPARATELY FOR THE RMTc AND THE PROPOSAL OF A LIKE AMOUNT IN 1985. THE FUNDS ALREADY APPROVED, GORMAN SAID, PERMIT US TO PROCEED WITH A PERMANENT CENTER. GORMAN THEN EXPLAINED THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (USARSA) BRANCH AT THE RMTc TO GIVE FIELD TRAINING. NOTING THAT THE RMTc SITE COULD OFFER A BETTER FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM THAN PANAMA, GORMAN HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE THE PARTICIPATION OF MANY HEMISPHERIC NATIONS AT THE CENTER. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE RMTc WOULD CONTINUE AS A HONDURAN BASE, AND USARSA WOULD BE ONE TENANT AT THE BASE. THE FLAGS OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS WOULD FLY ALONGSIDE THE HONDURAN FLAG. THE ACTIVITY WOULD LARGELY BE UNDERWRITTEN BY FUNDS APPROVED BY CONGRESS, AND WE COULD PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CANTONMENT AREA AND RANGES AS SOON AS WE WERE GIVEN A GOH LETTER ASSURING US THAT LAND WITH A FREE AND CLEAR TITLE WAS AVAILABLE. THE ACTIVITY AT THIS CENTER WOULD BE IDENTICAL TO THE PRESENT USARSA, GORMAN SAID, AND WE'D EXPECT MANY COUNTRIES WOULD FIND THE COURSES ATTRACTIVE. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CENTER, HE CONCLUDED, THE CENTER AS ENVISIONED WOULD BE A VEHICLE FOR GENUINE
BT

Answer RMTc

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTG AND BORDER ISSUE
REGIONALIZATION.

6. ASST. SEC. MOTLEY NOTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO OUR EFFORTS IN CONGRESS TO PROCEED WITH A NEW SITE OFF RAMIREZ LAND; A NEW SITE WOULD RESOLVE IN LARGE PART THE CRITICISM IN CONGRESS ABOUT THE RAMIREZ CASE. NONETHELESS, HE CONTINUED, WE NEED TO PROCEED, WITHIN HONDURAN LAW, TO COMPENSATE RAMIREZ FOR DAMAGES. SUAZO NOTED THAT RAMIREZ OWED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT IN BACK TAXES, AND THE TAXES OWED MIGHT BALANCE OFF THE COMPENSATION. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT THE LETTER ABOUT TITLE FOR THE LAND WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. THE PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT CENTER WOULD REQUIRE A REVISION OF THE PRESENT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE RMTG, BUT THE PROJECT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR HONDURAS, LOPEZ CONTINUED. MOTLEY NOTED THAT HE HAD HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS, AND IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE SCHOOL BE ABOVE NATIONALISTIC CONSIDERATIONS--THE SAME CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TO APPLY IN HONDURAS. MOTLEY SAID THAT IF THERE WERE BILATERAL PROBLEMS, THERE WOULD NOT BE A POSITIVE FEELING ABOUT THE NEW CENTER BY CONGRESS AND BY OTHER COUNTRIES. SUAZO REPLIED THAT SUCH A CONCEPT REQUIRED THAT HE SEPARATE THE RMTG FROM THE BORDER ISSUE; HE NOTED THAT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE MIGHT BE CRITICAL OF SUCH A STANCE AND ASKED WHAT HE WOULD SAY TO THEM. PAZ BARNICA NOTED THAT THE AMBIANCE AT THE CENTER WOULD INDEED HAVE TO BE HEMISPHERIC, THE BORDER ISSUE COULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

7. THE BORDER ISSUE: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY SAID THAT OUR POSITION ON THE BORDER WAS THAT WE WANTED TO HELP TWO FRIENDS RESOLVE AN ISSUE; HE ASKED AMBASSADOR PICKERING TO RELATE HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT DUARTE. PICKERING SAID THAT DUARTE WAS READY TO MEET WITH SUAZO TO RESOLVE THE BORDER AND THAT DUARTE WAS THINKING OF COMING TO HONDURAS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15. DUARTE HAS THE INTENTION OF

MAKING PROGRESS ON THE BORDER ISSUE. PICKERING NOTED THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT HELPING ON THE BORDER ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE RMTG. RATHER, WE ARE WORKING FOR A COMMON REGIONAL INTEREST, HE SAID; THE RMTG WAS ALSO A SYMBOL OF REGIONAL INTERESTS. MANY IN THE ESTADO MAYOR IN SALVADOR, HE CONTINUED, HAD GREAT INTEREST IN TRAINING UNITS IN SALVADOR INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM TO THE RMTG.

8. PAZ BARNICA SAID THE VISIT OF SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER TENORIO HAD BEEN POSITIVE, AND THE SALVADORANS HAD ADMITTED THEY HADN'T PUT SUFFICIENT INTEREST INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT DUARTE WOULD MEET SUAZO IN LA PAZ TO ENERGIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THEY WERE WAITING FOR DUARTE TO PROPOSE A CONCRETE DATE. AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE ASKED PAZ TO DESCRIBE WHAT ROLE HE VISUALIZED FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS THAT HE HAD PROPOSED IN HIS TALKS WITH TENORIO. PAZ REPLIED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS WOULD HAVE A POLITICAL ROLE, THEY WOULD NEGOTIATE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL, THEN THE BORDER COMMISSIONS WOULD RATIFY THE RESULTS. PICKERING SAID THE SALVADORAN CONCEPT WAS THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS WOULD WORK WITH THE PRESIDENT MORE ON TECHNICAL MATTERS THAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS--DUARTE FEELS THAT THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS NEED HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. PAZ SAID THAT IN PRINCIPLE, THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS WOULD GIVE IMPULSE TO THE TALKS; THERE WOULD BE THE NECESSITY TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ONLY FOR THE SMALL THINGS THAT THE COMMISSIONERS WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE. PICKERING SAID THAT DUARTE WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE A TOTAL PACKAGE; LAND AND (ACCESS TO THE) SEA. PAZ AGREED THAT BOTH LAND AND SEA ISSUES WERE TO BE ADDRESSED. PICKERING MENTIONED THAT DUARTE HAD LITTLE FAITH THAT THE PRESENT COMMISSIONERS, WORKING "PATRIOTICALLY" COULD WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT, HENCE COMMISSIONER PADILLA HAD BEEN FIRED. PAZ REPLIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD A NEW COMMISSIONER WOULD BE NAMED. AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE SUMMED UP THE STATE OF THE BORDER ISSUE BY NOTING THAT HONDURAS WAS AWAITING WORD FROM SALVADOR ON THE DUARTE VISIT, AND BT

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC AND BORDER ISSUE
THE NAMING OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS.

9. AFTER MEETING WAS OVER AND VISITING PARTY HAD
ALREADY LEFT HONDURAS, MILGRP COMMANDER CALLED
HONDURAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL LOPEZ TO
URGE GOH APPROVAL OF ARRIVAL OF SALVADORAN MORTAR
PLATOON FOR SCHEDULED TRAINING AT RMTC BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 1. IN A SOMEWHAT SOUR NOTE TO WHAT
OTHERWISE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE
DISCUSSION, GENERAL LOPEZ SAID GOH DOES NOT WANT TO
ALLOW ADDITIONAL SALVADORAN UNITS TO COME UNTIL
OVERALL RMTC ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED. AT SUBSEQUENT
SEPTEMBER 3 NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH GOH REGARDING
RMTC (SEPTEL), WE AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF MORTAR
PLATOON AND WERE TOLD THAT GOH WOULD ADDRESS THAT
ISSUE AT SEPTEMBER 4 HONDURAN NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING. NEGROPONTE
BT

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PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN

PASS TO GENERAL WOERNER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MASS, HO, ES

SUBJECT: RMTG: PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 11444, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 10946

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR RMTG WHICH WE WOULD PLAN TO SUBMIT TO GOH AD REFERENDUM WASHINGTON AT NEXT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. THIS MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR 0900 SEPTEMBER 14. GONZALEZ REQUESTED A POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 1400 SEPTEMBER 14 AND WE MAY HAVE TO FURTHER POSTPONE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15 OR SEPTEMBER 17. REQUEST ANY DEPARTMENT COMMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

- A. POLITICAL OBJECTIVES - THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER IN HONDURAS, A PART OF WHICH WOULD BE DEVOTED TO U.S. REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS, WOULD SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA.

- B. MILITARY OBJECTIVE - ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT INSTALLATION TO SERVE THE TRAINING NEEDS OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES IN ITS OWN TRAINING CENTER, AS WELL AS ACCOMMODATING U.S. REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS SPECIALIZED IN UNIT FIELD TRAINING DESIGNED TO MEET A GROWING NEED IN THE HEMISPHERE.

- C. SECURITY RELATIONSHIP - THE RMTG WOULD REPRESENT AN EXPRESSION OF SPECIFIC SECURITY COOPERATION WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE OVERALL BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONDURAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

- D. THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (FORWARD) WILL BE A TENANT IN THE RMTG. THE PRINCIPAL MISSION OF THE SCHOOL WOULD BE TO CONDUCT UNIT FIELD TRAINING FOR FRIENDLY NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE. THE USARSA WILL CONDUCT ACADEMIC AND FIELD TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH USARSA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, THE USARSA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- 1. DEVELOPMENT OF A CURRICULUM TO BE OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL IN THIS LOCATION. THIS CURRICULUM WOULD BE BOTH MULTI-NATIONAL AND SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING COUNTRY

- 2. PLANNING OF COURSES AND TRAINING.

- 3. SELECTION OF STUDENTS.

- 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COST OF TRAINING.

- 5. MANAGEMENT OF TRAINING.

- E. GROWING COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY AREA WILL BE PARALLELED BY A CONTINUING CLOSE ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

- F. THE RMTG SHOULD MEET HONDURAN CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS OR, IN ANY CASE, MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

- G. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT USARSA WILL BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF AN ANNUAL BILATERAL PLANNING CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, SUCH CONSULTATIONS CAN BE INITIATED AT ANY TIME AT THE REQUEST OF EITHER PARTY. IF EITHER PARTY HAS CONCERNS OR RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THE OPERATION OF USARSA, INCLUDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS FOR TRAINING AT THE USARSA, THESE CONCERNS CAN BE ADDRESSED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS.
BT

Honduras
RMTG

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN
PASS TO GENERAL WOERNER
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC: PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES
- H. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO
HONDURAN TRAINING NEEDS AND HONDURANS WILL BE
GIVEN TREATMENT EQUAL TO ANY OTHER PARTICIPANT IN
THE CONDITIONS OF TRAINING.
- I. DUE TO THE GENERAL NEGOTIATIONS BEING UNDER-
TAKEN UNDER THE CONTADORA EFFORT, A CHANGE IN THE NAME
OF THE SCHOOL COULD BE CONSIDERED.
- J. THE USG UNDERTAKES TO BEAR THE COST OF THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT FACILITY AND TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY OTHER
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.
- K. THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WILL PROVIDE LAND
FOR SUCH A PERMANENT FACILITY. THIS LAND WILL
INCLUDE MANEUVER AND TRAINING AREAS, AS WELL AS, A
CANTONMENT AREA. WITH RESPECT TO CANTONMENT AREAS
UPON WHICH PERMANENT FACILITIES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED,
THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WILL PROVIDE THE USG
ASSURANCES THAT THE GOH HAS PROCURED SAID LAND AND
THAT THE TITLE TO THAT LAND IS FREE AND CLEAR.
- L. THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT RMTC
WILL BE A FORMAL AGREEMENT AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO
THE HONDURAN NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL.
- M. APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE IMPLEMENTING
THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOH. DURING THE
COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE OPERATIONS IN THE
RMTC WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED. END TEXT.
NEGROPONTE
BT

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PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN

PASS TO GENERAL WOERNER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MASS, HO, ES

SUBJECT: RMTG: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 10946

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT A LENGTHY SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 12, GOM
PRESENTED U.S. TEAM WITH THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS A
COUNTER-DRAFT TO OUR GENERAL PRINCIPLES PRESENTED
TO THEM AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3.

