## TELECGAM

INDICATE
COLLECT
CHARGE TO

A226

FROM

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

CM: 10601

E.O. **11652**X

12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS:

MILI, PINT, HO

SUBJECT:

CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO OUARRY BTS PN

R TEGU CIGALPA 10601

1. Some position

- ENTIRE TEXT

AMB DCM POL MILGP DAO

- 2. SUMMARY: Honduran Armed Forces Commander assures
  Ambassador that constitutional changes affecting armed
  forces titles are purely formal in nature and imply no
  change in constitutional relationship between President
  and armed forces. Alvarez reiterates commitment to
  civilian rule. END SUMMARY.
- 3. Ambassador called en Honduran Armed Forces Commander, General Gustavo Alvarez, November 30 to discuss certain

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

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CLEARANCES:

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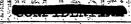
OPTIONAL FORM 153 (Formerly FS-413) January 1975 Dept. of State

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
(V) Release (/) Excise ( ) Deny (V) Declassify
Date 4 9 9 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

aspects of arrangements for President Reagan's visit. In addition two other subjects were discussed.

- First, in reply to question, Alvarez assured Ambassador that recent constitutional changes with respect to military titles have absolutely no practical effect on relationships between armed forces and civilian government; nor do changes alteration in any way represent/authorization of armed forces commitment to civilian constitutional rule. Changes as approved by Congress, Alvarez explained, would leave President Suazo as "Comandante General" of the armed forces. (Constitutional amendment initially proposed by the Honduran Defense Ministry was that President's title be changed to "Jefe Supremo", but Congress turned down this proposed change.) Alvarez' title would change from Commander of the Armed Forces to Commander in Chief; but none of the respective ankasxizx authorities of the President and Alvarez would change in any way. Finally, the rank of "General de-Division" would be changed to a more straightforward "General". In other words, there would continue to exis two officer ranks in the armed forces, with the highest being the rank of Full General rather than "General de Division" as it had previously been called.
- 5. Asked the reason for these formal changes, Alvarez explained that the basic intent had been protocolary and designed to bring general officer ranks in Honduras more



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in line with those elsewhere in the Hemisphere and to ensure commensurate courtesies when travelling to other countries.

6. Alwarez took occasion to ask Ambassador what we thought of his November 26 interview in which he had reaffirmed his strong commitment to civilian rule here (see FBIS Panama 261604Z NOV 82). Ambassador responded that he viewed Alvarez' interview as one of his most significant to date.

NEGROPONTE



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