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ALL POSTS PASS PADS

E.O. 12356: N/A  
 TAGS: SOPN  
 SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES/BRIEFING JUNE 8, 1984

1. GUIDANCES PREPARED FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 8, 1984:

-- COSTA RICA: PASTORA BOMBING INVESTIGATION --  
 (NOTE: THIS GUIDANCE SUBMITTED TO PRESS OFFICE JUNE 6, 1984, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN GUIDANCE CABLE OF THAT DATE.)

Q: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE ABC CAMERAMAN INJURED IN THE BOMBING INCIDENT IN NICARAGUA ON MAY 30? IS HE BEING ALLOWED TO LEAVE COSTA RICA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT?

A: TONY AVRIGAN, THE INJURED ABC CAMERAMAN, LEFT SAN JOSE LAST EVENING (7:30 P.M. JUNE 5) FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE GAVE HIS DEPOSITION ON THE BOMBING INCIDENT BEFORE HE LEFT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE INVESTIGATION TO FIND OUT WHO USED THE FALSE DANISH PASSPORT AND TO TRACK HIM DOWN?

A: APPARENTLY PRESS REPORTS IN SAN JOSE ARE LINKING THE

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BOMBING TO A GERMAN CITIZEN, ALLEGEDLY A MEMBER OF THE  
BAEDER-MEINHOF GANG, WHO WAS TRAVELING ON A STOLEN DANISH

PASSPORT. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION NOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
FOR YOU. THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA IS CONDUCTING THE  
INVESTIGATION.

Q: HAS THE GOCR ASKED US FOR ANY HELP IN THIS?

A: WE ARE COOPERATING WITH THE COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES IN  
THE INVESTIGATION AT THEIR REQUEST. (FYI TO SPOKESMAN:  
YOU HAVE NO SPECIFICS ON THE COOPERATION TO OFFER.)

Q: ARE OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALSO COOPERATING?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THEY ARE, BUT I CANNOT GIVE  
YOU ANY DETAILS.

-- HONDURAS: RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH  
HONDURAS? RECENT MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT GOH  
OFFICIALS ARE REASSESSING ITS TIES WITH US.

A: I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THOSE SOURCES OR THE GOH. WE ARE  
IN CONTINUOUS, CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GOH ON A RANGE OF  
TOPICS, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE, BUT I  
WON'T GO INTO DETAIL HERE ON SUBSTANCE.

OUR RELATIONS WITH HONDURAS ARE CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE,  
AND WE EXPECT THEM TO REMAIN THAT WAY.

-- EL SALVADOR: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE DEFERS ADDITIONAL  
AID --

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL  
ACTION YESTERDAY IN WHICH THE HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ACCEPTED A RECOMMENDATION BY CHAIRMAN REP.  
CLARENCE D. LONG (D-MD.) TO "DEFER" ANY ADDITIONAL  
MILITARY AID FOR EL SALVADOR IN A SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING  
BILL WHICH, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS THE EFFECT OF  
DENYING FUNDS BEYOND THE \$61.7 MILLION FOR THE REST OF  
THE FISCAL YEAR?

FYI FOR BRIEFER: THE AMOUNT WOULD FALL \$117 MILLION  
SHORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S \$178.7 MILLION REQUEST.  
THE \$61.7 AMOUNT IS CURRENTLY STALLED IN CONFERENCE  
BETWEEN THE SENATE AND HOUSE WITH THE LATTER'S REFUSAL TO  
GO ALONG WITH \$21 MILLION IN NICARAGUA-RELATED AID.

A: THIS IS NOT THE FINAL STEP I; THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS  
ON OUR REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR AND WE

CONTINUE TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR THE FULL \$117 MILLION  
REQUEST, IN ADDITION TO THE ALREADY APPROVED \$61.7, BY  
THE FULL HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

SUCH FULL COMMITTEE SUPPORT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE  
SPIRIT OF THE FULL HOUSE'S AUTHORIZATION VOTE JUST THREE  
WEEKS AGO WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE FULL ADMINISTRATION  
REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR EL  
SALVADOR, ALONG WITH FULL FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC AND  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA AS RECOMMENDED BY  
THE BIPARTISAN COMMISSION.

