

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Latin American Affairs Directorate, NSC:
Records

Folder Title: Honduras/US “Military Buildup” [1984]

Box: RAC Box Cable 2

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE, NSC:
RECORDS

Withdrawer

KML 5/16/2011

File Folder HONDURAS/U.S. "MILITARY BUILDUP": [1984]

FOIA

M10-350/1

Box Number 90509

SEELY

39

| ID | Doc Type | Document Description | No of Pages | Doc Date | Restrictions |
|--------|----------|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 109897 | CABLE | TEGUCIGALPA 2042 <i>R 4/5/2013 M350/1</i> | 3 | 2/17/1984 | B1 |
| 109898 | CABLE | STATE 054049 <i>R 4/5/2013 M350/1</i> | 1 | 2/24/1984 | B1 |

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1098 - 1

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 2042
EOB683 AN002468

DTG: 172010Z FEB 84 PSN: 062064
TOR: 050/0649Z CSN: HCE167

DISTRIBUTION: MENG-01 NORT-01 /002 A2

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: KIMM VP SIT EOB
EOB:

ROUTINE
UTS9794
DE RUEHTG #2042/01 0482013
R 172010Z FEB 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0410

INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
JCS WASHDC
CONTADORA COLLECTIVE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 0 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 02042

E.O. 12356: DECL: 2/16/94
TAGS: OREP, HO
SUBJECT: SENATOR SASSER'S MEETING WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: AT THE FEBRUARY 6 MEETING, THE SENATOR AND GENERAL ALVAREZ DISCUSSED THE HONDURAN PERCEPTION OF THE NICARAGUAN THREAT. GENERAL ALVAREZ CONTINUALLY RETURNED TO THE POINT THAT NICARAGUA IS A SOVIET BASE, AND AS SUCH IS A THREAT TO HONDURAS AND CENTRAL AMERICA. END SUMMARY.

3. THE THREAT-RESPONDING TO THE SENATOR'S QUESTION ON WHETHER HONDURAS FACED A CONVENTIONAL OR A SUBVERSIVE THREAT FROM NICARAGUA, GENERAL ALVAREZ SAID THAT AT THE MOMENT THE SUBVERSIVE THREAT WAS GREATER, ALTHOUGH THE THREAT COULD BE A COMBINATION OF BOTH. ALVAREZ SAID THAT HONDURAS COULD INITIALLY REPEL A CONVENTIONAL ATTACK BUT NOTED THAT THE ARMY'S EQUIPMENT IS OLD. HE DESCRIBED HONDURAS' FORCE MODERNIZATION PLAN, THE DESIRE FOR A MINIMAL QUALITY FORCE TO DETER NICARAGUA'S QUANTITATIVE ADVANTAGE. THE GENERAL SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE MODERNIZATION PLAN BECAUSE OF A LACK OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND LIMITED AID FROM THE PENTAGON AND CONGRESS. HE CITED THE CORROSION PROBLEMS WITH THE SUPER MYSTERE FIGHTERS AND NOTED THAT THEIR REPLACEMENT HAD NOT BEEN PLANNED UPON SO SOON; THIS PROBLEM CONCERNED HIM ENORMOUSLY, HE SAID. THE SENATOR REMARKED THAT THE GUERRILLA THREAT SEEMED GREATER AND ASKED IF HONDURAS COULD CONFRONT IT. ALVAREZ AGREED THAT INITIALLY THE GUERRILLA THREAT WAS GREATER AND SAID HONDURAS COULD CONTAIN A GUERRILLA THREAT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. THE HONDURAN ARMY LACKED, HOWEVER, THE ABILITY TO OPERATE AT NIGHT, AS GUERRILLAS NORMALLY DO. ALVAREZ SAID THEY HAVE SUSPICIONS THAT THERE ARE GUERRILLA TRAINING CAMPS IN HONDURAS, BUT THE ARMY HAS NOT HAD CONTACT WITH GUERRILLAS SINCE THE OLANCHO OPERATION (JULY-SEPT. 83).