BEGIN TEXT OF UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

COMAYAGUELA, 12 SEPTEMBER 1984

- REFLECTIONS CONCERNING THE RMTG

(1) POLITICAL OBJECTIVE: IT WOULD BE A DEMONSTRATION
OF THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN HONDURAS WHICH WOULD
SERVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR POLITICAL OBJECTIVE OF
DETERRENCE IN THE FACE OF THE TENSIONS IN THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN AREA.

(2) MILITARY OBJECTIVE: TO OBTAIN THE BENEFIT OF
TRAINING OF OUR ARMED FORCES, IN OUR OWN TRAINING
CENTER, WITH U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, IN PERMANENT
INSTALLATIONS AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS
ON A REGIONAL SCALE.

(3) SECURITY TREATY: THE RMTG WOULD REPRESENT THE
EXPRESSION OF SPECIFIC SECURITY COOPERATION, WITHIN
THE PARAMETERS OF A BILATERAL SECURITY TREATY OF
REGIONAL DIMENSIONS.

(4) THE COMMISSION COULD CONSIDER ACCEPTABLE THAT
USARSA BE A TENANT AT THE RMTG BUT UNDER CONDITIONS
DIFFERENT FROM THOSE PRESENTLY IN EXISTENCE IN PANAMA.
IT WOULD BE MORE ATTRACTIVE IF THE U.S. PROPOSAL WERE
TO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION IN HONDURAS OF ALL USARSA
ACTIVITIES--I.E., THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF
COLLEGE, ETC.

(5) GIVEN THAT A PRELIMINARY PLAN OF COOPERATION IN
AERIAL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES ALREADY EXISTS, IT WOULD ALSO
BE INTERESTING TO CONSIDER LOCATING IN HONDURAS THE
INTERNATIONAL AIR FORCE ACADEMY (IAFA). LIKEWISE,
LOCATING HERE A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NAVAL FORCES.

(6) IT MUST BE UNDERScoreD THAT ANY MILITARY
COOPERATION SCHEME, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF A SENSITIVE

NATURE, MUST BE HANDLED IN A PARALLEL FASHION WITH AN
INTENSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN THE HOPE
OF ACHIEVING A DEGREE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT
WILL ALLOW HONDURAS, THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE
LIVING CONDITIONS OF ITS POPULATION, TO DEDICATE
LESS EFFORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONGER MILITARY
INSTITUTION AND, IN ANY CASE, THAT THE HEALTH OF ITS
ECONOMY WILL PERMIT HONDURAS TO MAINTAIN IN GOOD
CONDITION ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY OF DETERRENCE.

(7) THE RMTG INSTALLATIONS SHOULD MEET HONDURAN
SPECIFICATIONS OR, IN ANY CASE, MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL
"STANDARDS."

(8) INVITATIONS TO STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS
COURSES WILL BE MADE IN THE NAME OF HONDURAS AND THE
USA.

(9) HONDURAS WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO VETO THE
ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SECURITY
OR NATIONAL INTEREST REASONS.

(10) PREFERENCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE TRAINING OF
HONDURAN STUDENTS, UNDER CONDITIONS AT LEAST EQUAL TO
THOSE OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

(11) DUE TO THE GENERAL NEGOTIATIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN
UNDER THE CONTADORA EFFORT, A CHANGE IN THE NAME OF
THE SCHOOL COULD BE CONSIDERED.

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PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN

PASS TO GENERAL WOERNER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MASS, HO, ES

SUBJECT: RMTG: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(12) THE U.S. WILL EQUIP AND COVER THE EXPENSES OF
ADMINISTRATION AND OF SECURITY PERSONNEL.

(13) THE SECURITY TREATY AND THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH
A PERMANENT RMTG WOULD BE FORMAL AGREEMENTS, APPROVED
BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.
END TEXT.

3. COMMENT

--PARA THREE. WE NOTED THAT WE WOULD BE THINKING
OF SOMETHING LESS FORMAL THAN A TREATY. THE
HONDURANS, HOWEVER, PLAN TO SUBMIT WHATEVER AGREEMENT
IS REACHED TO THEIR CONGRESS.

--PARA FOUR. GENERAL WOERNER NOTED THAT THERE
WAS OBJECTIVELY LITTLE OR NO CHANCE THAT THE COMMAND
AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL WOULD MOVE ANYWHERE EXCEPT
TO A LOCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

--PARA FIVE. GENERAL WOERNER NOTED THAT THE
AIR FORCE AND THE NAVY SCHOOL WOULD BE REMAINING IN
PANAMA.

--PARA SIX. UPON QUERY, THE HONDURANS NOTED
THAT THIS PARAGRAPH WAS INTENDED TO BE PHILOSOPHICAL
IN NATURE ONLY AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO CARRY WITH
IT SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS BY EITHER PARTY.

--PARA SEVEN. THIS PARAGRAPH HAS REFERENCE TO
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS ONLY FOR THE PERMANENT
CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RMTG.

--PARAS EIGHT AND NINE. TOGETHER, THESE PARAGRAPHS
CONSTITUTED ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THE DISCUSSION.
IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION THE HONDURANS OFFERED
A TENTATIVE NEW PARA NINE AS FOLLOWS:

--BEGIN TEXT:

TENTATIVE: IN THE EVENT THAT HONDURAS WOULD
HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS
FROM ANY COUNTRY TO BE TRAINED AT THE RMTG, THE
SIGNATORIES ("ALTAS PARTES": HONDUJISAGPUS.)
WILL INITIATE CONSULTATIONS TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES.
END TEXT.

--PARA TEN. THE HONDURANS AGREED TO THE
SUBSTITUTION OF THE LANGUAGE FROM OUR PREVIOUSLY

SUBMITTED GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO THE EFFECT THAT
"PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO HONDURAN
TRAINING NEEDS" BUT ADDED THE PHRASE "AND HONDURANS
WOULD BE GIVEN TREATMENT EQUAL TO ANY OTHER
PARTICIPANT IN THE CONDITIONS OF TRAINING."
--PARA TWELVE. LANGUAGE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY
SUBMITTED GENERAL PRINCIPLES WAS CARRIED FORWARD TO
REPLACE THIS PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS "THE USG UNDERTAKES
TO BEAR THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY AND
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COST
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THESE
COSTS BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE GOH
UNDERTAKES TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE INSTALLATION."
--PARA THIRTEEN. AGAIN WE POINTED OUT WE WERE
SPEAKING OF AN AGREEMENT RATHER THAN A FORMAL TREATY.
--PARA FOURTEEN. U.S. TEAM SUGGESTED ADDITION
OF THIS ITEM TO READ "APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE
IMPLEMENTING THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WILL BE THE
SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOH.
DURING THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE
OPERATIONS IN THE RMTG WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED."

4. EMBASSY WILL BE SUBMITTING BY SEPTELS A FULLER
REPORT ON THE SESSION AND OUR PROPOSED COUNTER-DRAFT
TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE NEXT MEETING WITH THE HONDURANS
AT 0900 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.
BT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 TEGUCIGALPA 11444

PASS TO GENERAL GORMAN

PASS TO GENERAL WOERNER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MASS, HO, ES

SUBJECT: RMTC: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC: NEXT STEPS

1. ~~15~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH USCINCSO GENERAL GORMAN.
3. EMBASSY PLANS TO PRESENT RE-DRAFT OF HONDURAN GENERAL PRINCIPLES AT A MEETING WITH COLONEL GONZALEZ AT 1400 ON SEPTEMBER 17. TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE GIVE IN THE HONDURAN POSITION THAT THEY NEED TO MAINTAIN ULTIMATE CONTROL ON WHO IS INVITED TO TRAIN AT THE RMTC. HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS, THEY HAVE PRESENTED THIS AS ESSENTIALLY AN IMAGE PROBLEM. THUS, IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, WE ARE SEEKING TO FIND WAYS TO HELP THEM IN THAT RESPECT. WHILE WE HOPE THAT GOH RESPONSE TO OUR NEW PROPOSALS WILL BE POSITIVE, REALISTICALLY, WE MUST QUESTION WHETHER WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES BEFORE THE TIME COMES FOR THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW SALVADORAN BATTALION, FOLLOWING THE GRADUATION OF THE BATTALION CURRENTLY IN TRAINING ON SEPTEMBER 28 WHILE THE DELAY IN THE INITIATION OF TRAINING OF THE SALVADORAN MORTAR PLATOON ON SEPTEMBER 1 DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WIDELY NOTED, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REJECTION OF A SALVADORAN REQUEST TO SEND A NEW BATTALION FOR TRAINING WOULD CREATE A BAD TASTE THAT COULD HARDEN POSITIONS AND MAKE A FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE RMTC EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. ✓
4. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SET OURSELVES A GOAL, AT THE LATEST, OF SEPTEMBER 21 TO REACH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON A SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO INCLUDE AGREEMENT THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE RMTC AND THE TRAINING OF SALVADORANS WOULD CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED WHILE MORE DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE NEGOTIATED. IF THE PROCESS STRETCHES BEYOND THIS POINT, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE APPROACH GENERAL VIDES WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT HE SUSPEND TRAINING OF SALVADORAN UNITS OUT OF THE

