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FOR JOHNST**HUBE** ARA/CEN FROM AMBASSADOR

HONDURAN CONFIDENCE BUILDING ACTIVITIES

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AMB DCM

With the increase in the interaction between USG and Honduran Military staffs which began in earnest last fall, we have increasingly been troubled by the apparent lack of coordination among Washington agencies, and, more particularly, Defense and State. SOUTHCOM has been quite good about attempting to engage the Embassy at an early date in its planning and has frequently solicited and reflected our views. SOUTHCOM has, however, consistently failed to include the Department of State as an addressee on its messages, and we have repeatedly discovered that projects

were moving

DRAFTED BY: DCM: SCLowman: mnh

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AMBASSADOR

EARANCES:

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

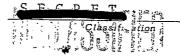
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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.) [xcise () Deny (U) Declassify Y Exemption

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coordination with State.

- Initially, we found our interaction with SOUTHCOM to be relatively productive. Additionally, we found ourselves in general agreement in substance on much of what SOUTHCOM proposed. Increasingly, however, we have been reluctant to engage XMXXX SOUTHCOM In such an interchange because of our increasing awareness that these with the Department. For example, last fall, we found that our discussions with SOUTHCOM and SOUTHCOM's discussions with JCS on AMANY Tara had progressed quite far without the Department's having been brought in. More recently, there have been a number of cases in which JCS has approved activities which impinge upon the Embassy's juris jurisdiction, and we have been presented with SOUTHCOM plans to proceed with the implementation of such proposals without having received any instructions from the Department. are two examples of this.
- 4. While I would emphasize that we do not find ourselves in any basic conflict with SOUTHCOM, I believe that it is essential that proper coordination procedures be developed and adhered to or we face a high probability of a serious SNAFU in the future. I would urge you to take this up with DOD and JCS on a priority basis. NEGROPONTE



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