

TELEGRAM

Oct 25 1984 02

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FROM	AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
DECL:	10/25/88
TAGS:	PINT, SNAR, MASS, HO, CA
SUBJECT:	MEETING WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO:	AMEMBASSY BOGOTA AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AMEMBASSY MANAGUA AMEMBASSY MEXICO AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR USCINCSO QUARRY HTS. PN AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
DIST:	AMB DCM POL ECOM DAO USCIN MILGP XXX CONS CHRON DEA
	CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 9345
	1. ENTIRE TEXT.
	2. Ambassador and political counselor met on October 19 with General Gustavo Alvarez, Commander XXXXXX of the Honduran Armed Forces, to review a number of current topics:
	3. <u>Torres Arias</u> : Alvarez appeared relaxed concerning recent U.S. press stories which have revived the controversy created by Torres Arias' accusations against Alvarez. The General said he had nothing to hide. He was concerned that there were secrets of state to which both Alvarez and Torres were privy which Torres might decide to reveal, but the danger would be

CN: 9345

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CLEARANCES:			

DEA: T. ZEPEDA

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
() Release (X) Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/2/98 Exemption 1.5 (b)

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
(X) Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 1/1/83 Declassify on 10/25/07 Reason 1.5 (b)

to the security of the state not to Alvarez personally. Alvarez noted that the period in which Torres had access to important information was one in which both he and Torres were subordinates of President and Commander in Chief Paz Garcia -- Torres' protector -- who must bear the responsibility for any decisions made.

4. Alvarez recounted that a brother-in-law of Torres who is an Army physician recently visited Torres in Miami. The physician related that Torres said he had abandoned his post as Attache in Buenos Aires and gone into exile because of fear that Alvarez was planning to assassinate him. Alvarez commented that if Torres really had such a fear, it was strange that his reaction was to make provocative public accusations against his supposed persecutor.

5. The Ambassador informed Alvarez that the State Department, in response to questions on our revoking of Torres' visa, had publicly stated that Torres' had been under investigation for a year for suspected involvement in narcotics trafficking. Ambassador and PolCouns said that according to our information, Torres was in the U.S. and has applied for political asylum, a process which is often very prolonged. We explained that the extradition treaty between Honduras and the U.S. would permit

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extradition for narcotiss trafficking or murder but excluded offenses which could be interpreted as being of a political nature, such as the crime of treason for which Torres is formally charged in Honduras. Ambassador said he would be meeting with the Honduran Attorney General to discuss this situation and to inquire if any consideration had been given to indicting Torres for an extraditable offense.



1.5(b)

7. War Rumors: Alvarez said he had recently met with

business leaders in San Pedro Sula to dispel some of the rumors circulating in the international press concerning a possible outbreak of hostilities between Honduras and Nicaragua. Alvarez said he had explained to the businessmen that President Suazo had given him no report no instructions to prepare for any attack against Nicaragua and that the mission of the Honduran Armed forces was solely defensive. He said he had stressed that a decision to take offensive action against another country was one which could only be made by the President and the Congress, not by the Armed Forces,

8. Possible Purchase of Canadian Planes: Alvarez mentioned that as we were aware the GOH has ~~NOT~~ for some time been discussing with the Canadian Government the possible purchase of six Buffalo transport planes. Alvarez said the latest development is a preliminary indication from Canada that it would expect a downpayment of \$17 million for the total \$52 million cost.

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