*Honduras
RMTC*

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COUNTRY UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR SO AS TO HAVE MAXIMUM FORCES ON HAND FOR AN IMPENDING GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, WE ARE LESS WELL POSTURED TO GUARANTEE RESPONSIVE EMERGENCY RETURN OF VIDES' TROOPS THAN WAS THE CASE LAST SPRING. ASSUMING THAT VIDES ACCEPTS THIS PROPOSAL, WE COULD THEN TELL GOH THAT, FOR THIS REASON NO SALVADORAN UNITS WOULD BE USING THE RMTC FOR THE REST OF 1984. THE GOH WOULD BE INVITED TO MAKE USE OF AVAILABLE TRAINING FACILITIES TO THE EXTENT OF THEIR NEED DURING THIS PERIOD.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COULD THEN CONTINUE WITH THE GOH IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SOMEWHAT LESS TIME PRESSURE AND WITHOUT AN OVERT REJECTION OF SALVADORAN TRAINING BY THE GOH. WITH RESPECT TO THE BUDGET ACTION ON FY 1985 FUNDS FOR THE RMTC WE WOULD HOPE THAT A COMBINATION OF THE GOH DECISION TO MOVE THE RMTC OFF RAMIREZ' LAND WHICH THEY HAVE GIVEN US IN WRITING AND THE FACT THAT ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON A SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE RMTC ARE UNDERWAY WOULD SUPPORT THE ALLOCATION OF FY 85 FUNDS TO THIS PROJECT CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH PROVIDE FOR ACCESS FOR TRAINING AT THE RMTC BY TROOPS OF ALL FRIENDLY NATIONS IN RECEIPT OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUNDS. NEGROPONTE
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 11564

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTG NEGOTIATIONS
REF: A) TEGUCIGALPA 11444 (DTG 131816Z SEPT 84),
- B) TEGUCIGALPA 11447 (DTG 132015Z SEPT 84),
- C) TEGUCIGALPA 10946

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: REF (A) REPORTS TEXT AND DISCUSSION OF HONDURAN COUNTER-DRAFT ON RMTG GIVEN TO US AT SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING. HONDURAN COUNTER-DRAFT REVEALED THAT NUB OF RMTG ISSUE REMAINS HONDURAN INSISTENCE ON SOME ELEMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CENTER AND A VETO OVER PARTICIPANTS. A SURPRISE ELEMENT WAS THE HONDURAN INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT THAT AN RMTG AGREEMENT WOULD BE LINKED TO A BROADER SECURITY ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE UPDATING OF THE BILATERAL 1954 SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THIS CONCEPT TENDS TO ERODE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RMTG AGREEMENT WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE BROADER DISCUSSION OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WHILE THE GOH TEAM EVENTUALLY AGREED THAT THE TWO SUBJECTS MIGHT BE PURSUED SEPARATELY, THE RAISING OF THIS CONCEPT IN THE RMTG TALKS IS A MARKER THAT THE GOH REMAINS INTERESTED IN A FORMAL AGREEMENT THAT WOULD DESCRIBE A CLOSER SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

3. AFTER THE U.S. TEAM HAD READ THE HONDURAN COUNTER-DRAFT, DCM LOWMAN OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT THE GOH DRAFT DESCRIBED A SYSTEM VERY DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF THE USARSA OPERATION AT THE PRESENT. THE SYSTEM DESCRIBED BY THE GOH PAPER, HE SAID, WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO ACCEPT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, BUT PRIMARILY THAT THE RMTG FUNDS HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY CONGRESS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL FRIENDLY, REGIONAL NATIONS, INCLUDING EL SALVADOR, WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE CENTER. DCM NOTED THAT PARAGRAPHS EIGHT AND NINE CONSTITUTED THE NUB OF THE DISAGREEMENT. PARAGRAPH EIGHT (JOINT INVITATIONS) IF A FORMALITY, HE CONTINUED, WOULD BE NO PROBLEM; HOWEVER, IF IT WAS IN ESSENCE PART OF THE VETO OF PARAGRAPH NINE, IT PRESENTED DIFFICULTIES.

4. A DISCUSSION OF THE OTHER POINTS IS REFLECTED IN REF (A). WHEN THE DISCUSSION RETURNED TO PARAGRAPHS EIGHT AND NINE, GONZALEZ POINTED OUT HONDURAN NEEDS REGARDING SOVEREIGNTY. THE INVITATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, MUST BE ISSUED JOINTLY BECAUSE THE INSTALLATION IS IN HONDURAS. UNDER PARAGRAPH NINE, GONZALEZ SAID, THEY WERE NOT THINKING SPECIFICALLY OF SALVADOR, IN FIVE YEARS IT COULD BE SOMEBODY ELSE. GONZALEZ NOTED THAT THE INCLUSION OF A VETO IS A QUESTION OF NATIONALISM. A VETO COULD APPEAR IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT NOT BE USED. LOWMAN RETURNED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT TRAINING AT THE CENTER SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO BILATERAL TENSIONS. THE REASON THE CENTER WAS ESTABLISHED, HE CONTINUED, WAS TO DEAL WITH A BROAD THREAT TO THE REGION, WE COULD NOT JUSTIFY TO CONGRESS THAT ONE NATION'S BILATERAL PROBLEMS COULD INTERFERE WITH A MUCH BROADER OBJECTIVE. THE DCM NOTED THE DISTINCTION THAT THE GOH WOULD HAVE A VETO ON OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE RMTG, BUT NOT ON USARSA ACTIVITIES. GONZALEZ RETURNED AGAIN TO THE IMAGE PROBLEM FOR HONDURAS AND SAID THAT THEY APPROACHED THIS AGREEMENT AS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS, TWO ALLIES. HE FORESAW THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, BUT IN GENERAL OUR INTERESTS WERE IN PARALLEL. THE VETO ISSUE IS MORE A PROBLEM OF HOW TO CONSTRUCT AN IMAGE OF SOVEREIGNTY, HE SAID, MOSTLY FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION. THE DCM, RETURNING TO THE BROADER OBJECTIVE, NOTED AGAIN THAT WE WERE PROPOSING TO CONGRESS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTION TO STOP SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE AND THAT BILATERAL TENSIONS COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTRUDE. THE ALTERNATE DRAFT ON POINT NINE WRITTEN ON THE SPOT BY AMBASSADOR LOPEZ CONTRERAS WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. GONZALEZ,

SUGGESTING THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF POINTS EIGHT AND NINE BE SUSPENDED, REMARKED AGAIN THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE WAS A QUESTION OF IMAGE.

5. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF POINT THIRTEEN, AMBASSADOR LOPEZ CONTRERAS EXPANDED ON THE HONDURAN THINKING BEHIND POINT THIRTEEN AND THREE. LOPEZ BT

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 11564

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HQ, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC NEGOTIATIONS
SAID THAT THE GOH WANTED TO GO BEYOND THE 1954
AGREEMENT (UNDER WHICH IS SUBSUMED THE PRESENT RMTC
TERMS OF REFERENCE), TO BRING ABOUT A TIGHTER
U.S./HONDURAS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD ALSO
CONSTITUTE A DETERRENT TO HONDURAS' ENEMIES. THE
NEW RMTC AGREEMENT WOULD BE A PART OF OR LINKED TO A
BROADER SECURITY AGREEMENT. THE DCM NOTED OUR
UNDERSTANDING THAT THE RMTC TALKS WOULD BE A DISCRETE
EFFORT APART FROM THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP. A DISCUSSION OF THE WIDER ISSUE, HE
SAID, WOULD SEVERELY DELAY THE RMTC TALKS AND PUT IN
JEOPARDY THE CONGRESS' CONSIDERATION OF THE 1985
FUNDS FOR THE CENTER. LOPEZ' REPLY WAS THAT THE TWO
EFFORTS COULD GO AHEAD IN PARALLEL, BUT THE GOH
WANTED TO TREAT THEM FORMALLY AND WOULD SEND BOTH
SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR
APPROVAL. WHILE THE GOH CONSIDERATIONS OBVIOUSLY
ATTEMPT TO LINK THE AGREEMENT TO A BROADER AGREEMENT
BY REFERENCE, THE HONDURANS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO
DISCUSS, OR PRESENT A DRAFT ENCOMPASSING SUCH A
BROADER RELATIONSHIP.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE U.S. TEAM WOULD ATTEMPT
TO MELD THE TWO DRAFTS AND PRESENT A NEW DRAFT
(REF B) AT THE NEXT MEETING.
NEGROPONTE
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E.O. 12356 DEGL:OADR

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HO

SUBJECT: RMTG GENERAL PRINCIPLES

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 10946; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 11444;

(C) TEGUCIGALPA 11447 (D) TEGUCIGALPA 11542

1. C- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DRAFT RMTG GENERAL PRINCIPLES EMBASSY MAY TABLE IN NEXT MEETING WITH GOH ARE CONTAINED IN PARA 4. NOTATIONS IN PARENTHESES REFLECT (A) POINTS THAT, THOUGH INAPPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN WRITTEN PRESENTATION TO GOH, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO GOH'S ATTENTION OR (B) INITIAL WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON ISSUES STILL UNDER REVIEW.

3. WE BELIEVE FURTHERMORE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL, AT THE OUTSET OF OUR NEXT DISCUSSION ROUND, TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE HONDURANS THAT WE WILL NOT OBLIGATE ANY FUNDS OR MAKE ANY OTHER BINDING ARRANGEMENT RELATED TO A PERMANENT FACILITY WITHOUT A DEFINITE GOH COMMITMENT TO ALLOW CONTINUED AND UNINTERRUPTED TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT THE EXISTING RMTG. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT GOH REPRESENTATIVES UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A SINE QUA NON.

4. TEXT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

A. POLITICAL OBJECTIVES - ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER (HEREAFTER CALLED THE CENTER) IN HONDURAS, A PART OF WHICH WOULD BE DEVOTED TO U.S. REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS, WOULD SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED INTEREST OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA AND REFLECT THE U.S. INTEREST IN HELPING THE ARMED FORCES OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN THE REGION.

B. MILITARY OBJECTIVE - ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONDURAN FACILITY TO PROVIDE THE ARMED FORCES OF HONDURAS AND OTHER HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES SPECIALIZED REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET OVER THE COMING YEARS A GROWING NEED IN THE HEMISPHERE FOR UNIT AND INDIVIDUAL FIELD

C. SECURITY RELATIONSHIP - THE CENTER WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONDURAS AND THE UNITED STATES. THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOH AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE HONDURAN NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL. (AGREEMENT WILL BE FOR A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD AND CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR RENEWAL/TERMINATION.)

D. GROWING COOPERATION IN THE SECURITY AREA WILL BE PARALLELED BY A CONTINUING ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

E. THE CENTER WOULD BE A HONDURAN FACILITY, AND THE ARMED FORCES OF HONDURAS SHALL EXERCISE COMMAND OVER THE CENTER.

F. THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WILL PROVIDE SUITABLE AREAS FOR THE CENTER. WITH RESPECT TO AREAS UPON WHICH PERMANENT FACILITIES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WOULD PROVIDE THE USG ASSURANCES THAT THE GOH HAS PROCURED SAID LAND AND THAT THE TITLE TO THAT LAND IS FREE AND CLEAR. (U.S. TEAM SHOULD NOTE TO HONDURANS THAT U.S. CONGRESS IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT RESOLUTION OF RAMIREZ CASE AND THAT, EVEN WITH RELOCATION OF RMTG, MAY SEEK SOME ASSURANCES THAT TRAINING MANEUVERS WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED ON LAND CLAIMED BY RAMIREZ.)

