

# TELEGRAM

INDICATE  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

A-172  
P  
1.5 (b)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~EXCISE~~  
CN: 3377

FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

E.O. ~~11652~~ 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: MARR, HO, ES  
SUBJECT: TRAINING IN HONDURAS FOR SALVADORAN FORCES

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN PRIORITY

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 3377

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3107

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. Doctor Suazo and I discussed proposed training for Salvadorans at meeting Tuesday, April five. He was ambivalent, though basically sympathetic to our idea. Suazo repeated conditions reftel but presented them more as part of a wish list than as something on which he ~~xxxx~~ sought binding commitments. He also mentioned increased economic assistance; but again was not very specific. I discouraged Suazo from thinking any increased economic aid was in the cards in connection with this proposal. Concluding that Suazo was still somewhat uncertain about all of this in his own mind, I suggested he think it over for a couple of more days. I wanted him to know that we

AMB  
DCM  
POL-2  
DAO  
MILGP

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 4-8-83	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete
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CLEARANCES:

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

50153-101

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

weren't pressuring him and that he must feel that any decision finally arrived at must really be in Honduran interest. I also mentioned idea of a negotiating team coming down from Washington to go over proposal in detail and negotiate a government-to-government agreement. Suazo said he would think about that, too.

3. Morning April eighth Honduran Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Bueso called a member of MILGP to state that GOH was ready to go forward with construction of training site at Puerto Castilla and implement proposed training program. Ambassador then called Doctor Suazo to ascertain whether this reflected GOH position. Doctor Suazo responded that without committing himself to absolutely final decision, GOH is prepared to receive a Washington negotiating team to nail down details of this matter.



I told Suazo that I would ask Washington to send down STATE/DEFENSE negotiating team as soon as possible to iron out training proposal with Honduran Armed Forces. ~~XX~~

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MRN

4. COMMENT: Believe Honduran "conditions" should not be treated as such but rather as expression of Honduran concerns which we must bear in mind as we pursue our regional policies. Believe Hondurans are ambivalent as to whether or not to insist on specific quid pro quo in exchange for training proposal; therefore, ~~our~~ our best approach would appear to be to finesse issue. We should deal with the issue on its own merits (e.g., benefit for Honduras if Salvadoran forces are expeditiously improved; possible training spinoffs for Honduras; possible eventual location of other USG regional training activities in Honduras, such as part or all of USARSA activities). We therefore visualize negotiating team coming equipped to deal principally with military training and assistance issues and not the vague, broader political questions raised by GOH. Would anticipate negotiations taking place with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Bueso.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

5. ACTION REQUESTED: Please advise proposed dates for negotiating team visit to Honduras that we may suggest to GOH for its consideration.

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NEGRO PONTE  
*[Signature]*

~~SECRET~~  
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