4. THE US PRESENCE - RESPONDING TO THE SENATOR'S QUESTION ABOUT THE DESIRED SIZE AND PERMANENCE OF THE US PRESENCE, ALVAREZ SAID THAT THE NATURE OF THE PRESENCE WOULD DEPEND ON "A SERIES OF UNKNOWNNS", GENERALLY TO

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR MID-350/#109897

BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

PAGE 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 2042

DTG: 172010Z FEB 84 PSN: 062064

WHAT EXTENT THE US WOULD PERMIT THE EXISTENCE OF A SOVIET BASE IN NICARAGUA; WOULD THE US FORCE THIS ISSUE OR ALLOW IT TO RESOLVE ITSELF? THEN, HE SAID, WE COULD ANSWER THE QUESTION OF A US PRESENCE IN HONDURAS AND CENTRAL AMERICA. THE GENERAL SAID THAT IF WE ALLOW SUCH A SOVIET BASE TO REMAIN, THE REMOVAL OF IT IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE MORE COSTLY, AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBA MUST BE FACTORED INTO THAT COST. ALVAREZ SAID A MIXED BASE IN HONDURAS WOULD SERVE THE REGIONAL INTERESTS OF THE US AND WOULD BE A DETERRENT TO NICARAGUA'S AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE. ALVAREZ CONFIRMED THE SENATOR'S IMPRESSION THAT THE EXERCISE PRESENCE HAD PRODUCED LITTLE OR NO ANTI-US SENTIMENT.

5. COEXISTENCE WITH NICARAGUA - ALVAREZ RULED OUT COEXISTENCE FOR ONE REASON -- NICARAGUA IS A SOVIET BASE IF THE SANDINISTAS WERE A TRULY NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, COEXISTENCE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HONDURAS COULD NOT LIVE WITH THE FACT THAT ITS NEIGHBOR IS SUPPORTED BY THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. ALVAREZ SAID THAT HONDURAS HAS A WEAK ECONOMY AND IS A NASCENT DEMOCRACY, IT CAN NOT ACHIEVE ITS ECONOMIC AND DEMOCRATIC GOALS WITH A MARXIST NEIGHBOR. THE SENATOR NOTED ALVAREZ HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING WAR WITH NICARAGUA WAS FEASIBLE. THE GENERAL REPLIED HE DID NOT THINK WAR IS FEASIBLE; HE THOUGHT THE US SHOULD ACT IN A MORE DECISIVE WAY TO DIMINISH THE SPECTRE OF WAR AND TURN NICARAGUA TOWARDS DEMOCRACY. WE ARE, HE SAID, RUNNING THE RISK OF WAR NOW. HE CITED UNREST IN NICARAGUA, THE PRESENCE OF THE CONTRAS, AND THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT, AS REASONS THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT PROVOKE AN INCIDENT WITH HONDURAS IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE POWER INTERNALLY. IN THIS SENSE, HE SAID, THE US EXERCISES AND THE NAVAL MANEUVERS HAVE INCREASED CAUTION ON THE PART OF THE SANDINISTAS.

6. CONTADORA - THE SENATOR ASKED FOR ALVAREZ' ASSESSMENT OF THE MERIT OF THE CONTADORA PLAN. ALVAREZ SAID TWO THINGS WERE IMPORTANT: GOOD FAITH ON THE PART OF NICARAGUA, AND A VERIFICATION MECHANISM FOR NICARAGUA'S PROMISES AND OBLIGATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING. IF VERIFICATION WERE A CHARADE, WE WOULD BE ACCOMPLICES TO THE PERPETUATION OF THE NICARAGUAN REGIME UNDER SOVIET TUTELAGE.

7. THE SOVIET/COMMUNIST CONNECTION - THE SENATOR POSED TWO QUESTIONS TO ALVAREZ: COULD WE DEAL WITH NICARAGUA IN GOOD FAITH IF WE MAINTAINED CONSTANT MILITARY AND
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01
EOB684

TEGUCIGALPA 2042
AN002467

DTG: 172010Z FEB 84 PSN: 062065
TOR: 050/0650Z CSN: HCE168

DISTRIBUTION: MENG-01 NORT-01 /002 A2

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT: KIMM VP SIT EOB
EOB:

ROUTINE
STU6258
DE RUEHTG #2042/02 0482015
R 172010Z FEB 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0411

INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
JCS WASHDC
CONTADORA COLLECTIVE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 02042