G. FOR ITS PART, THE USG WOULD UNDERTAKE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO BEAR THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTER AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. (WE WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE NO PROBLEM MEETING GOH REQUEST THAT CONSTRUCTION MEET HONDURAN SPECIFICATIONS BUT PREFER TO DEFER COMMITMENT UNTIL WE ASCERTAIN WHAT THOSE ARE.)

H. THE INSTRUCTOR CADRE AT THE CENTER WOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WILL PREPARE AND CONDUCT THE NECESSARY TRAINING OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS IN THE CENTER. INSTRUCTORS FROM HONDURAS AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AS AGREED ON BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONDURAS AND THE US, MAY BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

I. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS ON THE TRAINING PROGRAMS TO BE CARRIED OUT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF AN ANNUAL BILATERAL PLANNING CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS CAN BE INITIATED AT ANY TIME BY EITHER PARTY. PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO HONDURAN TRAINING NEEDS, AND HONDURAS WOULD BE GIVEN TREATMENT EQUAL TO ANY OTHER PARTICIPANT IN THE CONDITIONS OF TRAINING.

J. ALL HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE CENTER. HONDURAS HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPANTS, AND WILL UNDERTAKE THIS BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH THE USG AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES' OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING BROAD HEMISPHERIC PARTICIPATION. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE AGREED TO WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS AND COURSES.

K. WITHIN THE CENTER WOULD BE SEVERAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND COMPONENTS. ONE SUCH COMPONENT WOULD BE

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AN ELEMENT OF THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WHICH WOULD CONDUCT ACADEMIC AND FIELD TRAINING COURSES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH USARSA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, THIS COMPONENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRICULUM, THE RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM. (FYI: THERE IS A NEED TO REVIEW DETAILS CONCERNING POSSIBLE OPERATION OF USARSA ELEMENT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER. END FYI)

L. PARTICIPATION IN USARSA WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY HEMISPHERIC COUNTRY WHICH IS ELIGIBLE FOR A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH THE U.S. (IN THE EVENT OF ARMED HOSTILITIES AMONG TWO OR MORE OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD USG-GOH CONSULTATIONS ABOUT PROSPECTIVE OR CONTINUED TRAINING OF MILITARY FORCES FROM THOSE NATIONS IN CONFLICT.)

M. THE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTING THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PRESCRIBING THE STATUS OF U.S. PERSONNEL IN HONDURAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF THE CENTER WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOH. DURING THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE OPERATIONS IN THE EXISTING REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER AT TRUJILLO WILL CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED. (FYI: WE ARE REVIEWING WHETHER 1954 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT MEETS CURRENT USG NEEDS REGARDING STATUS OF U.S. PERSONNEL. END FYI)

5. (A) WE WILL EXPLORE WITH SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING FY 1985 FUNDING FOR RHTC DELETED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME STATUTORY CONDITIONS ALONG LINES OF FOLLOWING DRAFT WILL BE NECESSARY AT A MINIMUM. HOWEVER, ABSENCE OF HONDURAN COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM ACCESS BY EL SALVADOR AND OTHER COUNTRIES, REMAINING UNCERTAINTIES AS TO SITE FOR FACILITY AND RESULTING INABILITY OF DOD TO PROVIDE DETAILED PLANNING AND COST ESTIMATES FOR CONSTRUCTION, AND LACK OF PROGRESS IN RESOLVING RAMIREZ CLAIM ALL COMBINE TO MAKE FUNDING INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL.

(B) TEXT OF POSSIBLE STATUTORY COMPROMISE MIGHT READ AS FOLLOWS:

NONE OF THE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THIS RESOLUTION MAY BE OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER IN HONDURAS UNLESS AND UNTIL FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENT PROVIDES TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES --

(1) A REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS HAS PROVIDED A SITE FOR SUCH A CENTER AND ASSURED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY COMPETING CLAIMS TO RIGHTS OF USE OR OWNERSHIP OF SUCH SITE, AND HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO MAKE THAT SITE AVAILABLE ON A LONG TERM BASIS FOR TRAINING BY THE ARMED FORCES OF OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS WELL AS THOSE OF HONDURAS;

(2) A DETAILED PLAN, WITH SPECIFIC COST ESTIMATES, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A CENTER AT THE SITE PROVIDED BY

THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS; AND

(3) A CERTIFICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES CITIZEN WHO CLAIMS INJURY FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE

EXISTING CENTER A FAIR AND REASONABLE PROCEDURE FOR VALUATION FOR HIS CLAIM AND THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF JUST, ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENTS UNDER ITS TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND CONSULAR RIGHTS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ITS LETTER OF DECEMBER 14, 1983, TO THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. SHULTZ
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109813

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 0906 DTG: 180238Z SEP 84 PSN: 019204
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~~SECRET~~ SAN SALVADOR 10906

EXDIS
MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, HO, ES
SUBJ: RMTC: NEXT STEPS
REF: TEGUCIGALPA 11542

1. ~~S~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA'S MESSAGE WORKED OUT WITH GENERAL GORMAN RAISES A PROBLEM WHICH WE WILL NEED TO ADDRESS OVER THE LONGER TERM -- SALVADORAN INTEREST IN AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RMTC AND A LONG-TERM INTEREST IN BECOMING SELF SUFFICIENT IN TRAINING. (WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING OUT CONTINGENCY PLANS WITHIN THE MILGROUP FOR THIS LATTER ALTERNATIVE.) WE UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS TO GO AHEAD IN HONDURAS IN A LESS PRESSURED FASHION. THIS HAS TO BE TEMPERED BY THE VIEW THAT THE LONGER SALVADORANS REMAIN EXCLUDED FROM THE RMTC, THE GREATER THE CHANCES ARE THEY WILL NEVER GO BACK AGAIN.
3. WE THEREFORE SEE SOME PROBLEMS IN TALKING WITH VIDES ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL. THE RISKS WOULD BE THOSE OF REDUCING OR PERHAPS STOPPING COMPLETELY ALL SALVADORAN INTEREST IN THE RMTC. OUR FUNDING OF THE RMTC AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT COME FREE TO THE SALVADORANS IN THE FUTURE IS A KIND OF COUNTERWEIGHT, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARILY SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET GROWING SALVADORAN INTEREST IN THEIR OWN CENTER. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE SALVADORANS WOULD NOT FIND IT EASY TO SWALLOW OUR OWN SUGGESTION THAT THE BATTALION (S) NOT GO TO HONDURAS. FIRST, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT SMACKS OF OUR SIDING WITH THE HONDURANS. SECONDLY, THE SALVADORANS, IF THEY FOUND OUT, WOULD BE UPSET BY THE NOTION THAT THE HONDURANS ARE TAKING THEIR PLACES IN THE TRAINING CENTER FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD.
4. BASICALLY, THE SALVADORANS SEE THE RMTC AS OUR IDEA WHICH HAS PERMITTED THE HONDURANS TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO LEVERAGE THE BORDER DISPUTE. THEY WOULD BE JUST AS HAPPY TO SEE THE WHOLE ISSUE GO AWAY,

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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PAGE 02 OF 02

SAN SALVADOR 0906

DTG: 180238Z SEP 84 PSN: 019204

PARTICULARLY IF WE COULD COME UP WITH SOME OF THE
RMTC MONEY TO BUILD A LARGER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT
HERE.

5. ON THE BORDER ISSUE, THE HONDURANS HAVE SAID
THAT THEY WILL BE SATISFIED WITH A MEETING BETWEEN
SUAZO AND DUARTE AS A FIRST STEP WHICH CAN THEN
PERMIT TRAINING AT THE RMTC TO GO AHEAD. THIS NOW
SEEMS TO BE ON TRACK. WHILE WE DO NOT AGREE TO
LINKAGE, WE BELIEVE THAT SEPARATE PROGRESS ON THESE
POINTS SHOULD HELP TO UNBLOCK THE RMTC PROCESS IN
HONDURAS AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE THAT POINT CLEARLY
TO THE HONDURANS. I AM CONCERNED THAT IF WE DO NOT
PROVIDE THE HONDURANS WITH A CLEAR POSITION, THE
NIBBLING AWAY WILL CONTINUE AND THAT THE CONTINUED
"NON-TRAINING" OF THE SALVADORAN SOLDIERS WILL RESULT
IN A REDUCTION OF COMBAT CAPABILITY WHICH WILL BE LESS
THAN DESIRABLE.

6. THUS, I THINK WE SHOULD DO OUR UTMOST IN THE
SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THAT REMAINS TO SECURE HONDURAN
ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRAINING OF THE FOLLOW-ON BATTALION
ON SEPTEMBER 28. HOPEFULLY, THE PAZ BARNICA MEETING
WITH DUARTE ON SEPTEMBER 14 WILL NOT BE OVERLOOKED
BY THE SALVADORANS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS
WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT EVEN IF IT IS NOT
LINKED. IF CLOSE TO THE TIME WHEN THE TROOPS HAVE
TO GO AND WE HAVE TO SPEAK WITH THE SALVADORANS
ABOUT THE PROBLEMS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL VIDES
IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE YET TO WORK OUT FURTHER
TRAINING AND THAT THE HONDURANS ARE NOT YET READY TO
AGREE. WE WILL KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS MOVING AND
KEEP HIM IN TOUCH WITH THE PROCESS. WE SHOULD TELL
THE HONDURANS WHAT WE HAVE TOLD THE SALVADORANS AND

THAT THERE ARE DANGERS FOR THEM IN FURTHER ENCOURAG-
ING THE SALVADORANS TO FIND THEIR OWN TRAINING
ALTERNATIVES. TO BOTH SIDES WE SHOULD REAFFIRM OUR
INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN KEEPING THEM
MOVING AHEAD AT LEAST FOR THE NEAR TERM AND AT LEAST
UNTIL IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE
TO WORK OUT A FUTURE FOR THE RMTC. IF THAT IS THE
CASE, AND WE HOPE IT IS NOT, WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE
SOME THOUGHTS TO PROVIDE ON THE FUTURE TRAINING FOR
SALVADORAN TROOPS, WHICH IS THE MAJOR ISSUE BEFORE
US AT THE PRESENT TIME.
PICKERING
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 1721
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 11721

EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC: SEPTEMBER 18 NEGOTIATING SESSION
REF: A) STATE 275382 (DTG 171803Z SEPT 84),
- B) TEGUCIGALPA 11564 (DTG 171733Z SEPT 84)

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE SESSION BENEFITED FROM WASHINGTON
INPUT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WE FOUND MOST HELPFUL.
GOH ACCEPTED DRAFT PRINCIPLES WITH MINOR CHANGES
EXCEPT FOR PARA L WHICH DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR A
HONDURAN VETO, AND THE UNINTERRUPTED OPERATION CLAUSE
OF PARA M. THESE ISSUES WILL BE CONSIDERED AT
SEPTEMBER 20 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.
HONDURANS AGAIN RAISED THEIR DESIRE FOR A FORMAL
SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH U.S. END SUMMARY.

