

JEW  
VZCZCIGI \*

RR RUEHC RUEHSN RUEHJCS RUECEHA RUEADWW  
LE RUEHTG #Z311 265 \*\*

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

R 222137 SEP 83

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 7272

INFO RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9584

RUEHJCS / SECDEF WASHDC

RUEHJCS / JCS WASHDC

RUEOCHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PW

RUEADWW / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC

BT

TEGUCIGALPA 12311

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ASAS  
Chron

CLASS: SECRET  
CHRG: PROG 9/21/83  
APPRV: AME:JDNEGROPN  
DRETD: AME:JDNEGROPN  
CLEAR: 1.DCM:SCHEWMAN  
2.POL:ABARR  
3.MILGP:EMATTEH  
DISTR: AME DCM PCL  
DAO MILGP USIS

LIMITS

DECLASSIFIED

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E.O. 12333: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: MARR, MOFS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RETENTION OF 41ST FIELD HOSPITAL IN  
HONDURAS AFTER AF CAS TARA II

1. ENTIRE TEXT
2. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT PAST AMBASSADOR AND USCINCSO HAVE DISCUSSED ON INFORMAL BASIS IDEA OF POSSIBLE RETENTION OF 41ST FIELD HOSPITAL AT PALMEROLA AIRFIELD AFTER COMPLETION OF APUAS TARA II. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE WOULD BE TO TREAT SALVADORAN BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES. WE UNDERSTAND SUCH AN EFFORT COULD RESULT IN SAVING HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF SALVADORAN LIVES.
3. EMBASSY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED THAT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF 41ST FIELD HOSPITAL WERE NOT RPT NOT IN ANY WAY AT THE EXPENSE OF CURRENT OR PROPOSED USG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO HONDURAS. ALSO, WE WOULD WANT TO BE INSTRUCTED TO RAISE MATTER OFFICIALLY WITH GOH (PROBABLY PRESIDENT SUAZO). IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT ANY SUCH INSTRUCTION INCLUDE REFERENCE TO VISUALIZED MEDEVAC ARRANGEMENTS; OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONDURAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO BENEFIT FROM PRESENCE OF THIS FACILITY IN COUNTRY; AND OTHER PERTINENT TERMS OF REFERENCE.
4. DURING VISIT HERE SEPTEMBER 22 AND AT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, GENERAL GORMAN RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY ON VERY INFORMAL BASIS WITH HONDURAN CINC GENERAL ALVAREZ. ALVAREZ REACTED FAVORABLY PROVIDED MEDEVACS WOULD BE DIRECTLY FROM EL SALVADOR TO COMAYAGUA/PALMEROLA WITHOUT ANY INTERMEDIATE STOP IN HONDURAS.
5. WHILE ALVAREZ' POSITIVE REACTION IS ENCOURAGING, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SUBJECT IS OF SUFFICIENT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY THAT IT SHOULD BE RAISED WITH DOCTOR SUAZO BEFORE CONCLUDING THAT IDEA MEETS WITH GOH APPROVAL. GIVEN THE REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN HONDURAN-EL SALVADORAN COOPERATION SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE AMTC, WE BELIEVE SUCH A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE ON THE

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

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PART OF THE GOE WOULD SERVE TO CONTINUE THE COOPERATIVE  
MOMENTUM AT A FAIRLY LOW POLITICAL COST TO THE GOE.  
THUS, WE RECOMMEND THAT STATE/DOJ INSTRUCT US TO  
FORMALLY APPROACH THE GOH FOR APPROVAL. NEGROPONTE

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