

ALFRED FRIENDLY, JR.
3506 Macomb Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

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November 10, 1982

Newsweek Magazine
444 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

To the Editors:

While NEWSWEEK performs a valuable service in calling attention to the dangerous drift of American policy in Honduras, it commits a twofold error in making Ambassador John Negroponte the villain of the piece. ("A Secret War for Nicaragua," November 8, 1982) Aside from distorting his career and character, your reporting reduces an important question of policy to an issue of one man's personality. A story that cites only unnamed sources makes a talented and highly principled professional diplomat unrecognizable to those who have known him many years, depicting him as Washington's master instead of its agent.

When similar, anonymous attacks on Edmund Chubb and other "China hands" drove them out of government service some 30 years ago, the tactics set the stage for McCarthyism. They do just as much disservice today to public understanding of significant controversies by focusing on individuals and not on the substance of policy.

Yours,

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

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