

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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 CHARGE TO

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FROM	AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION	SECRET
E.O. 12958	12065: RDS-3 4/19/2002 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M	CN: 3303	7
TAGS:	MASS, HO		
SUBJECT:	HONDURAN ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS		
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT/IMMEDIATE SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 3303 NODISSEMINATE		
REF:	(A) STATE 104392, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3302		
	1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT	DECAPICTIONED	
	2. By septel I am reporting my meeting with President of Honduran Congress, Minister of Public Works, Chief of Staff of Armed Forces and Chief of Staff of Air Force afternoon April 19 concerning airfield access agreement. We managed to reduce differences to one, namely issue of whether U.S. tactical military operations under agreement would be with mere "prior consultation" of GOH or "prior consultation with affirmative response". GOH dropped its insistence of phrase "prior authorization". Agreement would automatically authorize all logistical operations without any requirement for prior consultation. GOH negotiators otherwise accepted all our fixes and presence of President of Congress for first time in these talks		

AMB

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DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponTE:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 4-19-82	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponTE
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CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

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

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny (X) Declassify
Date 6/1/98 Exemption _____

demonstrated to me seriousness they attach to this exercise. Finally, Minister of Public Works told me that with acceptance of their wording on "affirmative response", President Suazo was ready to sign accord with me at any time.

3. In my judgment we can and should accept proposed GOH wording as adequate to our interests and it can be honestly argued that we have been authorized use of the fields by this agreement. The matter of prior consultation and affirmative response is, from a practical viewpoint, what would most likely happen in the case of tactical operations any way. It is difficult to envisage United States forces mounting tactical operations without consulting with GOH beforehand; and given political disposition of this GOH this is definitely a presentational issue and not one affecting substance or intent of ~~XXXX~~ agreement. We are confident that "affirmative response" would be pro-forma matter and the kind of courtesy we would want to extend in any event. We also must bear in mind that this will be a public document, which I understand is not necessarily the case of certain other similar access agreements.

4. I submit these thoughts in this restricted channel because of the relationship of this issue to other very sensitive military activities in which we are already

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engaged in Honduras. By the very cooperation in military matters that they have shown so far, Hondurans have demonstrated a willingness to take significant risks in pursuit of our common objectives in Central America. It is in context of already existing military collaboration that I recommend we go along with preferred Honduran wording in this instance.

.5. Urgency of this message relates to scheduled testimony by DOD Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Nestor Sanchez on status of these talks before House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction Funds at ten a.m. April 20.

NEGROPONTE