E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE ON POLL OF AMERICANS' ATTITUDE TOWARD CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

1. N.Y. TIMES ON JULY 1 CARRIED STORY BY ADAM CLYMER ON A TIMES/CBS POLL OF AMERICAN OPINION VIS-A-VIS ADMINISTRATION'S CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY. THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE AND THE GRAPHS USED TO ILLUSTRATE IT ARE IN OPEN CONTRADICTION.

2. IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH, CLYMER WRITES THAT "NO CURRENT UNITED STATES POLICY OR ANTICIPATED PROPOSAL, FROM NEGOTIATIONS TO THE SENDING OF AMERICAN TROOPS, COMMANDS MAJORITY SUPPORT."

3. YET THE GRAPHS SHOW THAT, WHEN THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE AN OPINION ARE ELIMINATED, A MAJORITY OF THOSE APPEARING INFORMED SUPPORT THE "TRIPLING OF U.S. MILITARY AID" IN ORDER "TO PREVENT A COMMUNIST OVERTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR." AMONG THOSE APPEARING "UNINFORMED," 43 PERCENT SUPPORTED THE ABOVE PROPOSITION AND ONLY 32 PERCENT OPPOSED IT.

4. NEVER, HOWEVER, DOES CLYMER MENTION THIS IN THE TEXT. HE CONTINUALLY MAINTAINS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD THE REGION IS UNPOPULAR WITH A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WHEN THIS SIMPLY IS FALSE.

5. THE CONCLUSIONS-OF-THE POLL, WHICH INDICATE THAT MORE AMERICANS SUPPORT CURRENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD EL SALVADOR THAN OPPOSE IT, WOULD NO DOUBT COMPLEMENT OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. AT THE SAME TIME A FLAGRANTLY MISLEADING ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN AMERICA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER, WOULD BE EXPOSED. ARCO

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