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VZCZCTG† *
OO RUEHC RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEOEHA RUEHSN
DE RUEHTG #1893 268 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 242022Z SEP 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5790
INFO RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN IMMEDIATE
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 0440
BT

CLASS: SECRET
CERGE: PROG 09/24/84
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL
ECON AID USIS
MILGP DAO SA
CONS

S E C R E T
EXDIS RECLASSIFIED AS PER STATE 284356
E.O. 12356: DECLASS. AUTH.
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PREL, HQ, RPTG
SUBJECT: ~~TRAINING OF SALVADORAN BATTALION~~

DECAPTIONED

REF: STATE 281588

1. ~~SECRET~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL WITH HONDURAN CINC LOPEZ. GOH PLANS NSC MEETING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS RMTG AND OTHER SUBJECT LOPEZ DOUBTS DOCTOR SUAZO WILL CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT REFUSING TO ALLOW SALVADORANS TO COME ON SEPTEMBER 28. LOPEZ WILL GET BACK TO AMBASSADOR AFTER HONDURAN NSC MEETING. MEANWHILE, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AGAIN FOCUS ON FALL-BACK POSITION RECOMMENDED TEGUCIGALPA 11542. END SUMMARY.
3. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY EVENING SEPTEMBER 21 AND IN A CALL ON GENERAL LOPEZ MORN ING SEPTEMBER 24, AMBASSADOR MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL.
4. LOPEZ EXPLAINED THAT GOH WOULD BE HOEDING NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 24 AT WHICH RMTG ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED. (IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MEETING WHICH IS TO DISCUSS ELEC- TRICITY WORKERS STRIKE.)
5. AMBASSADOR IS CONVINCED THAT LOPEZ AND CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL GONZALEZ (WHO WAS ALSO AT SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING) UNDERSTAND THE CHOICES THEY MUST MAKE AND THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IF FRESH SALVADORAN BATTALION IS NOT PERMITTED TO BEGIN TRAINING ON SEPTEMBER 28.
6. LOPEZ PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 25 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. LOPEZ WAS SKEPTICAL THAT PRESIDENT SUAZO WOULD ALTER HIS OPPOSITION TO FURTHER TRAINING OF SALVADORANS AT RMTG AT THIS TIME.
7. ONE POINT GONZALEZ MADE DURING CONVERSATION WAS THAT "CONTINUITY AND PROGRESS" IN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOES WOULD HELP GOH JUSTIFY "CONTINUITY" OF PRESENT

Dep't of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 2/2/98 Exemption _____

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TRAINING PATTERN AT RMTC PENDING FINAL AGREEMENT ON PERMANENT INSTALLATION. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE WAS AMENABLE TO VISITING HONDURAS AND NAMING A "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE" TO PURSU A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME.

8. COMMENT: WE NEED TO FOCUS ON FALL-BACK POSITION IN EVENT GOH REAFFIRMS REFUSAL TO TRAIN ANY FURTHER SALVADORAN FORCES AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY BELIEVES BEST FALL-BACK, THOUGH FAR FROM IDEAL, WOULD BE ALONG LINES PARAS 4 AND 5 TEGUCIGALPA 11542 (DTG 15011Z SEPTEMBER 84). NAMELY, WE WOULD AGREE TO KEEP OPERATING RMTC FOR HONDURAN FORCES BETWEEN NOW AND END OF THE YEAR WHILE CONTINUING TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS FOR LONG-TERM RMTC. EXPENDITURE OF ANY FY-85 FUNDS WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE CONTINGENT ON SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PENDING PROBLEMS AND ASSUMEDLY APPROPRIATE PORTION OF FY-84 FUND WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED FOR TRAINING OF SALVADOREANS ELSEWHERE. ONE VARIANT ON PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN TEGUCIGALPA 11542 IS THAT WE WOULD RECOMMEND ATTRIBUTING THE ABSENCE OF SALVADORAN TROOPS AT RMTC TO INCONCLUSIVE US/GOH NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN TO ANTICIPATION OF UPCOMING OFFENSIVE IN EL SALVADOR, IN LIGHT OF OBJECTIONS RAISED TO THIS LATTER LINE OF ARGUMENT BY AMBASSADOR PICKERING. NEGROPONTE

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