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MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: CATHI VILLALPANDO

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM MR. ERNESTO URIBE

The attached letter from Mr. Uribe is sent to you since he indicates an interest in speaking on behalf of Central America. I don't know him personally but you may want to contact him directly.

You may also wish to place him on the mailing list for Central America material.

file —
USIA
take no action

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1983

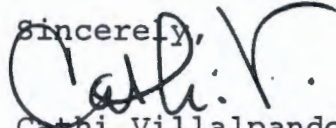
Dear Mr. Uribe:

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 1983, regarding your interest in Central America.

I have taken the liberty of referring your letter to Mr. Morton Blackwell who handles Central American affairs for our office.

Again, I appreciate your interest and support on behalf of the Administration.

Sincerely,


Cathi Villalpando
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Ernesto Uribe
Chief, Latin American Branch
Office of Research
United States Information Agency
Washington, D. C. 20547

**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

SEP 23 REC'D



September 23, 1983

Miss Cathi Villalpando
Special Assistant to the President
Room 171
Old Executive Building
The White House

Dear Miss Villalpando:

After reading the article on your appointment by Kathleen Tymon in the Washington Times last week, I decided to contact your office and offer you my services. I am a career foreign service officer with the U.S. Information Agency and during the past 21 years I have served in six different Latin American posts including two Central American countries. At present I am the Chief of the Latin American Branch of the Office of Research with USIA.

I indicated to Mr. Rolando Esparza that during the past two years I have addressed different groups on the issue of Central America. As a matter of fact, next week I will be speaking to students and faculty members at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, The American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona and at the University of New Mexico.

If my credentials meet your standards, I may possibly be of service to you as a speaker before Hispanic groups on this topic. With this in mind, I am enclosing an outline of my presentation on "The Crisis in Central America" along with some references you may wish to contact regarding my knowledge on the subject and my speaking ability. I have also included my resume for your information.

Estoy a sus ordenes.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Uribe
Chief, Latin American Branch
Office of Research

Enclosures:

Outline of my Presentation
References
Resume

THE CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

OUTLINE

What is Happening?

A quick up-date on what is happening in the area.

- The war in El Salvador
- Illegal arms flow into El Salvador
- Guerrilla efforts against the Sandinistas
- The Contadora Group efforts
- Peace - at what price?

CENTRAL AMERICA

- A historical perspective
- The "Banana Republic" image
- The fruit companies & U.S. intervention

PANAMA

- The Canal
- Torrijos gone - new political climate
- Banking center
- Economy

COSTA RICA

- Economic shambles
- Coffee & banana prices down
- Cost of fuel still too high
- Social programs were too much for the economy
- Concern over arms build up in Nicaragua
- flight of capital

NICARAGUA

- Monster of our own making
- USMC from 1982 - 1933
- Somoza family rule 1934-1979
- Pedro Joaquin Chamorro - editor, La Prensa Killed
- Augusto Cesar Sandino

References on my Public Speaking ability

Mr. Charles Koonce
Coordinator, Great Decisions Series
Fayetteville Technical Institute
P.O. Box 32236
Fayetteville, NC. 28303
Tel - (919) 323 -1961

Dr. Anthony Gray
Deputy Director - Office of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Inter-American Affairs
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C.
Tel - 697-9301

Mr. George T. Williamson
Rotary Club
Covington, Tenn. 38019
Tel - (901) 466-2429

Mr. Louis Pate
USIA Advisor
J.F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare
Fort Bragg, N.C.
Tel - (919) 396-7500

Student Affairs Officer, USIA, also Assistant Director of the Binational Center, Centro Ecuatoriano-Americano, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1962-64.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 1961-62.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Martin High School, Laredo, Texas, Class of 1956.

B.S. in Agricultural Education Texas A&M University, 1960.

B.S. in Agricultural Journalism, Texas A&M University, 1961.

M.S. in Sociology, Texas A&M University, 1962.

Graduate of the U.S. National War College of the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., 1981.

