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| FROM | Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA | CLASSIFICATION | CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED |
| E.O. 11652/KX | 12065: GDS 12/28/81 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) | OR-M | CN 9542 7 |
| TAGS: | SFUM, SREF, HO, ES | | |
| SUBJECT: | DEATH OF CARITAS PROMOTER | | |
| ACTION: | SECSTATE WASHDC | | |
| INFO: | Amembassy GUATEMALA Amembassy MANAGUA Amembassy MEXICO Amembassy SAN JOSE Amembassy SAN SALVADOR Amembassy PANAMA USMISSION GENEVA | | |
| | CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 9542 EXDIS DECAPTIONED | | |
| REF: | (A) TEGUCIGALPA 9211; (B) STATE 333024 (NOTAL) | | |
| | 1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT 2. Prompted by concerns raised reftel B, Ambassador called on Honduran Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Chinchilla December 22 to share impressions and conclusions gained from Ambassador's December 2 visit to refugee locations on Honduras/Salvador border. Army Attaché also attended meeting. 3. Ambassador made three main points: first, appreciation | | |

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| DRAFTED BY: | DRAFTING DATE | TEL. EXT. | CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: |
| AMB:JDNegroponete:kjl | 12-28-81 | 211 | AMB:JDNegroponete |

CLEARANCES:
DAO:Maj.JClark

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Date 6/1/98 Exemption _____

for generous and humanitarian GOH response in providing shelter for Salvadoran refugees; second, our strong endorsement of decision to move refugees away from border on urgent basis in interest of their safety; and third, importance of prompt and thorough official investigation of any incidents of violence.

4. Chinchilla related some of the history of this issue and its complexities. Until recently principal complicating factor had been inadequate measures in force to prevent use of camps as refuge by Salvadoran guerrillas and as source of food and medicine. Over time, and within personnel resources available to Honduran military, they imposed had/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ better controls and safeguards. But, he added, GOH still confronted by problem of "interested parties" seeking to exploit issue for political purposes. He specifically mentioned recent efforts by Bianca Jagger and others and attendant publicity.

5. On question of recent death of Caritas promoter Chinchilla said the GOH investigation has not rpt not been completed; but he did not rule out possibility that Caritas worker had been killed by Salvadoran guerrillas disguised in government uniforms. The reason he put forward was the existence of allegations by eyewitnesses that armed persons in question had been wearing "paramilitary uniforms". Chinchilla said that to best of his knowledge

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[no rpt no Salvadoran paramilitary operate near the region in question.]

6. COMMENT: We do not know what effect Ambassador's call might have on GOH investigation. Chinchilla certainly got the message of our interest and concern. He took ~~HEK~~ aboard our comments in a serious and friendly spirit and was not in any way defensive about the matter.

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