

TELEGRAM

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	FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION SECRET
E.O. 11652X TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION:	12356: N/A HO CBS NEWS REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SECSTATE WASHDC	
AMB DCM POL USIS	<p style="text-align: right;">3364</p> <p>SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 3364</p> <p>FOR ARA ONLY (THREE COPIES)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Sawyer of CBS News called Ambassador's office April 6 to ask that Ambassador appear on CBS morning news program. Sawyer left message that Ambassador should consider it standing invitation, renewed daily. 2. Ambassador on two recent previous occasions has declined invitation by Sawyer on informal advice of Department/ARA and because of tactical considerations prevailing at the time (e.g., Nicaragua debate at UNSC, etc.). We would, however, feel uncomfortable declining invitation on indefinite basis since our practice at this Post has normally been to welcome such on-the-record opportunities. 3. Embassy proposes that under circumstances we proceed with Sawyer interview but, in order to guard against obvious pitfalls, Department press officials talk over 	

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 4-7-83	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete
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CLEARANCES:

50153-101

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

OPTIONAL FORM 153
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ground rules with Sawyer or her office. We would suggest that Sawyer be told that if focus of questions is preponderantly or exclusively on Nicaragua and anti-Sandinista activities that Ambassador will probably have to ~~express~~ "no comment" many of the queries. We do not want to be put in position of holding such a sterile public exchange; nor by very fact of consenting to submit to such lopsided questioning ^{would} we wish to unwittingly and implicitly create impression that this Embassy has some unusual role with respect to our Nicaragua policy.

4. If, on other hand, Miss Sawyer wishes focus of questioning to be on U.S. policies and interests in Honduras, moving then perhaps to some questions concerning regional context in which Honduras finds itself, this would in our view make for a much more useful exchange. We would of course understand if Miss Sawyer felt compelled to ask one or two questions on which Ambassador would have to "no comment"; but they should not overshadow the remainder of the exchange.

- 5. Miss Sawyer can be reached at (212) 975-3601.
- 6. Please advise.

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