Have also taken special courses at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute in Latin American Area Studies, Communism, Economics, U.S. Culture, the People's Republic of China and Terrorism during the course of my career as a foreign service officer.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

What High School Students Consider Important When Selecting a College or University, (Master's Thesis) Texas A&M 1962.

"USIS/Singapore's Mini-Infomat" USIA Communicator, April 1973.

Country Highlights - Honduras, USIS Tegucigalpa, Honduras,

Country Highlights - Bolivia, USICA La Paz, Bolivia, 1979-80.

"Into Thin Air/Radio Control Flying at 13,500 Feet", Model Airplane News, Volume 100, Number 5, May 1980.

A Proposal for the Control of the Illegal Flow of Arms and Personnel into El Salvador, National War College, Feb. 1981.

- Sandinista's popular support
- Leftist take over revolution
- Cuban/Soviet influence
- Support to revolutions in rest of Central America
- Contras make life difficult in North
- Eden Pastora in South

HONDURAS

- Classic "Banana Republic"
- Poorest country in Central America
- Island of Peace in Stormy Sea (?)
- Refugees from both sides
- Somoza Guardsmen & Miskito Indians on Nicaraguan border
- Rebel sympathizers on El Salvador border
- Arms passageway to El Salvador & Guatemala from Nicaragua

EL SALVADOR

- Smallest country in land area
- Second largest population
- The "14 families"
- Most industrious people
- Best potential for small/med. industries
- Fuel costs - fertilizer costs
- Low price of sugar - coffee - cotton
- Destroyed infrastructure
- The war
- The people
- Prospects for peace

GUATEMALA

- Largest country in both population and land area
- Social injustice prevails
- Feudal structure

AWARDS, MERITS, AND CITATIONS

Eagle Scout
Texas A&M Letterman, Track & Field, 1958-59-60.
Anderson-Clayton Cotton Co. Journalism Scholarship, 1961.
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Texas A&M, 1961-62.
Meritorious Honor Award, USIA, 1978.
Group Meritorious Honor Award, USICA La Paz, 1980.
Meritorious Honor Award, Department of State, 1981.
Selected for National War College, 1980-81

MEMBERSHIPS

American Foreign Service Association
National Eagle Scout Association
Texas A&M Alumni Association
Texas A&M Letterman's Association
Alpha Delta Sigma National Advertising Association
IMAGE, National Capitol Area Chapter
Association of Hispanic Federal Executives

FAMILY

Spouse: Sarah Meade Uribe
Born November 2, 1939 in Norfolk, Virginia
B.A. in Spanish and Latin American Literature
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Children:

Anne Bernadette Uribe
Born March 13, 1960 in College Station, Texas
B.A. from Texas A&M University. Presently serving
in the Peace Corps in Paraguay.

Ernesto Uribe II
Born December 31, 1961 in College Station, Texas
Senior at Yale University

August Orville Uribe
Born December 18, 1962 in Guayaquil, Ecuador
Junior at Princeton University

REFERENCES GIVEN UPON REQUEST

- Large pure indian population
- Power keg
- Best army (next only to Nicaragua)
- Proximity to Mexico's oil fields
- Refugees to Mexico/U.S.
- U.S. can best work toward social change if working with present government than if allowed to fall in leftist hands
- Social change, however, must take place - with visible U.S. encouragement

BELIZE

- Ex-British colony
- Independence less than two years
- Problems with Guatemala land claims
- Smallest population
- Good prospects for finding oil
- Because of sparse population - could be easy target for left

PROBLEMS IN REGION

- 1) Explain new Cuban strategy for uniting the leftist forces in the countries of the region, committing them to violence, arming them, training them in warfare & sabotage and using these forces for the destruction of existing governments
- 2) Cuba began this new offensive in 1978. 10 years after the death of "Che" Guevara.
- 3) Cuba's African adventures prepared them for their Central American mission
- 4) Cuba's role in 1978 in Nicaragua
- 5) Economic and social condition in the region inspired Fidel Castro to launch his new revolutionary policy in Nicaragua in 1978.

