E.O. XXXX
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: IN HONDURAS POSSIBLE HONDURAN TRAINING FOR SALVADORAN FORCES
ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

DECAPIOTED

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO: JCS, SECDEF, USCINCOSO QUARRY HTS PN

REF: JOHNSTONE/NEGROPONTE MARCH 9 TELECON

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT
2. Per ref telecom, I raised question of possible U.S. training for Salvadoran forces on Honduran soil with Armed Forces Commander Alvarez morning March 10. I mentioned to Alvarez that a variety of training might be involved and that numbers in question could reach as high as two battalions at any given time. I told Alvarez that I realized such a project might have some political costs for Hondurans but on balance I was certain they would see such an idea as in the mutual Salvadoran, Honduran, and U.S. interests.
3. Alvarez responded tentatively by saying that he personally...
would be willing to talk to a team of U.S. experts to
explore in further detail precisely what might be
involved. He clearly did not reject the idea out of
hand.

4. We left matters that I would raise idea with Doctor
Suazo to ensure that he did not have any overriding
political objections, after which we would consult as to
the appropriate next step.

5. I have appointment to see Doctor Suazo afternoon
March Ten. Suggested course of action will be recommended
as appropriate following that meeting.

During same conversation, Alvarez recalled in recent
meeting with DASD Nestor Sanchez in which he inquired about
the acquisition of two Chinook helicopters. Alvarez said
he wanted the XXXXXXXX Chinooks badly and wondered if
I could reiterate his request XXXXXXXX
to Washington. I promised to do so.