1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. As prelude or companion to amnesty program described

refTel, Department and Embassy San Salvador may wish to

consider desirability of urging upon Salvadoran Government

initiation systematic program to repatriate Salvadoran

refugees now located elsewhere in Central America back

to their homeland. Such voluntary repatriation program

would fit in extremely well with both an amnesty and nascent

displaced person program we understand now underway within

Salvador.
3. In case of Salvador refugee population in Honduras, we note that little if any GOES effort has been made to motivate return to Salvador. Salvadoran Government passivity on this issue contrasts with Nicaraguan Government approach which has been to make question of Miskito refugees an issue of negotiation between GON and GOH.

4. As first step, we would suggest that GOES, USG or other interested governments request that UNHCR or ICRC take census of Salvador refugee population here to ascertain number interested in voluntary repatriation. Concurrently Salvadoran Government may wish to be giving thought to the kinds of information about terms and conditions of repatriation which it would wish to make known to potential returnees and to the international organizations.

5. Large number of Salvadoran refugees here who left to avoid the crossfire rather than for strictly political reasons would suggest that a well structured repatriation program should have very reasonable prospect of success.