CHARGE TO

ROM CLASSIFICATION Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA CN: 621 E.O. 33652X 12065: GDS 1/25/88 (NEGROPONTE, TAGS: MARR, XL, XK SUBJECT: DOD BUDGET TO REQUEST FUNDS FOR WESTERN CARIBBEAN AIRFIELDS **ACTION:** SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE INFO: **MEMBASSY BOGOTA** IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE BECKER TEGUCIGALPA 621 DECAPTIONED EXDIS REF: **STATE 18912** SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT Embassy Tegucigalpa replies to questions raised para six reftel are as follows. Host government would be very receptive to use of DOD funds for airfield improvement at both La Mesa and Goloson. AMB We believe an agreement granting U.S. military aircraft DCM and associated forces access to improved airfields could POL readily be negotiated. We would in fact not rule out possibility that host government would agree to constant DAO MILGP use of airfields by U.S. forces and believe that if

MANAZAXNOX NATIONAL STATES AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: DRAFTED BY:

instructed to raise this matter with host government this

AMB: JDNegroponte: kil AMB: JDNegroponte 1-25-82

CHRON

MILGP:Col.Goodwin

DAO:Col.Bollert

POL: DShaw

(Draft)

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OPTIONAL FORM 153 (Formerly FS-413) January 1975 Dept. of State

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (V) Release/() Excise () Deny (V) Declassify Exemption

Classification

should be part of our initial negotiating position.

- 5. Implementation of proposal would have favorable political impact on Honduran military and body politic. There would undoubtedly be some adverse reaction from a vocal minority; but we believe such reaction would be within host government ability to contain and in the implementation of proposal long run/would strengthen government's hand vis-a-vis these types of critics.
 - 6. Strategic impact would be viewed here as significant, offsetting to some extent Nicaraguan buildup and alleviating concern about Nicaraguan acquisition of access MIG-21's. Such U.S. MENINGER would not repeat not in our view be substitute for upgrading and modifying Honduran Air Force fighter capability.

 - 8. We do not foresee any serious difficulties in the negotiating process.
- 9. Department please repeat CINCLANT NORFOLK VA,
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PANAMA AND JCS.

 NEGROPONTE



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