

To: NSJMP --CPUA

*** Reply to note of 09/17/86 08:15

NOTE FROM: OLIVER NORTH

Subject: President Azcona

UNCLASSIFIED

A Presidential call memo has been prepared, and after much wrangling w/ Ray, I have concurred. The problem w/ the Bueso case is that Bueso was the man with whom Negroponte, Gorman, Clarridge and I worked out arrangements.

Only Gorman, Clarridge and I were fully aware of all that Bueso was doing on our behalf. Subsequent to the Alvarez ouster, Bueso was assigned as MilAttache in Chile and at one point last year was invited to meet w/ a group of disgruntled Hondurans who it turns out were plotting the assassination of Pres. Suazo. When the FBI broke the case Bueso was indicted for conspiracy. His legal advice was apparently to keep his mouth shut and everything wd be worked out. Although subpoenas were prepared for Gorman, Clarridge, Negroponte and North, they were never issued because Bueso pleaded guilty (on advice of counsel). Several months ago Azcona wrote to the President, and was never answered. He now is going to call the President to ask if Bueso can be pardoned. Bueso is due to report to Tallahassee Fla to start serving sentence on Sep 25. He apparently still believed up until yesterday that he wd be going to the minimum security facility at Eglin for a short period (days or weeks) and then walk free. Bueso's wife has implored Azcona to do something and he now wants an answer to his letter. I do not know who has action on the letter, but we (USG) should have answered some time ago. Our major concern - Gorman, North, Clarridge - is that when Bueso finds out what is really happening to him, he will break his longstanding silence about the Nic Resistance and other sensitive operations. Gorman, Clarridge, Ravell, Trott and Abrams will cabal quietly in the morning to look at options: pardon, clemency, deportation, reduced sentence. Objective is to keep Bueso from feeling like he was lied to in legal process and start spilling the beans. Will advise.

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To: NSRFB -CPUA

NOTE FROM: OLIVER NORTH

SUBJECT: Bueso Rosa

According to what I have been able to put together, our best option appears to be to have Justice go back in to the U.S. Attorney and the Judge after the other defendants have been tried, convicted and sentenced and quietly discuss a petition from the Defense attorney that the sentence be further reduced and that he be remanded to custodial probation for the remainder of his sentence to a responsible authority in Honduras. He wd then be deported back to Honduras. None of this can take place until after the remaining trial has been held (the other four have been tried, convicted and sentenced w/ the American, Lechinian, receiving 30yrs). In the interim, Justice/FBI will see to it that Norm Carlson changes the venue of sentence from Tallahassee to Eglin (as the judge had originally recommended) and delay his surrender date for serving sentence until after the 25th of September. While there are other options (parole, pardon, clemency) they all have varying degrees of political risk attached in that the first wd require briefing the entire parole commission and the latter two wd involve the President in the matter. Justice has said that they will be back to us by the end of next week with definitive recommendations based on the remaining trial and discussions with the U.S. Attorney. This shd also be useful as input to the Azcons letter - though it might be best to have JMP, Keese, or even Elliott answer the April letter, rather than the President. Bottom line, the talking points appear to be about right. We just need to make sure that at the right time the right people go to talk to the Judge and U.S. Attorney. Gorman has volunteered to fill this role and that may be just about right since he's no longer in the government.

To: NSJH /--CPU1

*** Reply to note of 09/18/86 17:02

NOTE FROM: CLIVIA NORTH

Subject: President Izcoza

None. Good mtg this morning w/ all concerned, including Gorman who flew up from Charlottesville. Bottom line: Justice will immediately change the venue of confinement from Tallahassee to Kylin and delay Bueso's surrender date until after the 25th of September. Four of the others involved in the conspiracy have already been convicted and as soon as the last is tried, convicted and sentenced, Justice, FBI and others as necessary will have the defense atty. request that the judge review the sentence, and in camera have Gorman, et al explain to the judge our equities in this matter. Revell/rott both believe that this will result in approval of the petition for probationary release and deportation to Honduras. Discreetly briefing Bueso and his attorney on this whole process shd ameliorate concerns (both with us and Izcoza) that Bueso will start singing songs nobody wants to hear. Justice is justifiably upset that none of this info was made available to them prior to indictment or before/during the trial, but there is such blame to go around on that score. Clarridge was totally unaware that CIA had responded to a Justice query on the case with the terse comment that they "had no interest in the case." Elliott was also somewhat chagrined to learn that some at State had been urging vigorous prosecution and sentencing. Bottom line: all now seems headed in the right direction.