

File R

ACTION: USIS INFO: AMF DC: POL-C

VZCZCF0381  
PP RJEHTG  
LE HURETO #8213 24-2129  
ZNR UUUUU  
P 252127 JUL 83  
FM USINFO WASHDC

LOC: 29 133  
25 JUL 83 2142  
CN: 02-17  
CHRG: USIS  
DIST: INFO

TO ALL AF WF MONITORING POSTS PRIORITY  
BT

UNCLAS

USINFO

USIS PAO/IO FROM P/PFL MCGARCIA/QUINTERO

EO 12333 N/A

SUBJECT: NYT ON HONDURAS EMBASSY (23)  
(FOLLOWING IS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION)  
HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM 23 JULY NEW YORK TIMES STORY HEADED  
"U.S. AND HONDURAS: A GROWING EMBASSY REFLECTS ROLE IN AREA"  
(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

TEGUCIGALPA -- THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN HONDURAS, ONCE A FOREIGN SERVICE BACKWATER, HAS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS BECOME THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN MISSION IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

TO HONDURANS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN THIS CAPITAL, THE EMBASSY -- TWO LARGE AND WELL-FORTIFIED BUILDINGS FACING EACH OTHER ACROSS ONE OF TEGUCIGALPA'S MAIN THOROUGHFARES -- HAS BECOME THE SYMBOL OF THE RAPIDLY GROWING AMERICAN PRESENCE IN HONDURAS, THE COUNTRY THAT IS NOW THE FOCAL POINT OF WASHINGTON'S POLICY IN THE REGION.

IT IS FROM HONDURAS, WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND HONDURAN OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SAY, THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS WAGING A PSYCHOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT OF NEIGHBORING NICARAGUA.

BY THE EMBASSY'S OWN COUNT, THE UNITED STATES NOW HAS CLOSE TO 300 MILITARY ADVISERS, TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS IN HONDURAS, NOT COUNTING THE EIGHT OFFICERS AND NINE ELISTED MEN ATTACHED TO THE MILITARY ATTACHE'S OFFICE AND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP.

THE EMBASSY STAFF NUMBERS OVER 140 AT LEAST 35 OF THEM WITH DIPLOMATIC RANK. MOST OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS HERE, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, HAVE FEWER THAN SIX FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS. WASHINGTON ALSO HAS A STRONG AND EXPERIENCED AMBASSADOR, JOHN D. NEGROPONTE, WHO IS OFTEN RUMORED TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR HIGHER POLICY-MAKING POSTS IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION.

FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO THE EMBASSY WAS UPGRADED FROM A CLASS 4 TO A CLASS 2 MISSION, PUTTING IT ON A PAR WITH UNITED STATES EMBASSIES IN SUCH CITIES AS LIMA AND BUENOS AIRES. ONLY THOSE IN MEXICO CITY AND BRASILIA, CLASS 1 EMBASSIES, OUTRANK IT IN LATIN AMERICA. THE EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR HAS 102 PERMANENT AMERICAN STAFF EMPLOYEES AND 100 TEMPORARY DUTY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING THE MILITARY ADVISERS TRAINING SALVADORAN ARMY TROOPS FIGHTING AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS THERE...

*Key at least they call me strong and experienced*  
*instead of all those nasty things Alawmeh said, Ah,*  
*lets keep*