3. HONDURANS SEEMED PLEASED WITH DRAFT GENERAL
PRINCIPLES (REF A) AND DID NOT INSIST ON REVIEW OF
THEIR OWN DRAFT WHICH THEY HAD BROUGHT TO THE MEETING.
THEY VOICED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS AND PROPOSED SOME
MODIFICATIONS TO THE U.S. DRAFT:

--A) POLITICAL OBJECTIVES: DELETE "A PART OF WHICH
WOULD BE DEVOTED TO U.S. REGIONAL MILITARY PROGRAMS."
HONDURAN CONCERN WAS THAT THE PHRASE WOULD BE OVERLY
SUSCEPTIBLE TO A CONTADORA AGREEMENT.

--B) MILITARY OBJECTIVES: DELETE "OVER THE COMING
YEARS." PREFERENCE WAS TO ESTABLISH A TERM WITH MORE
PRECISION IN A TERMS OF REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

--G) THE HONDURANS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE HIGH
COSTS THEY BEAR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY AT
THE PRESENT RMTC, AND REQUESTED RELIEF FROM THESE
COSTS. THEY AGREED THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED LATER IN A TERMS OF REFERENCE; THEIR DRAFT
LANGUAGE READS: "THE U.S. WILL EQUIP AND FINANCE
THE COSTS OF OPERATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND MAINTENANCE
IN GENERAL AND THE SALARY OF THE SECURITY PERSONNEL."

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NLRR MID-350(1) #109815

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 1721

DTG: 200006Z SEP 84 PSN: 024048

THEY BELIEVE ONE HONDURAN BATTALION WOULD HAVE TO
BE PERMANENTLY ARRANGED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT THE
RMTC.

--PARA F) THE HONDURANS HAD NO PROBLEM WITH
REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT BOTH CANTONMENT AND TRAINING
AREAS WOULD BE OUTSIDE RAMIREZ LAND THOUGH LATTER
ARE NOT REFERRED TO IN TEXT.

--PARA H) THE GOH REQUESTED THAT THE FIRST SENTENCE
READ "THE INSTRUCTOR CADRE AT THE CENTER WOULD INCLUDE
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF HONDURAS AND THE
UNITED STATES..." REFERENCE TO HONDURAS'
INSTRUCTORS IN SECOND SENTENCE WOULD BE DELETED.

4. THE HONDURAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY AND A
VETO OVER PARTICIPANTS WAS FOCUSED ON PARA L. DCM
LOWMAN REVIEWED PREVIOUS ARGUMENTS ON THE NEED FOR
ACCESS TO A CENTER UNHINDERED BY BILATERAL TENSIONS.
COL. GONZALEZ NOTED THAT THE HONDURAN CONCERN OVER
SOVEREIGNTY WAS NOT SIMPLY A QUESTION OF POLITICAL
IMAGE. PARA L WAS EXPANDED TO MEET GOH CONCERNS ABOUT
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USARSA AND THE RMTC AND
EQUALITY OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES; IT WOULD READ
AS FOLLOWS: "THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE RMTC WOULD BE SUBJECT TO
BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND
HONDURAS AND UNDER THE SPECIFIC INVITATION OF THE GOH.
PARTICIPATION IN USARSA WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY
HEMISPHERIC COUNTRY WHICH IS ELIGIBLE FOR A SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH THE U. S. THE GOH WOULD HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
RECEIVING TRAINING AT USARSA AS ANY OTHER COUNTRY."

THE HONDURANS INITIALLY REQUESTED LANGUAGE THAT WOULD
REQUIRE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF HONDURAN STUDENTS IN
TRAINING AT ANY TIME. THE FINAL LANGUAGE REFERS ONLY
TO ACCESS/OPPORTUNITY. THE HONDURANS EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THE
OPTION TO TRAIN AN EQUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (AS THE
SALVADORANS) IF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUNDS
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 11721

EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC: SEPTEMBER 18 NEGOTIATING SESSION
AVAILABLE TO THEM WERE NOT SUFFICIENT. WE NOTED THAT
THE COSTS OF TRAINING AT THE RMTC WOULD BE LOWER THAN
BEFORE, BUT THAT HONDURAS WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH
FOR THEMSELVES THE PRIORITY THAT TRAINING WOULD BE
ASSIGNED IN THEIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. GONZALEZ SAID
THE SOVEREIGNTY PROBLEM, RAISED IN THE ORIGINAL
SENTENCE IN PARA L, WHICH WAS RETAINED, WOULD BE
DISCUSSED IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. THE UNINTERRUPTED OPERATION CLAUSE OF PARA M ALSO
PRESENTED PROBLEMS FOR THE HONDURANS. THE HONDURANS
AGREED THAT THE COMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT DUARTE TO
DISCUSS THE BORDER ISSUE WAS SIGNIFICANT, BUT
DOUBTED THAT THAT FACT ALONE WOULD CHANGE THE POSITION
PRESIDENT SUAZO HAD TAKEN TO TERMINATE TRAINING OF
SALVADORANS ON SEPTEMBER 28. COLONEL GONZALES NOTED
THAT ANY PROGRESS ON THE HONDURAN DESIRE FOR A FORMAL
SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WOULD ALSO ADDRESS
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COULD ALSO BE PERSUASIVE.
AMBASSADOR LOPEZ CONTRERAS ADDED THAT THERE WAS NOT
A SPECIFIC TIE BETWEEN SALVADORAN TRAINING AT THE
RMTC AND THE BORDER ISSUE--"IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF ONE
SALVADORAN SOLDIER AT THE RMTC FOR EACH METER OF
PROGRESS ON THE BORDER." RATHER, HE CONTINUED, IT
WAS A QUESTION OF SALVADORAN MILITARY PREPONDERANCE
AND THE NECESSITY TO FIND A LONGER TERM SOLUTION TO
THE SECURITY NEEDS OF HONDURAS. DCM LOWMAN REPEATED
THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE PRESSURE OF TIME AND NOTED
THAT IF WE HAD TO DEAL WITH SUCH COMPLEX ISSUES PRIOR
TO REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THE RMTC, IT WAS HIGHLY
LIKELY THAT WE WOULD LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ESTABLISH A PERMANENT CENTER. HE ADDED THAT THE USG
HAD NO BILATERAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS WITH ANY
HEMISPHERIC NATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, A PERMANENT RMTC
AND THE MANY OTHER PROJECTS ON WHICH WE WERE
JOINTLY EMBARKED BUILT A NETWORK OF MUTUAL SECURITY
INTERESTS WHICH WOULD SERVE HONDURAN SECURITY INTERESTS
AS WELL AS OUR OWN.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 1721

DTG: 200006Z SEP 84 PSN: 024044

6. THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE SESSION WERE GOOD, AND WE HAD THE IMPRESSION FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE HONDURANS SINCERELY WANTED AN AGREEMENT AND WERE TRYING TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE. THEIR CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON A SECURITY ARRANGEMENT INDICATES, OF COURSE, THEY WANT AN EVEN CLOSER POLITICO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. THE HARD ISSUES WILL GO TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20; WE WILL MEET WITH THE HONDURANS AGAIN THE AFTERNOON OF THE 21ST. NEGROPONTE
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 1840
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EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HO
SUBJECT: RMTC: SEPTEMBER 18 NEGOTIATING SESSION
REF: A) TEGUCIGALPA 11721 (DTG 200006Z SEPT 84),
- B) LOWMAN/DIXON TELECON SEPTEMBER 21, 1984

1. ~~(S)~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. NSC MEETING AT WHICH RMTC GENERAL PRINCIPLES, AS REVISED AT THE SEPTEMBER 18 NEGOTIATING SESSION WERE TO BE DISCUSSED HAS BEEN POSTPONED. CONSEQUENTLY, U.S. TEAM MEETING WITH COLONEL GONZALEZ IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 26.
3. PER REF TELECON, NO ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS WERE MADE AT SEPTEMBER 18 SESSION EXCEPT THOSE SPECIFICALLY REPORTED IN REFTEL (A). THUS PARAS J AND K REMAIN UNCHANGED.
4. PARA L OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LAYS OUT THE QUESTION OF EL SALVADORAN TRAINING FAIRLY STARKLY. THE RE-DRAFT IS AN ATTEMPT TO PRESENT THIS IN A MORE ACCEPTABLE FASHION TO GOH. THUS THE IDEA IS DEVELOPED THAT THE RMTC AND USARSA ARE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES. THE RMTC IS A HONDURAN INSTALLATION AND, FOR TRAINING ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN THOSE CARRIED OUT BY USARSA, GOH HAS A VETO. THE FIRST SENTENCE OF REVISED PARA L EXPRESSES THIS CONCEPT. USARSA IS A TENANT IN THE RMTC TO WHICH THE GOH IS GRANTING THE RIGHT TO CARRY OUT ITS OWN PROGRAMS UNDER STATED RULES. THIS IS EXPRESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ORIGINAL DRAFT LANGUAGE WHICH IS RETAINED AS THE SECOND SENTENCE OF REVISED PARA L. THE THIRD SENTENCE IS SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT TO EARLIER POINTS IN DRAFT BUT WAS DESIRED BY THE GOH.
5. IT REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER THE NSC WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS LANGUAGE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT, IF THEY DO ACCEPT IT, IT WOULD BE WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE ACCEPTING A LONG-TERM USARSA PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE TRAINING OF

*Honduran
RMTC*

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NLRR M10-3506 #109816

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

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DTG: 220015Z SEP 84 PSN: 029844

SALVADORANS, UPON WHICH THEY DO NOT HAVE A VETO.
NEGROPONTE
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01
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EXDIS
MILITARY TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, PM
SUBJECT: USARSA -- NO RETURN TO PANAMA

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARLETTA ON SEPTEMBER 21 TOLD ME CATEGORICALLY THAT HE SEES NO RPT NO CHANCE OF REVIVING THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN PANAMA AFTER IT CLOSES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1984. HE CITED THE OVERWHELMING POLITICAL OPPOSITION FROM ALL SECTORS, LEFT, CENTER AND RIGHT, FROM STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE POPULACE AT LARGE. (THE ONLY VOICE OF SUPPORT HAS COME FROM THE COLON BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND A COUPLE OF COLON POLITICIANS, WHO HAVE NO POLITICAL INFLUENCE NATIONALLY.)

3. BARLETTA EMPHASIZED HIS PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT, SAID HE REGRETTED THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED A YEAR AGO, AND EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT CERTAIN (UNSPECIFIED) USG AND DOD LEADERS WOULD HOLD IT AGAINST HIM. I REASSURED HIM THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, THAT ANY RESENTMENT FELT WAS DIRECTED AT THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT, ILLUECA, AND THE PDF LEADERSHIP WHICH HAD STRUNG US ALONG.

4. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT IT APPEARED LIKELY THE SCHOOL WOULD BE ABLE TO REOPEN ON/ABOUT THE FIRST OF JANUARY, 1985, IN CONUS.

5. IN MY JUDGMENT WE NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER CLOSED. BRIGGS
BT

Handwritten:
Honduras
CMTc

Handwritten: ★

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NLRR M10-350/1 #109818

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 0440

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 11893

EXDIS
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HO, PBTS, ES
SUBJECT: TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC
REF: STATE 281588

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL WITH HONDURAN CINC LOPEZ. GOH PLANS NSC MEETING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS RMTC AND OTHER SUBJECT LOPEZ DOUBTS DOCTOR SUAZO WILL CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT REFUSING TO ALLOW SALVADORANS TO COME ON SEPTEMBER 28. LOPEZ WILL GET BACK TO AMBASSADOR AFTER HONDURAN NSC MEETING. MEANWHILE, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AGAIN FOCUS ON FALL-BACK POSITION RECOMMENDED TEGUCIGALPA 11542. END SUMMARY.
3. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY EVENING SEPTEMBER 21 AND IN A CALL ON GENERAL LOPEZ MORN ING SEPTEMBER 24, AMBASSADOR MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.
4. LOPEZ EXPLAINED THAT GOH WOULD BE HOLDING NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 24 AT WHICH RMTC ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED. (IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MEETING WHICH IS TO DISCUSS ELEC-TRICITY WORKERS STRIKE.)
5. AMBASSADOR IS CONVINCED THAT LOPEZ AND CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL GONZALEZ (WHO WAS ALSO AT SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING) UNDERSTAND THE CHOICES THEY MUST MAKE AND THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IF FRESH SALVADORAN BATTALION IS NOT PERMITTED TO BEGIN TRAINING ON SEPTEMBER 28.
6. LOPEZ PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 25 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. LOPEZ WAS SKEPTICAL THAT PRESIDENT SUAZO WOULD ALTER HIS OPPOSITION TO FURTHER TRAINING OF SALVADORANS AT RMTC AT THIS TIME.
7. ONE POINT GONZALEZ MADE DURING CONVERSATION WAS THAT "CONTINUITY AND PROGRESS" IN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOES WOULD HELP GOH JUSTIFY "CONTINUITY" OF PRESENT TRAINING PATTERN AT RMTC PENDING FINAL AGREEMENT ON PER-

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/03

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DTG: 242022Z SEP 84 PSN: 035349

MANENT INSTALLATION. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT HIS UNDER-
STANDING THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE WAS AMENABLE TO VISITING
HONDURAS AND NAMING A "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE" TO PURSU
A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME.

8. COMMENT: WE NEED TO FOCUS ON FALL-BACK POSITION IN
EVENT GOH REAFFIRMS REFUSAL TO TRAIN ANY FURTHER SALVA-
DORAN FORCES AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY BELIEVES BEST FALL-
BACK, THOUGH FAR FROM IDEAL, WOULD BE ALONG LINES PARAS
4 AND 5 TEGUCIGALPA 11542 (DTG 15011Z SEPTEMBER 84).
NAMELY, WE WOULD AGREE TO KEEP OPERATING RMTC FOR HON-
DURAN FORCES BETWEEN NOW AND END OF THE YEAR WHILE
CONTINUING TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS FOR LONG-TERM RMTC.
EXPENDITURE OF ANY FY-85 FUNDS WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE
TO BE CONTINGENT ON SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PENDING
PROBLEMS AND ASSUMEDLY APPROPRIATE PORTION OF FY-84 FUND
WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED FOR TRAINING OF SALVADORANS
ELSEWHERE. ONE VARIANT ON PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN TEGUCI-
GALPA 11542 IS THAT WE WOULD RECOMMEND ATTRIBUTING THE
ABSENCE OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC TO INCONCLUSIVE
US/GOH NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN TO ANTICIPATION OF UP-
COMING OFFENSIVE IN EL SALVADOR, IN LIGHT OF OBJECTIONS
RAISED TO THIS LATTER LINE OF ARGUMENT BY AMBASSADOR
PICKERING. NEGROPONTE
NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE UPGRADED EXDIS PER S/S-O K. REDDY. 9/24/84.
BT

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~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 11972

EXDIS
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, PBTS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC
REF: TEGUCIGALPA 11893

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION MESSAGE. PRESS GUIDANCE
REQUIRED.

3. AT MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA MORN-
ING SEPTEMBER 25, PAZ INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HONDURAN
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO "SUSPEND"
FURTHER TRAINING OF SALVADORAN FORCES PENDING AGREEMENT
ON BROADER ASPECTS OF U.S./HONDURAN BILATERAL RELATION-
SHIP. (SEPTELS REPORT CONTENT OF CONVERSATION WITH PAZ
IN GREATER DETAIL.)

4. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FACING US IS QUESTION OF HOW TO
HANDLE RMTC OPERATIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 18. EMBASSY
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL AND TEGUCIGALPA 11542.
THERE IS ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF PRESS HANDLING. WE BE-
LIEVE OBJECTIVE OF ANY PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE TO
ISOLATE RMTC ISSUE FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR POLICY
HERE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO WANT
TO LIMIT ANY POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO HONDURAN/
SALVADORAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. IN FOREGOING CONNECTION, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT IT
BE AUTHORIZED TO USE PRESS GUIDANCE ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES.

6. QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT HONDURAS HAS REFUSED
TO ALLOW SALVADORAN FORCES TO BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC
AFTER SEPTEMBER 28?

- ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN HOLDING DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE GOH WITH THE VIEW TO ESTABLISH A
PERMANENT RMTC WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ALL
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE. WE EXPECT THESE
DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE. MEANWHILE, THE GOH HAS
REQUESTED THAT NO ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL
BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC PENDING FINAL AGREEMENT. WE OF
COURSE RESPECT THIS HONDURAN DECISION.

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NLRR MID-3501 #109820

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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PAGE 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 1972

DTG: 252214Z SEP 84 PSN: 038022

7. QUESTION: WILL HONDURANS CONTINUE TO TRAIN AT THE
RMTC?

- ANSWER: FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WE EXPECT TRAIN-
ING FOR HONDURAN FORCES TO CONTINUE. NEGROPONTE
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~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 11972

EXDIS
CORRECTED COPY TEXT (LINE 2 PARA 4)
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, PBTS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC
REF: TEGUCIGALPA 11893

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION MESSAGE. PRESS GUIDANCE REQUIRED.
3. AT MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA MORN-
ING SEPTEMBER 25, PAZ INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HONDURAN
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FURTHER TRAINING OF SALVADORAN FORCES PENDING AGREEMENT
ON BROADER ASPECTS OF U.S./HONDURAN BILATERAL RELATION-
SHIP. (SEPTELS REPORT CONTENT OF CONVERSATION WITH PAZ
IN GREATER DETAIL.)
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RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL AND TEGUCIGALPA 11542.
THERE IS ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF PRESS HANDLING. WE BE-
LIEVE OBJECTIVE OF ANY PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE TO
ISOLATE RMTC ISSUE FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR POLICY
HERE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO WANT
TO LIMIT ANY POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO HONDURAN/
SALVADORAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
5. IN FOREGOING CONNECTION, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT IT
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LINES.
6. QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT HONDURAS HAS REFUSED
TO ALLOW SALVADORAN FORCES TO BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC
AFTER SEPTEMBER 28?
- ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN HOLDING DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE GOH WITH THE VIEW TO ESTABLISH A
PERMANENT RMTC WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ALL
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE. WE EXPECT THESE
DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE. MEANWHILE, THE GOH HAS
REQUESTED THAT NO ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL
BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC PENDING FINAL AGREEMENT. WE OF
COURSE RESPECT THIS HONDURAN DECISION.

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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DTG: 252214Z SEP 84 PSN: 039600

7. QUESTION: WILL HONDURANS CONTINUE TO TRAIN AT THE
RMTC?- ANSWER: FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WE EXPECT TRAIN-
ING FOR HONDURAN FORCES TO CONTINUE. NEGROPONTE
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PAGE 01 TEGUCIGALPA 2124 DTG: 272342Z SEP 84 PSN: 044711
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~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 12124

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, PINR, EAD, ELAB, XK, HO
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUAZO: BILATERAL PAPER,
- RMT
REF: TEGUCIGALPA 12101

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I MET WITH DR. SUAZO FOR 30 MINUTES MORNING SEPTEMBER 27, PRINCIPALLY TO DISCUSS CONTADORA PER WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS. WE DID, HOWEVER, SPEAK BRIEFLY ABOUT OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING THE BILATERAL PAPER AND THE RMT.

3. I TOLD SUAZO THAT WE HAD CONVEYED THE TEXTS OF THE VARIOUS GOH DOCUMENTS AND THE REQUEST FOR HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS BY GOH COMMISSION. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD BE CONVEYING OUR REACTION IN DUE COURSE. SUAZO SAID HE HOPED WE COULD BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUEST THAT SECRETARY SHULTZ AND MR. MACFARLANE RECEIVE GOH DELEGATION. SUAZO ALSO ASKED THAT WE CONVEY TO HIM ANY REACTION TO GOH PAPERS WHICH WE MIGHT WISH TO OFFER IN THE INTERIM. THE MINUTE HE HAD OUR INITIAL VIEWS, HE WOULD CONVOKE A HONDURAN NSC MEETING TO STUDY THEM.

4. I THEN RAISED MY CONCERNS ABOUT THE RMT. I BEGAN BY ASKING SUAZO A QUESTION. "WHAT IS IT THAT REALLY BOTHERS YOU ABOUT THE RMT, THE TRAINING OF SALVADORANS OR THE FACT THAT IT IMPLICATES YOU IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS?" SUAZO SAID IT WAS DEFINITELY THE FORMER AND THE FACT THAT THE TRAINING WAS TAKING PLACE ABSENT PROGRESS ON THE BORDER ISSUE. SUAZO SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE USE THE WORD "SUSPENSION" WHEN REFERRING TO THE TRAINING SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO SALVADORANS BECAUSE GOH EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW THEM TO TRAIN AGAIN ONCE PROGRESS DEVELOPS ON BORDER ISSUE. SUAZO REFERRED TO FACT THAT HE MIGHT BE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DUARTE ON THIS SUBJECT SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. I TOLD SUAZO THAT EVEN THOUGH WE DEEPLY REGRETTED DECISION TO SUSPEND SALVADORAN TRAINING, WE CERTAINLY INTENDED TO RESPECT GOH POSITION.

5. I DID, HOWEVER, MAKE POINT OF MY CONCERN THAT RMT ISSUE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT VERY POSITIVE COOPERATION IN OTHER SECURITY FIELDS. I THOUGHT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A DELIBERATE EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES.

