

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE : 19 OCTOBER 54

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING	
1	4
2	5
3	6

TO : DIRECTOR
 FROM : GUATEMALA
 ACTION: WH (1-2)

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
 RELEASE IN FULL

2003

INFO : DCI (3), D/DCI (4), COP (5), A/DD/P/P (6), C/FI/RQM (7),
 (SUSPENSE DD/1)

GUAT 344 (IN 1592¹)

1700Z 19 OCT 54

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
PRECEDENCE

TO: DIR

CITE: SGUAT

RYBAT

RE: DIR 2¹547 (OUT 84129)

1. FOLLOWING IS ACCURATE DIGEST OF GUAT ANSWER TO BRITISH
 RE SPRINGFJORD CASE AS PRESENTED ORALLY BY FOREIGN MINISTER.

A. ALL SHIPPING COMPANYS AWARE RISK OF NAVIGATION IN
 DANGEROUS WATERS DURING REVOLT OR WAR.

B. LOCAL LAWS AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RIGHT
 RECOGNIZE THIS TYPE EMERGENCY AND POINT OUT STANDARDS TO BE
 FOLLOWED IN THESE CASES. POSITION OF GUAT GOVT COVERED IN THIS
 CASE AND IN PRESENCE OF CLAIM WHICH IS OBJECT.

C. UPON ENTERING GUAT TERRITORIAL WATERS, IN THIS CASE,
 SHIP CAME ON ITS OWN ACCOUNT AND RISK, RELYING ON LEGAL CONSEQUENCES
 DERIVED FROM CONSIDERATIONS OF PREVIOUS POINT.

D. GOOD RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES
 PREJUDICE GUAT GOVT IN TRYING GIVE THIS MATTER A FAVORABLE AND
 SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT BUT LEGAL POSITION THAT BACKS UP GUAT
 GOVT AND ECONOMIC CRISIS FACING COUNTRY ARE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

19 OCTOBER 54

GUAT 344 (IN 15921)

PAGE -2-

MAKE IT SUCH THAT GOVT CANNOT ACCEPT CLAIM IN ENTIRETY AND IN AMOUNT DEMANDED.

E. GOVT IS HOWEVER FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD REACHING AN AGREEMENT FOR JUST AND REASONABLE SUM WHICH DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH RIGHTS OF COUNTRY AS SET FORTH PARA "D".

F. WITHOUT ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPAL THAT SHIP MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON BORDER LINE OF LAW AND STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL RIGHT. ZRSEMANTIC AGREES THAT GOVT NOT WITHSTANDING ITS POINT OF VIEW IS PREPARED DISCUSS SUM WHICH IS REASONABLE AND JUST.

2. WILL ADVISE BRITISH REPLY WHEN RECEIVED.

3. MEANWHILE WILL APPRECIATE LEGAL GUIDANCE RE NEXT PHASE NEGOTIATION.

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~