

PAGE 01 STATE 023243
ORIGIN ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 MMO-01 IO-15 PA-02
SIG-03 /022 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/P:GCALLAWAY
APPROVED BY ARA/P:GCALLAWAY
PA:BKALB (SUBS)

-----327337 251047Z /21

O R 250506Z JAN 85 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE
USCINCLANT NRFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
COMSFORCARIB KEY WEST FL IMMEDIATE
CDR193DINFBDE PAN FT CLAYTON PN AFZU-PO
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN/PO
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN/PAO
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA
USIA WASHDC
XMT AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

RELEASED IN FULL

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior
Reviewer**

UNCLAS STATE 023243

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 023243

ALL POSTS PASS PAOS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES/BRIEFING, JANUARY 24, 1985

1. GUIDANCES PREPARED FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING, JANUARY
24, 1985:

-- CUBA: BILATERAL RELATIONS --

Q: WHY WON'T THE U.S. TALK WITH THE CUBANS?

A: WE HAVE RECENTLY HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUBANS ON IMMIGRATION MATTERS, AND THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA REMAIN OPEN.

HOWEVER, OUR FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS WITH CUBA STEM FROM ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT OF SUBVERSION IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, ITS LARGE DEPLOYMENTS OF TROOPS IN AFRICA, AND ITS CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION.

-- CUBA: PROPOSED HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA --

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO REP. ALEXANDER'S PROPOSAL FOR CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN A HEMISPHERIC - CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA?

A: WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN REP. ALEXANDER'S PROPOSAL, WHICH APPARENTLY IS ONE DIRECTED TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 023243

UNTIL WE CAN DO SO, ANY COMMENT WOULD BE PREMATURE.

IF ASKED:

Q: DOES THAT MEAN WE WOULD SIT DOWN WITH CUBA IN A MULTINATIONAL CONTEXT TO REVIEW THIS ISSUE?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ISSUE IS BEST HANDLED IN THE CONTADORA CONTEXT. IF CUBA REALLY WISHES TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF CENTRAL-AMERICA, IT WILL HAVE ABUNDANT WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT DESIRE. - -

-- EL SALVADOR: ELECTIONS DELAYED --

Q. ANY COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS THAT THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COUNCIL OF EL SALVADOR HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER-A REQUEST FROM RIGHTIST PARTIES? - - -

A. OUR EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THAT THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COUNCIL VOTED YESTERDAY TO POSTPONE THE DELECTIONS FROM MARCH 17 TO MARCH 31. THE ACTUAL DATE OF THE SALVADOR N ELECTIONS IS A MATTER FOR THE SALVADORANS TO-DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. THE SALVADORAN CONSTITUTION DELEGATES-THAT AUTHORITY TO THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COUNCIL-AND STIPULATES THAT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD BEFORE-APRIL.

Q. WHY WERE THE ELECTIONS POSTPONED?

A. YOU SHOULD ADDRESS THAT QUESTION TO THE PROPER

SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES. -

-- EL SALVADOR: ASSASSINATION OF MEDARDO AVELAR BONILLA --

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 023243

Q. ANY COMMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF RIGHTIST POLITICAL CANDIDATE MEDARDO AVELAR BONILLA?

A. WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS OF THE MURDER, BUT HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION FOR YOU. - -

WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE THAT ANY GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACT, WE HAVE STATED MANY TIMES THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES ACTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND RECONCILIATION UNDERWAY IN EL SALVADOR OFFERS THE BEST MEANS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, AND WE CONDEMN THOSE WHO WOULD SABOTAGE THAT PROCESS BY RESORTING TO THE MURDER OF POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

-- EL SALVADOR: DECLARATION OF FREE FIRE ZONES? --

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE SALVADORAN MILITARY HAS DECLARED A NUMBER OF FREE FIRE ZONES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHALATENANGO?

A. OUR EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR IS LOOKING INTO THOSE REPORTS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE SALVADORAN MILITARY HAVE CHANGED. -

-- EL SALVADOR: PEACE TALKS --

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE A REACTION TO PRESIDENT DUARTE'S STATEMENT THAT THERE MAY NOT BE A THIRD ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE GUERRILLAS?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 023243

A: WE SHARE PRESIDENT DUARTE'S VIEW THAT THE HARDENED POSITION TAKEN BY THE GUERRILLAS HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN THE PEACE TALKS. THE GUERRILLAS' REPEATED REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH AND THEIR DEMANDS THAT THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION, RECONCILIATION, AND CONSTITUTIONALITY THAT HAS BEEN SO CAREFULLY PUT INTO PLACE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS BE CAST ASIDE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED REASONABLE. -

THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT DUARTE'S PEACE

INITIATIVE AND THE CONTINUATION AND DEEPENING OF -THE - --
ONGOING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN EL SALVADOR. -

-- EL SALVADOR: D'AUBUISSON VISA --

IF ASKED ONLY

Q: WAS ROBERTO D'AUBUISSON RECENTLY ISSUED A VISA?

A: A VISA APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MR.
D'AUBUISSON. IT IS NOW BEING PROCESSED.

-- LUGAR ON AID TO CONTRAS --

Q: SENATOR LUGAR REPORTEDLY SAYS CONGRESS WILL PROBABLY
NOT CONTINUE TO FUND COVERT AID FOR THE "CONTRAS".
COMMENT?

A: I HAVE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON SENATOR LUGAR'S REMARKS.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT WE CONTINUE TO SEEK
APPROVAL FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF
PROGRAMS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 023243

-- COLOMBIA: WHEREABOUTS OF AMB. TAMBS --
(TAKEN QUESTION FROM NOON PRESS BRIEFING, 1/23/85)

Q: COULD YOU SEE IF YOU COULD GET ME SOMETHING ON
AMBASSADOR TAMBS? IS HE BACK? IS HE STILL IN THE STATES?

A: HE IS IN THE U.S. FOR ROUTINE CONSULTATIONS AND
PERSONAL BUSINESS. HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO POST IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS.

2. SUMMARY OF NOON PRESS BRIEFING, JANUARY 24, 1985
(KALB):

IS THE USG CONCERNED ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE IRANIAN PM TO
NICARAGUA AND CUBA? THE SPOKESMAN HAD SEEN THE SAME
REPORTS AND HAD NO COMMENT BEYOND THAT.

ANY REACTION TO A STATEMENT FROM THE HAGUE THAT THE WORLD
COURT IS GOING TO GO AHEAD WITH THE NICARAGUAN CASE? OUR
POSITION WAS STATED LAST WEEK; REFER TO THAT. - -

ANY REACTION TO CONG. BILL ALEXANDER'S SUGGESTION FOR A
HEMISPHERE CONFERENCE, OR HIS VIEW THAT CASTRO IS
CHANGING HIS POLICY? THE SPOKESMAN USED THE PREPARED
GUIDANCE. WHAT ABUNDANT WAYS? NO ITEMIZED LIST TO-OFFER
YOU.

THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED IN AN INTERVIEW ABOUT AID TO

CONTRAS ON OVERT ASSISTANCE, HE SAID THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF WAR; THE WHITE HOUSE AT ITS BRIEFING REFERRED THE QUESTION TO - STATE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES IN COVERT AND OVERT AID, AS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 023243

ACTS OF WAR; COMMENT? REFER YOU TO THE PRESIDENT-S REMARKS THIS MORNING;NOTHING BEYOND THAT.

ANY OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE DRUG CHEMICALS? NOTHING BEYOND WHAT WE SAID YESTERDAY. SHULTZ

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>