- 6) CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMY
 - Price dropped for export commodities: coffee, sugar, cocoa, cotton, bananas-
 - Price for imported oil, fertilizers & and interest rates on foreign capital increased sharply
- 7) NICARAGUA HAS BECOME THE PLATFORM FOR INTERVENTION THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA-
 - 50,000 man regular army
 - 200,000 militia
 - 2,000 Cuban military advisors
 - 70+ Soviet, East German, Bulgarian, North Korean & PLO advisors
 - Offloading point for Soviet/Cuban arms for Central America
- 8) WHAT IS AT STAKE IN EL SALVADOR
 - If El Salvador is taken over by a violent minority - what state in Central America will be able to hold on?
- 9) MAJOR STRATEGIC U.S. INTERESTS
 - Panama Canal
 - Oil in Mexico
 - Sea lanes
 - Future aircraft & missile bases aimed at U.S. targets
 - Mass refugee migration from affected areas to U.S.
 - A defeat in El Salvador would be serious blow to U.S. image worldwide.
- 10) HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THIS COMMUNIST THREAT?
 - MAKE SURE OUR FRIENDS HAVE THE MEANS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES:
 - El Salvador & Honduras must counter the Nicaragua arms buildup with
 - Arms
 - Training
 - Logistics
 - Mobility

- Economic development must go hand in hand with military assistance
- Rebuild Infrastructure
- Markets
- Free trade agreements
- Investment guarantees and Incentives for private sector
- Support of the U.S. Congress
- Not just for Central America
But for entire Caribbean Basin

- THE U.S. MUST NOT FALTER IN THE PERSUIT OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES
- COSTA RICA & HONDURAS HAVE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS
- GUATEMALA MUST BE PRODED INTO ELECTIONS
- EL SALVADOR MUST CONTINUE ON ITS ROAD TO FULL DEMOCRACY

- THE U.S. MUST COMMUNICATE TO CUBA THAT THE COST OF ESCALATING ITS INTERVENTION IN THE REGION WILL BE VERY HIGH.

- THE U.S. MUST NOT ACCEPT/NOR SHOULD THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ACCEPT THAT THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN BE MANIPULATED FROM HAVANA OR MOSCOW.

- It is important for the U.S. to continue to seek appropriate solutions in collective security, It should be understood that although the countries of the region do not want U.S. domination, they do want to know whether the U.S. has the will and the ability to deal with events and to produce outcomes compatible with our common interests and values. It is most important for the U.S. to demonstrate that we do have the will and ability.

Thank you

RESUME

Ernesto Uribe
3406 Cypress Drive
Falls Church, Va. 22042

Telephone: (703) 573-9581

Born 14 August 1937 in Hebbbronville, Texas
Legal residence: 312 N. Mendiola
Laredo, Texas 78040

Foreign Service Information Officer Class FS-1
U.S. Information Agency

Presently serving in Washinton, D.C. as chief, Latin American division, Office of Research of the U.S. Information Agency.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Advisor for the United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 1981-1982

Attended the U.S. National War College of the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. 1980-1981

Counselor for Public Affairs (USICA), American Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia, 1978-80.

First Secretary, Public Affairs Officer (USICA) American Embassy, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 1975-78.

Inspector, Office of the Chief Inspector, U.S. Information Agency, Washington, D.C., 1974-75.

Regional Program Officer for Latin America, Office of Latin American Affairs, USIA, Washington, D.C., 1973-75.

Binational Center Director (Second Secretary, American Embassy) USIA, Centro Colombo-Americano, Bogota, Colombia, 1970-73.

Branch Public Affairs Officer, USIA, U.S. Consulate, Baranquilla, Colombia, 1969-70.

Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, USIA, (Second Secretary, American Embassy) in charge of cultural programming, Bogota, Colombia, 1966-69