

Chron A 489

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LB
VZCZCTGT *
RR RUEHC RVISBG RUEHCV RUEHGT RUESMG RUEHML
RUEHME RUEHZ? RUEHSJ RUEHSN RUEAJCS RUEAJCS
RUEOEHA RUEHDT
DE RUEHTG #1124 286 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 131513Z OCT 83

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: PROG 10/12/83
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
ERFD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AME DCM POL(2)

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 7399
INFO RUESBG / AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1956
RUEHCV / AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1532
RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1180
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5431
RUEHML / AMEMBASSY MANILA 2066
RUEHME / AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1399
RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8367
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8781
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9659
RUEAJCS / SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC
RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
RUEHDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1391
BT

TEGUCIGALPA 11124

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: HO
SUBJECT: GENERAL ALVAREZ ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT

2. I HAD THE OCCASION TO TRAVEL WITH HONDURAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL ALVAREZ FROM TEGUCIGALPA TO CEIBA ON HIS AIRCRAFT OCTOBER EIGHT EN ROUTE TO MEET WITH GENERAL WICKHAM.

3. THE SUBJECT OF EVENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES CAME UP DURING OUR FLIGHT AND ALVAREZ REVEALED WHAT TO ME WAS A SURPRISINGLY DETAILED AWARENESS OF EVENTS THERE AND MARCOS' BACKGROUND. ALVAREZ SAID MARCOS' BIG MISTAKE WAS IN EXTENDING HIS MANDATE BACK IN 1972 IN THE FIRST PLACE; AND HE DEPLORED THE SENTIMENTS OF AMBITION WHICH HE PRESUMED CAUSED MARCOS AND HIS WIFE TO HANG ON SO FIERCELY NOW. THESE REMARKS WERE FOLLOWED BY A SHORT SOLILOQUY ON THE VIRTUES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE OF ALTERNATION OF POWER. COLONEL ROSALES ABELLA, THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES, WAS ALSO ALONG AND INTERJECTED SOME COMMENTS ABOUT SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND CHILE. ALVAREZ REACTED THAT PINOCHET IS "HEADED THAT WAY TOO".

4. I REPORT THESE REMARKS BY ALVAREZ BECAUSE THEY WERE MADE IN SUCH A RELAXED AND SPONTANEOUS CONTEXT. HE HAD NO IDEA I WOULD REPORT THEM AND HE FEELS NO NEED TO IMPRESS ME. THEY WERE, I BELIEVE, REFLECTIVE OF HIS COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALVAREZ' DEDICATION TO DEMOCRACY IS FREQUENTLY QUESTIONED BY CRITICS OF OUR POLICIES HERE. THE CRITICISM IS

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/2/98 Exemption

[REDACTED]

MOTIVATED EITHER BY A STEREOTYPE OF POLITICAL LIFE IN HONDURAS AS UNDULY INFLUENCED BY THE MILITARY, IN DISREGARD OF THE FACTS. OR OUT OF SHEER IGNORANCE OF THE FACT THAT ALVAREZ ON REPEATED PUBLIC OCCASIONS HAS PLEDGED HIS COMPLETE LOYALTY TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THESE STATEMENTS ARE COMPLETELY IGNORED BY ALVAREZ' DETRACTORS.

5. THE MOST RECENT OF THESE PUBLIC REMARKS CAME DURING AN INTERVIEW LATER IN THE SAME DAY WHEN WE WERE IN LA PAZ VISITING DOCTOR SUAZO. THE FULL ACCDUNT IS IN FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PA101657. THE EXCHANGE WHICH CAUGHT MY EYE IS RIGHT UP FRONT IN THE INTERVIEW AND GOES AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE INTERVIEWER: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO RULES THE COUNTRY?

ALVAREZ: I GET TIRED OF REPEATING THIS. I WILL REPEAT IT AGAIN. THERE ARE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT. THE ARMED FORCES ARE SUBORDINATE TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WHICH IS HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHO IS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE GIVES ME THE ORDERS. END QUOTE. NEGROPONTE

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