E.O. 12356: DECL: 2/16/94

TAGS: OREP, HO

SUBJECT: SENATOR SASSER'S MEETING WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ
ECONOMIC PRESSURE; AND MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH
THE SANDINISTAS IF THE SOVIETS DIMINISHED SUPPORT FOR
NICARAGUA. ALVAREZ ANSWERED BOTH QUESTIONS IN THE
SAME SPIRIT -- IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT... ESSENTIAL TO
THE PROBLEM WAS THE WORLD EXPANSIONIST DOCTRINE OF THE
SOVIET UNION. EVEN IF THEY WERE PERSUADED TO DIMINISH
THEIR SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA OR THEIR PRESENCE, AS LONG
AS NICARAGUA WAS MARXIST, THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT LET GO.
THE SOVIETS MIGHT CHANGE THEIR PRIORITIES, BUT THEY WOULD
RETURN LATER. ALVAREZ REITERATED THAT UNLESS NICARAGUA
HAS A DEMOCRATIC REGIME, HONDURAS COULD NOT COEXIST WITH
NICARAGUA. HE SAID THAT IF THE US COULD ARRANGE A DEAL
WITH THE SOVIET UNION, SO MUCH THE BETTER, BUT
NICARAGUA MUST BE DEMOCRATIC.

8. THE SENATOR CLOSED THE MEETING BY COMPLIMENTING THE
GENERAL ON HIS PERSUASIVENESS, AND ASKED IF HE HAD
POLITICAL AMBITIONS. THE GENERAL WAS OBVIOUSLY
FLATTERED, BUT SAID HE WAS TOO SINCERE, TOO DIRECT, AND
TOO BRUSQUE TO BE A POLITICIAN. ALVAREZ THANKED THE
SENATOR FOR HIS INTEREST IN HONDURAS, AND SAID HE WOULD
TRUST THE WISDOM OF THE US, ITS WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND
THE REGION. HONDURAS WOULD NOT FAIL, HE SAID, WE
BELIEVE IN WHAT WE HAVE. NEGROPONTE
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

109898

4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT

PAGE 01
EOB845

SECSTATE WASHDC 4049
AN005485

DTG: 240120Z FEB 84 PSN: 073108
TOR: 055/0614Z CSN: HCE768

DISTRIBUTION: MENG-01 NORT-01 SIMS-01 /003 A1

WHTS ASSIGNED DISTRIBUTION:
SIT:
EOB:

OP IMMED /PRIORITY
DE RUEHC #4049 0550544
O P 240120Z FEB 84
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 8726

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 3429
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY 0910
USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS PN PRIORITY 8499

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 054049

E.O. 12356 DECL: 2/7/94
TAGS: MASS, MARR, HO, SCOM
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON POSSIBILITY OF BASE
CONSTRUCTION AT PUERTO CASTILLA

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1385; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1517

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS AND QS AND AS ARE APPROVED, ON IF
ASKED BASIS, TO HANDLE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE
U.S. SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FACILITY AT PUERTO CASTILLA:

-- THERE ARE NO U.S. BASES IN HONDURAS.

-- THE U.S. IS NOT SEEKING TO ESTABLISH BASES IN HONDURAS.

-- THE U.S. HAS FORMAL ACCESS TO AIRFIELDS IN HONDURAS.
THE CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT
OF TWO OF THESE AIRFIELDS: PALMEROLA AIRFIELD AT
COMAYAGUA AND GOLOSON AIRFIELD AT LA CEIBA. CONSTRUCTION
AT PALMEROLA IS ALREADY UNDER WAY.

Q 1: WILL THE U.S. ESTABLISH A BASE AT PUERTO CASTILLA?

A 1: WE SEEK NO BASES IN HONDURAS. HOWEVER, WE ARE
INTERESTED IN CONTINUING TO REVIEW HONDURAN FACILITIES,
INCLUDING PUERTO CASTILLA, WITH A VIEW TOWARD ACQUIRING
ACCESS AS NEEDED. NO DECISION TO SEEK ADDITIONAL ACCESS
HAS BEEN MADE.

Q 2: WHAT WOULD BE THE PURPOSE OF A BASE AT PUERTO
CASTILLA?

A 2: THE GOH HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A
CENTRALLY LOCATED NAVAL BASE ON ITS NORTHERN COAST. I
WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU DIRECT DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT
HONDURAN PLANS AND INTENTIONS REGARDING SUCH A FACILITY
TO APPROPRIATE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. SHULTZ
BT

*Honduras:
militarization*

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M10-3501 #109898
BY RW NARA DATE 4/5/13

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~