

TELEGRAM

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FROM Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA		CLASSIFICATION SECRET UNCLASSIFIED	
E.O. KX632	12065: RDS 2/6/88 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M	CN: 986	7
TAGS:	MASS, HO		
SUBJECT:	DOD FUNDING FOR AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN		
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE		
INFO:	AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY KINGSTON AMEMBASSY MANAGUA		
	SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 986		
	EXDIS	DECAPTIONED	
REF:	STATE 29645		
	1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT		
	2. Accompanied by Defense Attache and Milgrp Commander, Ambassador made points contained para four reftel to Honduran CINC Colonel Alvarez afternoon February 5.		
	3. Alvarez was very receptive. His only technical reservation was with respect to selection of airfields.		
AMB DCM POL-2 MILGP DAO	He wondered if we would be prepared to consider completion and improvement of Comayagua which is strictly military field. Taxiways and parking areas are complete; and three thousand of the nine thousand five hundred feet of the runway also complete. Alvarez said he would prefer		
DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 2-6-82	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte
CLEARANCES:			

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

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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upgrading Comayagua to La Mesa. Another possibility he mentioned would be to consider upgrading all three. Ambassador responded that these ideas seemed to have merit and should certainly be discussed further after agreement in principle reached and negotiating team has come down.

4. Alvarez also reiterated what he had said to Senator Helms on January 27 to effect that Honduran military would welcome stationing of our air forces under joint-use arrangement. Ambassador made absolutely clear distinction between such concept and access agreement being proposed reftel. Question of other country being proposed did not arise.

5. As next step, Alvarez asked that Ambassador raise matter directly with President Suazo. Alvarez believes agreement in principle should come from the President; but he expects detailed negotiations to be handled by Military High Command. Ambassador seeking meeting with President Suazo soonest.

6. In reply para five reftel, without complete awareness of complexities involved cannot predict length of negotiations. Would point out, however, that Colonel Alvarez is very businesslike and not likely to allow matters to drag out unnecessarily.

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7. In regard to para six reftel, we do not visualize any additional quids likely to be raised by GOH in this specific negotiation. They are likely, however, to view this development in context of our growing military interest in the region and expectations with respect to a possible Section ~~XX~~ 506 action and future FMS levels could well rise.

8. COMMENT: Alvarez' comment regarding Comayagua makes sense from a variety of points of view, including security, remoteness from ~~XXX~~ major population centers and weather. It should be looked at seriously. As for his idea of fixing all three airfields, while possibly meritorious from his perspective could conceivably result in dilution of our own military purposes. In any event, not a matter which need be resolved this instant.

9. DEPARTMENT: Please repeat USCINCSO, CINCLANT and JCS. Also request permission communicate laterally with military addressees this subject.

NEGROPONTE