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1980/03/30

SECRET

H.I.

Aide Memoir

R

- YOU KNOW THAT THE USG DESIRES A CLOSE AND MUTUALLY COOPERATING RELATIONSHIP WITH GUATEMALA WHICH PROMOTES MUTUAL INTERESTS. FOR
- THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUATEMALA IS THE PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP.
- THE USG HAS RECEIVED LAST FALL ASSURANCES FROM SENIOR OFFICIALS OF AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEATH SQUADS WERE BEING HALTED
- ON THE BASIS OF THOSE ASSURANCES THE USG MADE TENTATIVE STEPS TO RE-ESTABLISH A SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES - PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 () RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
 () DENY () DENY

Date: 1/15/98

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS author: _____
 PA Exemptions _____ () CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec. _____
 () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

STUDENT PILOTS AND THE SALE OF A
LARGE QUANTITY OF MILITARY TRUCKS
AND JEeps.

- THE USC IS, THEREFORE, DISTURBED
BY THE DRASTIC INCREASE IN
POLITICAL KILLINGS AND DISAPPEARANCES
OF BOTH THE DEMOCRATIC AND LEFTWING
LEFT OVER THE PAST MONTH.

- THE USC ^{IS} WAS SHOCKED BY THE
DISCOVERY OF A MASS CLANDESTINE
GRAVE NEAR COMPALANA WHERE
VICTIMS BORE THE PHYSICAL SIGNS
OF DEATH SQUAD EXECUTIONS.

- ~~WHILE THE PRESS ATTA~~

- ~~FOR~~ THE USC BELIEVES THAT INDIVIDUALS
IN AUTHORITY IN THE COG HAVE BEEN
AND ARE INVOLVED IN THESE DEATH
SQUAD KILLINGS.

- WHILE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE COMPALADO DISCOVERY IS ^{IN PROGRESS} UNDERWAY, SUCH INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN THE PAST HAVE NEVER PRODUCED ~~TANYHOW~~ RESULTS. RESULTS IN THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE
- THE USG DOES NOT UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE IN ~~YOU~~ THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT COULD ENHANCE IN OR CONDONE SUCH KILLINGS.
- SO LONG AS ELEMENTS IN THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT ARE IMPLICATED IN SUCH VIOLENT ACTS, CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPAIRED.
- ~~LET~~ THE USG ASKS IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT YOU EXERT THE FULL WEIGHT OF YOUR AUTHORITY TO STOP THESE KILLINGS, WHATSOEVER

THEIR ORIGIN. ONLY YOUR DECISIVE
PERSONAL INTERVENTION CAN ENSURE
THAT THESE ABUSES ARE ENDED.

- OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT THE
- GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE
IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD
THE BASIC RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS
IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL
PERSUASION, AND THAT THESE STEPS
WILL BE CLEARLY VISIBLE BOTH
DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
- IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH STEPS
THE UNO WILL FEEL COMPELLED
TO CONDEMN PUBLICLY THE ACTIV-
ITIES OF THE "DEATH SQUADS" AND
TO NOTE THE FAILURE OF THE
GOVERNMENT TO ACT DECISIVELY
TO HALT THEM.

- IN ADDITION US LAW WOULD IN THE LIGHT OF SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO APPROVE ANY NEW SHIPMENTS ^{OR CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS} TO GUATEMALAN MILITARY.
- IN THE EVENT DECISIVE ACTION IS UNDERTAKEN TO STOP THE DEATH SQUAD THEN THE USG IS PREPARED TO TAKE CERTAIN STEPS LEADING TO THE COMPLETE RESTORATION OF A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE ARMED FORCES.

TRANSCRIBED COPY FOLLOWS

AIDE MEMOIRE

- You know that the USG desires a close and cooperative relationship with Guatemala which promotes mutual interests.

- The human rights situation in Guatemala is the principal impediment to the establishment of such a relationship.

- The USG had received last fall assurances from officials at the highest levels of the Guatemalan Government that the activities of the death squads were being halted.

- On the basis of those assurances the USG made tentative steps to re-establish a supply relationship with the Guatemalan Armed Forces - physiological training for

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student pilots and the sale of a large quantity of military trucks and jeeps.

- The USG is, therefore, disturbed by the drastic increase in political killings and disappearances of both the Democratic and extreme left over the past month.

- The USG is shocked by the discovery of a mass clandestine grave near Compalada where victims bore the physical signs of death squad executions.

- The USG believes that individuals in authority in the GOG have been and are involved in these death squad killings.

- While an investigation of the Compalada discovery is in progress, such investigations under taken in the past have never resulted in the arrest and trial of those responsible.

- The USG does not understand how anyone in the Guatemalan Government could engage in or condone such killings.

- So long as elements in the Guatemalan Government are implicated in such violent acts, closer relations between our two governments will continue to be impeded.

- The USG asks in the spirit of friendship that you exert the full weight of your authority to stop these killings, whatever

their origin. Only your decisive personal intervention can ensure that these abuses are ended. Our expectation is that the

-Guatemalan Government will take immediate steps to safeguard the basic rights of individuals irrespective of their political persuasion, and that these steps will be clearly visible both domestically and internationally.

- In the absence of such steps the USG will feel compelled to condemn publicly the activities of the "Death Squads" and to note the failure of the Government to act decisively to halt them.

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- In addition US law would in the light of such an announcement make it very difficult for the USG to approve any new shipments of whatever nature to Guatemalan military.

- In the event decisive action is undertaken to stop the death squads then the USG is prepared to take certain steps leading to the restoration of a military supply relationship between our respective Armed Forces.