

Secretary could also be involved in some way, whether in the field or in Washington. Sometime later this year after the Bipartisan Commission visit could be a good time for such a get-together.

4. I trust Jim Michel and/or Craig Johnstone advised you of my meetings with Norman Minetta and Dave McCurdy. Minetta said that, as far as he is concerned, Boland/Zablocki amendment is a dead letter for time being. He thought Korean airliner incident and Lebanon had overshadowed matters and, barring unforeseen circumstances, continued funding for special project in FY-84 would be approved. At my subsequent meeting with McCurdy he told me he had advised Boland to leave the matter alone and content himself with psychological victory of July. These struck me as hopeful conversations although at the time I did my best to conceal any sign of satisfaction.

5. On related matter, I think draft finding as shown to me by Dewey Claridge on September 12 was not rpt not comprehensive enough. It focussed almost exclusively on interdiction. Mr. Casey explained to me that this was because he wanted to do nothing which might jeopardize program's continued funding. I sincerely believe that case can be made that the more complete the finding the broader the likely Congressional support. I base this opinion on the argument that one of the principal objections to the finding is that it does not accurately or completely portray what is actually happening on the ground. In other words, the finding needs to be hardened in order to be made more

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acceptable. Given apparent shift in Congressional mood, even those in Administration who question this argument may not be so reticent.

6. One final matter. Hope your schedule will permit a visit to Doctor Suazo at Walter Reed. I think he would genuinely appreciate the opportunity to review matters with you and I am certain you would find a talk with him worthwhile.

7. Warm regards.

Amb. Negroponte:kjl
9-20-83

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