00638

1980/03/30
Aide Memoire

- You know that the USG desires a close and mutually cooperative relationship with Guatamala which promotes mutual interests.
- The human rights situation in Guatemala is the principal impediment to the establishment of such a relationship.
- The USG has received and finds reassuring first-hand reports of at the highest levels of the Guatamalan government that the activities of the death squads were being halted.
- On this basis of these assurances, the USG has taken tentative steps to re-establish a supply relationship with the Guatamalan Army Forces - psychological training for
STUDENT PILOTS AND THE SALE OF A LARGE QUANTITY OF MILITARY HECKS AND GUNS.

- The USG is further disturbed by the domestic increase in political killings and disappearances of both the Democratic and Liberal left over the past decade.

- The USG was shocked by the discovery of a mass clandestine grave near Comalapa where victims bore the physical signs of death squad executions.

- While the press app.

- We...the USG believes that individuals in authority in the COG have shown and are involved in these death squad killings.
While an investigation of the Comalapa discovery is underway, such investigations under taken in the past have never produced tangible results. Resolved in the arrest and trial of those responsible.

The UN does not understand how anyone in your Guatemalan government could engage in or condone such killings.

So long as elements in the Guatemalan government are implicated in such violent acts, closer relations between our two governments will continue to be jeopardized.

Let the US apply in the spirit of friendship that you want the full weight of your authority to stop these killings, whatever
Their origin, only your decisive personal intervention can ensure that these abuses are known.

Our expectation is that the Guatemalan Government will take immediate steps to safeguard the basic rights of individual irrespectively of their political persuasion, and that these steps will be clearly visible both domestically and internationally.

In the absence of such steps, the U.S. will feel compelled to condemn publicly the activities of these "death squads" and to note the failure of the Government to act decisively to halt them.
- In addition US law would in the light of such an announcement make it very difficult for the USG to approve any new ship or movement nor transfer troops for Guanakan military.

- In the event decisive action is undertaken to stop the death squads then the USG is prepared to take certain steps leading to the gradual restoration of military supply relationships between our armed forces.
TRANSCRIBED COPY FOLLOWS
AIDE MEMOIRE

- You know that the USG desires a close and cooperative relationship with Guatemala which promotes mutual interests.

- The human rights situation in Guatemala is the principal impediment to the establishment of such a relationship.

- The USG had received last fall assurances from officials at the highest levels of the Guatemalan Government that the activities of the death squads were being halted.

- On the basis of those assurances the USG made tentative steps to re-establish a supply relationship with the Guatemalan Armed Forces - physiological training for
student pilots and the sale of a large quantity of military trucks and jeeps.

- The USG is, therefore, disturbed by the drastic increase in political killings and disappearances of both the Democratic and extreme left over the past month.

- The USG is shocked by the discovery of a mass clandestine grave near Compalada where victims bore the physical signs of death squad executions.

- The USG believes that individuals in authority in the GOG have been and are involved in these death squad killings.
- While an investigation of the Compalada discovery is in progress, such investigations under taken in the past have never resulted in the arrest and trial of those responsible.

- The USG does not understand how anyone in the Guatemalan Government could engage in or condone such killings.

- So long as elements in the Guatemalan Government are implicated in such violent acts, closer relations between our two governments will continue to be impeded.

- The USG asks in the spirit of friendship that you exert the full weight of your authority to stop these killings, whatever
their origin. Only your decisive personal intervention can ensure that these abuses are ended. Our expectation is that the

-Guatemalan Government will take immediate steps to safeguard the basic rights of individuals irrespective of their political persuasion, and that these steps will be clearly visible both domestically and internationally.

- In the absence of such steps the USG will feel compelled to condemn publicly the activities of the "Death Squads" and to note the failure of the Government to act decisively to halt them.
- In addition US law would in the light of such an announcement make it very difficult for the USG to approve any new shipments of whatever nature to Guatemalan military.

- In the event decisive action is undertaken to stop the death squads then the USG is prepared to take certain steps leading to the restoration of a military supply relationship between our respective Armed Forces.