EXIS

DECAPIED

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PRTL, PETS, NO, ES
SUBJECT: TRAINING OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC

REF: TEGUCICALPA 11893

1. ❡ — ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION MESSAGE. PRESS GUIDANCE REQUIRED.

3. AT MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA MORN-
ING SEPTEMBER 25, PAZ INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HONDURAN
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO "SUSPEND"
FURTHER TRAINING OF SALVADORAN FORCES PENDING AGREEMENT
ON BROADER ASPECTS OF U.S./HONDURAN BILATERAL RELATION-
SHIP. (SEPTELS REPORT CONTENT OF CONVERSATION WITH PAZ
IN GREATER DETAIL.)

4. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FACING US IS QUESTION OF HOW TO
HANDLE RMTC OPERATIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 25. EMBASSY
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED SEPTEL AND TEGUCICALPA 11542.
THERE IS ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF PRESS HANDLING. WE BE-
LIEVE OBJECTIVE OF ANY PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE TO
ISOLATE RMTC ISSUE FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR POLICY
HERE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO WANT
TO LIMIT ANY POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO HONDURAN/
SALVADORAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. IN FOREGOING CONNECTION, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT IT
BE AUTHORIZED TO USE PRESS GUIDANCE ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES.

6. QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT HONDURAS HAS REFUSED
TO ALLOW SALVADORAN FORCES TO BE TRAINED AT THE RMTC
AFTER SEPTEMBER 25?

− ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN HOLDING DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE GOH WITH THE VIEW TO ESTABLISH A
PERMANENT RMTC WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ALL
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE. — WE EXPECT THESE
DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE. MEANWHILE, THE GOH HAS
QUESTED THAT NO ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAINED AT THE RMTC PENDING FINAL AGREEMENT. WE ORE RESPECT THIS HONDURAN DECISION.

"QUESTION: WILL HONDURANS CONTINUE TO TRAIN AT THE PC?

"ANSWER: FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WE EXPECT TRAIN- AND FOR HONDURAN FORCES TO CONTINUE. NEGROPONTE

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