6. SUAZO LOOKED PRETTY ALERT AND HEALTHY TO ME. HE WAS MOST INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT ELECTRICAL WORKERS STRIKE WHICH HAS TAKEN UP MOST OF HIS TIME IN RECENT DAYS AND SEEMS TO BE ON THE WAY TO RESOLUTION. HE WAS VERY COGENT IN HIS EXPLANATIONS OF HOW AND WHY GOH HAD ADOPTED THE TACTICS IT HAD. (REPORT ON STRIKE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPTTEL.)

7. COMMENT: IF GOH RMT POSITION IS PART OF BROADER EFFORT TO UNRAVEL U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES HERE IN HONDURAS, IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT APPARENT FROM MY TALK WITH DOCTOR SUAZO. NOR ARE THERE ANY OTHER INDICATIONS TO THIS EFFECT AT THIS STAGE. NEGROPONTE BT

Honduras/RMT

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NLRR M10-350(1) #109823
BY RUW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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~~SECRET~~ STATE 290495

EXDIS MILADS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: EAID, MARR, MASS, PREL, HO, XK
SUBJECT: HONDURAN REQUEST FOR INCREASED BILATERAL
COOPERATION

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 11973; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 12002;
-- (C) TEGUCIGALPA 11997; (D) TEGUCIGALPA 11998

1. ~~1~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. HONDURAN AMBASSADOR JUAN AGURCIA, UPON INSTRUCTIONS, CALLED ON ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY SEPTEMBER 26 TO PRESENT THE GOH DOCUMENTS CONTAINED IN REFTELS A, C, AND D. AGURCIA SAID HE WAS COMMUNICATING HONDURAS' REQUEST FOR GREATLY INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO MEET DIRE ECONOMIC SITUATION AS WELL AS THE GOH INTEREST IN BASIC UNDERSTANDING ON SECURITY RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH-LEVEL USG COMMISSION TO REVIEW ALL ISSUES WITH HONDURAS. AGURCIA SAID THE GOH WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED SUCH A COMMISSION BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY U. S. RESPONSE CONCERNING THE HONDURAN "TERMS OF REFERENCE" FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION PRESENTED TWO MONTHS AGO. HE ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE REFERENCES IN THE HONDURAN DOCUMENTS ABOUT OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. HE CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE OF GOH REJECTION OF FURTHER SALVADORAN TROOP TRAINING AND HALT TO ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION AT TIGER ISLAND AND CERRO LA MOLE WHILE TALKS WERE UNDERWAY (REF B). HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THESE MATTERS AS WELL AS CONTADORA ISSUES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN AN UNGA BILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA WAS SEEKING WITH THE SECRETARY. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT UNGA BILATERAL WOULD BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE SECRETARY'S EXTREMELY FULL SCHEDULE IN NEW YORK.

3. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY TOLD AGURCIA THAT THE HONDURAN INITIATIVE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. THE U. S. RECOGNIZED THAT HONDURAS WAS POOR, THAT IT HAD TAKEN SERIOUS POLITICAL RISKS IN OPPOSING LEFTIST EXPANSION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THAT IT NEEDED MORE ASSISTANCE. HE

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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DTG: 282300Z SEP 84 PSN: 046416

EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USG HAD ALREADY TAKEN IMPORTANT STEPS AIMED AT CORRECTING THE SITUATION. PASSAGE OF THE FY-84 SUPPLEMENTAL AND CURRENT STRONG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FY-85 FUNDS REFLECTED SIZEABLE INCREASES IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR HONDURAS COMPARED TO PAST YEARS. REALLOCATION OF NICARAGUA'S SUGAR QUOTA IN HONDURAS' FAVOR, AND EXTRADORDINARY EFFORTS TO HELP HONDURAS GET AN INCREASED COFFEE EXPORT QUOTA INCLUDING MOTLEY'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION IN THE LONDON TALKS AND WITH BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS VISITING WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATED OUR HIGH INTEREST IN MEETING HONDURAN REQUIREMENTS. BEYOND THESE TYPES OF MEASURES, WE WOULD NEED TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL TO PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE, AND THIS REQUIRED A GOOD DEAL OF CONSULTATION AND ADVANCE PLANNING. IN RESPONSE TO AGURCIA'S INQUIRY ON IMF CONDITIONALITY, HE NOTED THAT THE U. S. HAD BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING ON THE ESF ISSUE. OBVIOUSLY, REMOVAL OF FULL IMF CONDITIONALITY FROM ESF DISBURSEMENT WAS AN UNREALISTIC DEMAND.

4. TURNING TO SECURITY ISSUES, AMBASSADOR MOTLEY STATED FLATLY THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN A MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH HONDURAS. SUCH BILATERAL AGREEMENTS DID NOT FIT OUR WORLD-WIDE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND WERE STRONGLY DISLIKED BY THE U. S. CONGRESS. EVEN POPULAR TREATIES HAD LOUNGED FOR YEARS AWAITING CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION. HE STRESSED U. S. EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT RMTC WHICH WAS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. WE HAD MADE CONCESSIONS ON THE NUMBER OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AND HAD PRESENTED IMAGINATIVE PROPOSALS TO BROADEN FUTURE USE OF FACILITIES. HE CITED HIS AUGUST 31 TRIP TO HONDURAS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF VERY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U. S. CONSIDERED HONDURAS IMPORTANT AND

WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS SERIOUSLY USG-GOH DIFFERENCES. OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION ON THAT TRIP HAD SHOWN OUR APPRECIATION OF HONDURAN VIEWS AND SENSITIVITIES. GOH REJECTION OF SALVADORAN FORCES, HOWEVER, MEANT THAT THE RMTC WAS VIRTUALLY DEAD SINCE CONGRESS WOULD NOT ALLOCATE FUNDS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. MOTLEY ASKED AGURCIA IF HE COULD EXPLAIN WHAT LAY BEHIND THE HONDURAN POSITION AND WHY, AFTER ALL OUR EFFORTS, WE WERE BEING PRESENTED WITH SUCH A SET OF UNREALISTIC DEMANDS. HE SAID HE WAS GENUINELY PERPLEXED; THE U. S. HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE GOH.

5. IN CONCLUSION, AMBASSADOR MOTLEY ASSURED AGURCIA OF CONTINUING U. S. COOPERATION, OUR FIRM COMMITMENT TO SHARED POLICY OBJECTIVES AND OUR FRIENDSHIP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USG FOUND TROUBLESOME THE ULTIMATA AND PRE-CONDITIONS THAT HONDURAS HAD ATTACHED TO THE CONDUCT OF OUR RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE HONDURAN PROPOSALS WOULD MAKE IT VERY CUMBERSOME TO HANDLE IMMEDIATE NEEDS, BUT PROMISED TO STUDY THE GOH DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY AND OFFER A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE. SHULTZ
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NLRR MID-3501 #109875

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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SECRET STATE 290795

E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC AND SALVADORAN TRAINING

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 11840; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 11893
(C) TEGUCIGALPA 11972

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN LIGHT OF LACK OF PROGRESS SO FAR IN RMTC
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOH AND QUESTIONS AS TO FUTURE OF
FACILITY, STATE/DOD OFFICIALS MET SEPTEMBER 25 TO REVIEW
RMTC SITUATION AND OPTIONS.

3. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT WE HAVE A TWOFOLD STAKE IN
THE RMTC NEGOTIATIONS:

(A) CONTINUATION OF SALVADORAN TROOP TRAINING IS
ESSENTIAL TO THE MILITARY EFFORT IN EL SALVADOR AND TO
THE MAINTENANCE OF A REGIONAL SECURITY SHIELD;

(B) HONDURAS IS IMPORTANT TO U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES IN
CENTRAL AMERICA. WE NEED TO EVALUATE CAREFULLY THE
BROADER ISSUES IN RELATIONSHIP POSED BY GOH. HOPEFULLY,
RMTC ISSUES CAN BE HANDLED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT
FURTHER STRAIN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. FROM THE US VIEWPOINT, HONDURAS REMAINS THE OPTIMAL
SITE FOR CONTINUED TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS.
HOWEVER, THE UNLIKELIHOOD OF EARLY AGREEMENT THAT WOULD
GUARANTEE CONTINUED ESAF TRAINING AT THE RMTC
NECESSITATES CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE TRAINING
ARRANGEMENTS EITHER IN EL SALVADOR OR CONUS TO MEET
IMMEDIATE NEEDS. TRAINING IN EL SALVADOR IS ATTRACTIVE
FROM BOTH COST AND EVENTUAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

STAND-POINTS, BUT THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING,
A) OUR ABILITY TO MEET TRAINING NEEDS ADEQUATELY IN THE
NEAR TERM GIVEN OUR 55-MAN CEILING ON TRAINERS AND B) THE
POTENTIAL FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN THE MIDST OF TRAINING OF
ESAF PERSONNEL DUE TO CALL UP FOR OPERATIONAL DUTY.
CONUS TRAINING COSTS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY EXCEED THOSE
OF RMTC AND COULD REQUIRE 2-4 MONTHS PREPARATION-TIME IN
ORDER NOT TO CONFLICT WITH IMPORTANT TRAINING OF U.S.
PERSONNEL. THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE
OF THE SALVADORAN TRAINEE GROUPS AT A GIVEN TIME, MIGHT-
BE A MIXTURE OF TRAINING IN BOTH CONUS AND EL SALVADOR.

5. WE WILL PROVIDE COST ESTIMATES AND FACILITY
SCHEDULING OPTIONS FOR CONUS TRAINING SHORTLY; MEANWHILE,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR AND
USSOUTHCOM VIEWS ON HOW THE TRAINING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED
AND PROJECTED CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE ABOVE-
OPTIONS. ALL SUGGESTIONS SHOULD ASSUME CONTINUATION OF
THE CURRENT CEILING FOR IN-COUNTRY US TRAINERS.

6. FOR THE LONGER TERM, IT IS APPARENT THAT, EVEN IF THE
CURRENT PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, THE STRONG DESIRE BY EACH
COUNTRY TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN SUCH AREAS AS MILITARY
TRAINING MEANS THAT SALVADORAN TRAINING ON HONDURAN
TERRITORY APPEARS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY. IT IS THEREFORE
ESSENTIAL THAT SAN SALVADOR AND USSOUTHCOM ALSO ASSESS
AND REPORT ASAP FEASIBILITY OF TRAINING CADRES OF
SALVADORAN TRAINERS, IN CONUS OR IN EL SALVADOR (STILL
ASSUMING THE 55-MAN LIMIT), WITH AIM OF EVENTUAL ESAF-
SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN CONDUCTING THE TYPE OF TRAINING
PROVIDED AT THE RMTC.

7. FOR EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA, WE BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS
REGARDING THE RMTC SHOULD CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES
FOR A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT NOW APPEAR SLIM. WHILE WE
ARE UNABLE TO COMPROMISE ON OUR KEY REQUIREMENT THAT
FACILITY SERVICE SALVADORAN TRAINING NEEDS, WE

NEVERTHELESS WANT TO AVOID CREATING THE IMPRESSION THAT
WE ARE PULLING OUT OF THE RMTC OR THAT WE ARE BLAMING THE
HONDURANS FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS.

8. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, SHOULD, ASSURE THE HONDURANS
UNDERSTAND THAT CESSATION OF SALVADORAN TRAINING ENTAILS
THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COSTS:

(A) LOSS OF 18 MILLION DOLLARS FY-85 FUNDS FOR PERMANENT
CONSTRUCTION OF AN RMTC;

(B) LOSS OF THE 18.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY-84
SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE RMTC;

(C) DRAWDOWN OF SURPLUS TRAINING CADRE AT THE RMTC DUE
TO SUSPENSION OF MISSION TO TRAIN SALVADORAN TROOPS;

(D) THE NECESSITY FOR THE HONDURANS TO ASSUME ALL COSTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE RMTC. A LARGE PORTION (70 PERCENT)
OF THE COST OF TDY INSTRUCTIONS AND RMTC O&M HAS BEEN
PAID BY EL SALVADOR. SINCE THE SALVADORANS WILL NOT BE
ALLOWED TO TRAIN AT THE RMTC, THESE CHARGES WILL HAVE TO
BE SHIFTED TO HONDURAS. O&M FUNDING REQUIRED TO OPERATE
THE RMTC AT 30 PERCENT CAPACITY FOR THE REMAINING OF
CALENDAR YEAR 1985 WOULD COST THE HONDURANS AN ADDITIONAL
ESTIMATED 250,000 DOLLARS. TO CANCEL THE O&M ALTOGETHER
FOR THE REMAINDER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1984 STILL WOULD COST
THE HONDURANS 100,000 DOLLARS MORE THAN THEY CURRENTLY
HAVE SIGNED UP TO PAY. THE INSTRUCTORS ARE ANOTHER
POTENTIAL INCREASED COST. AN ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED
210,000 DOLLARS FROM HONDURAS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FUND

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THE INSTRUCTORS AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL. CONCEIVABLY, THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS WOULD BE REDUCED UP TO 70 PERCENT IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE NOT PROVIDED BY HONDURAS. SINCE THE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE RECOVER ALL COSTS INCURRED INVOLVING MAP/FMS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE ADVISE AS TO HOW HONDURAS INTENDS TO PAY FOR THESE COSTS. ADDITIONALLY, THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS NEGOTIATING THE RMTG O&M CONTRACT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 85, THE FUNDS FOR WHICH (5.3 MILLION DOLLARS) MUST BE AVAILABLE BY 1 NOV 84. ARE THE HONDURANS PREPARED TO ABSORB ANY OF THESE COSTS AND WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR CURRENT APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE?

(E) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WE WILL HAVE TO RESERVE A PORTION OF THE FY-84/85 HONDURAN MAP FUNDS TO COVER CONTINGENCIES UNTIL FINAL OUTCOME OF RMTG SITUATION IS CLEAR.

9. POINT OF CONTACT FOR USSOUTHCOM IS J-5, JCS.

,0. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DOD MESSAGE. SHULTZ
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 12254

EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO FOLLOWING MILITARY ADDEES IMMEDIATE:
COMUSMILGP SAN SALVADOR ES
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CDRUSACE WASHDC//DAEN-ECC-G//
CDRSATFA FT MONROE VA//ATFA-P/ATFA-R//
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HO, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC AND SALVADORAN TRAINING
REF: A) STATE 290795 (DTG 290423Z SEPT 84),
B) TEGUCIGALPA 11721 (DTG 200006Z SEPT 84),
C) TEGUCIGALPA 11542 (DTG 150011Z SEPT 84),
D) TEGUCIGALPA 11893, PARA 8 (DTG 242022Z SEPT 84),
E) TEGUCIGALPA 12101, PARA 5 (DTG 272010Z SEPT 84)

1. ~~THE~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DCM AND MILGP COMMANDER MET WITH CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL GONZALEZ ON SEPTEMBER 28 TO REVIEW STATUS OF RMTC TALKS. GONZALEZ STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE SALVADORAN TRAINING, FOR THE TIME BEING, EVEN THOUGH TALKS ON A FUTURE PERMANENT RMTC CONTINUED. HE CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH TALKS COULD CONTINUE. GONZALES NOTED, THAT WHILE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WAS NOT TOTALLY SATISFIED WITH THE LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES WORKED OUT IN THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP, HE DID NOT AT THIS TIME HAVE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE. HE EXPECTED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE FURTHER DEBATED IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL NEXT WEEK AND SUGGESTED A FURTHER MEETING OF NEGOTIATORS ON OCTOBER 4 OR 5. DCM NOTED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED WASHINGTON RESPONSE TO PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGES (REF B), WE HAD NO FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AT THIS TIME.

3. DCM WENT ON TO NOTE THAT, WHILE WE RESPECTED THE HONDURAN DECISION TO SUSPEND TRAINING OF SALVADORANS FOR THE TIME BEING, CERTAIN PRACTICAL QUESTIONS WERE RAISED BY THIS DECISION WHICH WE WOULD BOTH HAVE TO

*Honduras
RMTC*

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BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

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ADDRESS. FOR THE USG, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF HOW MANY OF THE SPECIAL FORCES TRAINERS WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT HOME. THIS, IN TURN, RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOH WOULD PLAN TO USE THE RMTC IN THE INTERIM. WE NOTED THAT, SINCE THE BULK OF THE COST HAS BEEN MET BY THE GOES MAP ACCOUNT, THE CONTINUATION OF TRAINING OF HONDURANS AT THE RMTC WITHOUT SALVADORAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM WOULD INEVITABLY MEAN AN INCREASE OF COSTS CHARGEABLE TO THE GOH MAP ACCOUNT. ADDITIONALLY, THE TRAINING OF SALVADORANS WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE, PROBABLY IN EITHER EL SALVADOR ITSELF OR IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WOULD REQUIRE THAT SOME OF THE FUNDS INTENDED FOR THE PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION OF AN RMTC AT A NEW SITE WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED TO THE TRAINING OF SALVADORANS IN THE INTERIM.

4. DCM INFORMED GONZALEZ THAT, WHILE WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL FIGURES OR INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT, WE HAD RECEIVED SOME PRELIMINARY FIGURES FROM USSOUTHCOM ON THE POSSIBLE COSTS TO THE GOH OF TRAINING IN THE ABSENCE OF SALVADORAN PARTICIPANTS AT THE RMTC. WE WISHED TO PROVIDE THESE TO GONZALEZ PURELY AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE TYPE OF DECISION THAT THE GOH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THESE FIGURES WERE PRESENTED AS THREE POSSIBLE OPTIONS, AS FOLLOWS. OPTION 1, TRAINING AS CURRENTLY PLANNED PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL INFANTRY BATTALION, WHICH WOULD BY 1 JANUARY 1985 RAISE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HONDURANS TRAINED TO 5,000, COMPARED WITH 5,500 ESAF TRAINED AT THE RMTC--ALMOST PARITY; OPTION 2, TRAINING AS CURRENTLY PLANNED; AND OPTION 3, A REDUCED PROGRAM AT LEVELS DESIGNED TO KEEP THE RMTC PRODUCTION BASE WARM.

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
PERIOD 1 OCT-31 DEC			
NET COST INCREASE FOR HO	2.518M	.97M	.72M
TOTAL HO TRAINED	1,200	700	400

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EXDIS
MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO FOLLOWING MILITARY ADDRESSEES IMMEDIATE:
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HQDA WASHDC//DAMO-SSA/DALO-SAC//
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CDRSATFA FT MONROE VA//ATFA-P/ATFA-R//
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HQ, ES
SUBJECT: RMTC AND SALVADORAN TRAINING
GONZALEZ INDICATED THAT HE WOULD AWAIT OUR
FURTHER INFORMATION BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, CONSULT WITH
THE ARMY STAFF WHICH WOULD BE MOST INVOLVED. HE
INDICATED HIS OWN PREDILECTION WOULD BE FOR OPTION
NUMBER ONE, THE MAXIMUM USE OF THE RMTC FOR HONDURAN
TRAINING DURING THIS PERIOD.

EXDIS
6. EMBASSY IS NOW IN RECEIPT OF REF (A). WHILE THIS
IS HELPFUL, WE FIND A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS
UNANSWERED. THUS, EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS PRIOR TO OUR NEXT MEETING WITH THE
GOH ON THIS SUBJECT:
- --WE NEED GUIDANCE ON THE LANGUAGE CHANGES PROPOSED
IN REF (B).
- --WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE GOH THAT A FAILURE
TO ACCEPT A TRUE REGIONAL CENTER WOULD MEAN THE LOSS
OF BOTH FY 84 AND FY 85 FUNDS FOR A PERMANENT RMTC.
WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT A TEMPORARY CESSATION OF
SALVADORAN TRAINING WILL MEAN SOME LOSS OF FUNDS
FROM THE RMTC APPROPRIATION IN ORDER TO MEET
SALVADORAN TRAINING NEEDS ELSEWHERE. AS NOTED IN OUR
MESSAGES (REFS C, D, AND E), WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT
FY 1984 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE RMTC WOULD BE
PRESERVED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE FOR THE EVENTUAL
CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT CENTER. WE HAVE ALSO
ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THESE FY 84 FUNDS WOULD
BE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN TRAINING.
WE HAVE EXPECTED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT ANY CALENDAR
1985 O AND M COSTS WOULD BE MET FROM THE FY 84 SUPPLE-
MENT UNTIL THE ISSUE OF SALVADORAN TRAINING IS
SETTLED. WE NEED CONFIRMATION ON THIS POINT AND
INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH FY 84 FUNDS
INTENDED FOR CONSTRUCTION WILL HAVE TO BE DIVERTED TO

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SUPPORT SALVADORAN TRAINING. IF POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A TIME LINE ON SUCH A DIVERSION WHICH WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE GOH FOR A DECISION.

- --WE ALSO WONDER ABOUT PARA SIX REF (A) WHICH APPEARS TO THROW DOUBT UPON OUR GOAL OF NEGOTIATING A PERMANENT RMTC FOR THE LONG-TERM TRAINING, OF THE TYPE NOW GIVEN AT THE RMTC, ON A REGIONAL BASIS. AT THE MOMENT, WE CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOH OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN RMTC/USARSA ARRANGEMENT. OBVIOUSLY, THIS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE UNLESS, IN THE LONG RUN, THE GOH ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN USG LANGUAGE SPECIFYING THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR USARSA TRAINING WILL BE BASED UPON ELIGIBILITY FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR NEGOTIATING GOAL.

- --WE NEED CONFIRMATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF TRAINING FOR HONDURANS AT THE RMTC AND THE SOUTHCOM COST FIGURES GIVEN IN PARA 4 ABOVE OR ADJUSTED FIGURES WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE GOH.
NEGROPONTE
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