

TELEGRAM

JUL 7 00 07:02

INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

A322

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~~EXCISE~~
~~ENCLOS~~

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FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

ON: 5555 1.5(b)

E.O. ~~14176~~
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

12065: GDS 7/6/88 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M
MILI, MASS, PEPR, HO, PTER
CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ JULY 6

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO:

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 5555

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: General Alvarez appears to be taking Tegucigalpa
blackout in his stride. Based on recent conversations with
General Vessey and Mr. Carlucci, he wishes to go ahead with
A-37 purchase. He would welcome C-123's if they are a grant.
He is eager for F-5E training even if delivery of planes
cannot be provided at this time. GOH plans major public
affairs campaign against terrorism. [

AMB
DCM
POL-2
DAO
MILGP

1.5(b)

END SUMMARY.

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 7-6-82	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete
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CLEARANCES:
POL:DShaw
DAO:DBollert
MILGP:MRobbins
POL:MDubbs

50153-101

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

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

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Classify as (S) Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 6/1/98 Declassify on 7/6/02 Reason 1.5(b)

- 3. In July 6 conversation with Ambassador, Honduran CINC General Gustavo Alvarez appeared pleased with July 1-2 meetings in Washington. Based on talks with Mr. Carlucci and General Vessey, he understands need to go ahead with purchase of six A-37's at this time. He understands that even though GOH almost broke, they should not pass up opportunity for A-37's after having made such a hullabaloo about the matter in the first place. He also hopes we can eventually make available six more A-37's. Ambassador asked if Alvarez would be interested in the four C-123's if they could be made available on a grant basis. Alvarez said yes. Ambassador made no promises except to try and see what we could come up with. Alvarez expressed strong interest in ~~gxe~~ grant training for F-5E pilots even if delivery couldn't be promised at this time.
- 4. On Tegucigalpa blackout, Alvarez seemed to be taking matter in stride. He was not particularly surprised, though he characterized incident as major communist escalation. He and President plan a public TV/radio appearance Friday, July 9 to denounce these acts of sabotage against Honduran people. Alvarez also showed Ambassador list of twenty public organizations (unions, commercial associations, etc.) who would be asked to join in anti-terrorist information blitz.
- 5. Asked if terrorist caused blackout would cause

GOH military to withdraw from contested pockets (bolson) on El Salvador border, Alvarez interestingly replied that he had already ordered main units to withdraw from Rio Negro to borders of bolson before incident; but that patrols into bolson would continue. (Comment: This may represent a bit of a back-pedalling of GOH military position. DATT plans to report further on this.)

6. Conversation stumbled into question of civilian/military relations within GOH. Alvarez commented that some civilian quarters are accusing him of planning a coup together with various private sector leaders, notably businessman and Dr. Ramos Soto, newly /Miguel Facusse ~~recently~~ elected conservative University Rector. Alvarez commented that nothing could be farther from the truth (and I believe him). Honduran military want nothing more than success of constitutional GOH and they realize disturbing constitutional order would be foolhardy. GOH had been working with some civilian groups as part of common effort with Doctor Suazo to bolster democratic forces within various Honduran institutions. He was thrilled with outcome of recent university elections as a major defeat for the left. (Outgoing and defeated Rector, Juan Almendares, was local representative of World Peace Council, ~~and widely considered to be~~
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Ambassador used occasion of those remarks to convey to Alvarez draft text of our suggested CADC declaration which we had given to President and Foreign Minister day before. Alvarez liked the draft and, at Ambassador's suggestion, promised to call the President about it.

JAN
NEGROPONTE

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