FROM
Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA

TO

CLASSIFICATION
CN: 1336

E.O. 11652
TAGS: DOD FUNDING FOR AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN
SUBJECT: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
ACTION:
INFO:
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USCINCSo QUARRY HEIGHTS PA
CINCINNATI NORFOLK VA
JCS WASHDC

SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 1336

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

REF: (A) STATE 43594; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1278

DECEPTED

1. SEE ENTIRE TEXT.

2. Ambassador discussed airfield improvement and access proposal with President Suazo again on February 19.

3. After lengthy discussion, Dr. Suazo agreed in X for High Command principle and is prepared to receive small negotiating team to discuss details of an agreement per paragraph 5

STATE 29645.

4. But there is a hitch.

5. President Suazo does not repeat not wish any publicity for this exercise until negotiations are completely wrapped up. What Suazo is seeking to avoid is unnecessary

AMB:JDNegroponte:kjl

DRAFTING DATE 2-19-82
TEL. EXT. 211

DEPT OF STATE, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Graefeld, Dir.

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1973
Dept. of State

CLASSIFICATION:

V Release O Exercise D Deny D Declassify
Date 6/1/81

Exemption
debate in his congress which could have effect of delaying or otherwise frustrating negotiations. Suazo apparently does not share Colonel Alvarez' view reported ref tel (B) that access agreement will necessarily require congressional approval.

6. In light of foregoing, it appears to us that best course of action would be for DOD witnesses to avoid specifying intended recipient countries until negotiations are complete. Alternatively, reply could be provided on confidential basis pending completion of negotiations.

7. If foregoing approach acceptable to Washington, please advise proposed dates of visit by small negotiating team headed by PM so that we may begin to arrange negotiating schedule mutually acceptable to USG and GOH.

8. FYI: Ambassador did not repeat not/question of technical team to make preliminary survey of airfields as proposed ref tel (A). Believe it preferable to know whether approach outlined above is acceptable to Washington before survey team is invited to come; but we would propose to raise matter ASAP with Honduran High Command as soon as we receive Washington's reply to foregoing. END FYI.