TELEGRAM

FROM
Ambassador TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11971
TAGS:
12065: GDS 12/23/81 (NEGROPONTE; John D.) OR-M
SFUM, SREF, HO, ES
SUBJECT:
DEATH OF CARTAS PROMOTEER

ACTION:
SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:
Ambassador GUATEMALA
Ambassador MANAGUA
Ambassador MEXICO
Ambassador SAN JOSE
Ambassador SAN SALVADOR
Ambassador PANAMA
USMISSION GENEVA

AMB: JDNEGROPONTE: kjl
DRAFTING DATE: 12-28-81
TEL. EXT.: 211
CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
AMB: JDNEGROPONTE

CLEARANCES:
DAO: Maj. J. Clark

EXDIS

REF:
(a) TEGUCIGALPA 9211; (b) STATE 333024 (NOTAL)

1. [EXCLUDED] - ENTIRE TEXT

2. Prompted by concerns raised ref tel B, Ambassador called on Honduran Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Chinchilla December 22 to share impressions and conclusions gained from Ambassador's December 2 visit to refugee locations on Honduras/Salvador border. Army Attaché also attended meeting.

3. Ambassador made three main points: first, appreciation

DECLASSIFIED

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
(✓) Release (✓) Exercise (✓) Deny (✓) Declassify
Date 12/1/98 Exemption
for generous and humanitarian GOH response in providing
shelter for Salvadoran refugees; second, our strong endorsement
of decision to move refugees away from border on urgent
basis in interest of their safety; and third, importance
of prompt and thorough official investigation of any
incidents of violence.

4. Chinchilla related some of the history of this issue
and its complexities. Until recently principal complicating
factor had been inadequate measures in force to prevent
use of camps as refuge by Salvadoran guerrillas and as
source of food and medicine. Over time, and within
personnel resources available to Honduran military, they
imposed
had/better controls and safeguards.
But, he added, GOH still confronted by problem of “interested
parties” seeking to exploit issue for political purposes.
He specifically mentioned recent efforts by Bianca Jagger
and others and attendant publicity.

5. On question of recent death of Caritas promoter
Chinchilla said the GOH investigation has not rpt not
been completed; but he did not rule out possibility that
Caritas worker had been killed by Salvadoran guerrillas
disguised in government uniforms. The reason he put
forward was the existence of allegations by eyewitnesses
that armed persons in question had been wearing "paramilitary
uniforms". Chinchilla said that to best of his knowledge
no rpt no Salvadoran paramilitary operate near the region in question.

6. COMMENT: We do not know what effect Ambassador's call might have on GOH investigation. Chinchilla certainly got the message of our interest and concern. He took aboard our comments in a serious and friendly spirit and was not in any way defensive about the matter.

NEGROPONTE