INDICATE CHARGE TO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA LASSIFICATION 1 94 168

E.O.XXXXX

X 7/8/88 12065:

GDS MMXXXXXXX (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M

ON: 5638

TAGS: SUBJECT:

MILI, PTER, SOPN, HO, ES

GOH POSITION ON MILITARY COOPERATION WITH EL SALVADOR

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AMEMBASSY MANAGUA AMEMBASSY MEXICO AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

IDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA

REF:

TEGUCIGALPA 5465

ENTIRE TEXT

Reftel reported Honduran sensitivity to characterization of recent military operations on Honduran-Salvadoran border. as open collaboration with Salvadoran military.

AMB DCM POL-2 DAO MILGP USICA

At meeting with Ambassador afternoon July 8, Honduran Foreign Minister volunteered his own deep concern over way in which recent Honduran military operations in defense of sovereignty had been characterized as cooperation with Salvador. He specifically mentioned several recent Voice

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DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT. 7-8-82 211

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB: JDNegroponte

CLEARANCES:

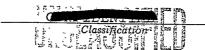
OPTIONAL FORM 153 (Formerly FS-413) January 1975 Dept. of State

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (1) Release () Excise () Deny (4) Declassify Exemption

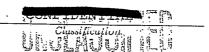
of America reports to such effect which, in his view, added credibility to critics' charges that Honduras being used as springboard for operations in support of GOES. Ambassador agreed with Foreign Minister that such characterizations were indeed unfortunate and that obviously what was involved was entirely under rubric of defense of Honduran sovereignty. Ambassador suggested, however, that problem had been exacerbated by background remarks by GOH military officials themselves. Ambassador cited example of July 4 NYT Ray Bonner story in which Honduran military officers are quoted in precisely the way we would all prefer to avoid. Foreign Minister agreed; but returned to question of VOA and expressed hope that we could find more objective way of handling matter in future.

4. On related matter, XAK Ambassador observed that recent operations on border had brought home to him more than ever the importance of resolving disputed territory sooner than the five years envisaged by Salvador-Honduras Peace Treaty. As long as border remains in dispute, Salvador guerrillas will take advantage of disputed areas for safehaven, refuge, etc. Once borders are categorically defined, then critics will not be able to muddy the waters with regard to Honduran or Salvadoran operations into these "no-man's-lands".



- Classification:
- 6. COMMENT: While resolution of disputed areas is matter of mutual Salvadoran-Hondman interest, it would appear that at this point Salvador has even greater stake in speeding resolution disputed border. It would appear that the real KKHARK tradeoff in this instance would be Salvadoran willingness to bend over backwards to resolve "bolsones" problem in exchange for truly effective Honduran patrolking right up to the mutually agreed border.

NEGROPONTE



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