12356: N/A
SOFN
WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

ARA ONLY
FOR ENDERS FROM NEGROPONTE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA XXXX 82 11229

1. I commend Shep Lowman's/letter to the Washington Post
to your attention. It is not so different in tone and style,
I believe, from a number of statements emanating from ARA
bureau in past twelve months. It represents an effective
defense against a positively silly article by Chris Dickey.

2. Other letters of this kind would appear to have had an
eventually moderating effect on press coverage of events
here. A strong private reaction by us to Lynda Schuster's
September piece in the Wall Street Journal contributed in
our judgment to a much more balanced op-ed item by George
Mellohan in the WSJ's December 28 edition. We are even
getting some positive reactions back from Newsweek
in response to a strong letter (not for publication) to Mrs. Graham.

3. So, I would hope you might reconsider turndown contained in STATE 356445 and concur in Shep sending his letter. It need not be for publication and we could so state explicitly in letter. Also, in order to take into account any specific Washington objections or problems with the text, we would welcome any suggested changes which you believe would make it more useful or readable.

4. Warm regards.

NEGROPONTE