-- CHILE/IRAQ/US: CLUSTER BOMB SALE --

Q: NBC REPORTED JUNE 7 AND JUNE 8 THAT CHILE IS  
MANUFACTURING AND SELLING CLUSTER BOMBS TO IRAQ WHICH

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CONTAIN U.S. COMPONENTS, SPECIFICALLY ELECTRONIC CONNECTORS, POTENTIOMETERS AND CAPACITORS. CAN YOU CONFIRM THE REPORT AND WHAT IS THE LEGAL STATUS OF SUCH COMPONENT EXPORTS?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE REPORT BUT CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY ITS ACCURACY, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE INCLUSION OF U.S. COMPONENTS. SINCE CALENDAR YEAR 1975 THE U.S. HAS HAD AN ARMS EMBARGO ON CHILE WHICH IS VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED. I CAN CONFIRM THAT NO ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE A MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE AND WHICH COULD BE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CLUSTER BOMBS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR CHILE. I CANNOT SAY WHETHER ITEMS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE A LICENSE AND WHICH MAY BE FREELY AVAILABLE WITHOUT A LICENSE HAVE BEEN EXPORTED.

-- EL SALVADOR: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR --

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE CHARGE THAT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR "HAS BEEN MARKED BY LATE DELIVERIES, INFERIOR EQUIPMENT, AND POOR ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT?"

A: THIS SWEEPING CHARGE IS UNJUSTIFIED. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY TO PROVIDING AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES LOW COST MATERIAL DESIGNED TO WAGE EFFECTIVELY THE GUERRILLA WAR IN WHICH THEY ARE ENGAGED.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CHARGE THAT EQUIPMENT SUCH AS USED HELICOPTERS AND A-37 AIRCRAFT ARE OVERPRICED AND THAT THE PENTAGON SHOULD REVISE ITS ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES?

A: I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE PENTAGON FOR SPECIFICS AS TO HOW USED U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS PRICED. I WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT THE USED EQUIPMENT IS OBVIOUSLY MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN NEW EQUIPMENT, AND THAT WE MUST CAREFULLY HUSBAND THE SCARCE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR EL SALVADOR.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT WE DON'T PROVIDE THE SALVADORAN MILITARY ANTI-PERSONNEL BOMBS AND ROCKETS?

A: WE PROVIDE A VARIETY OF AMMUNITION TO THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, WE DON'T PROVIDE CERTAIN WEAPONS SUCH AS CLUSTER BOMBS, WHICH POSE EXCESSIVE RISKS OF CAUSING HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CHARGE THAT THE ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES ARE UNDERREPRESENTED AMONG THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINERS IN EL SALVADOR?

A: WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE HIGH QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING BEING PROVIDED BY THE LIMITED NUMBER OF U.S. TRAINERS. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SPECIFIC TYPES OF TRAINERS WOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PENTAGON.

-- OAS INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST MISKITO INDIANS IN NICARAGUA --

Q: WHAT COMMENT DO YOU HAVE ON THE REPORT JUST RELEASED BY THE OAS INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHICH SAYS THAT THE BASIC RIGHTS OF MISKITO INDIANS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY VIOLATED BY NICARAGUA'S SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT?

A: SINCE THE REPORT HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED, WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT CAREFULLY. THE PRESS

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REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE COMMISSION NOTED REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE MISKITOS LIVING IN NICARAGUA, INCLUDING INSTANCES OF KILLINGS AND TORTURE. MANY OF THESE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MISKITOS AND THE PRESS, BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO HAVE A HIGHLY RESPECTED AND INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE OAS CONFIRM THEM.

Q: ALTHOUGH THE REPORT NOTED THAT THERE ARE STILL CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE MISKITOS IN NICARAGUA, IT INDICATES THAT THE MOST SERIOUS VIOLATIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1981 AND MID-1983, AND THAT

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE IN IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE MISKITOS SINCE THEN. IS THAT SO?

A: OVER 1,000 MISKITOS FLED NICARAGUA IN LATE DECEMBER, AND ABOUT 600 FLED AS RECENTLY AS APRIL. ABOUT 10,000 MISKITOS REMAIN IN DETENTION CAMPS FAR FROM THEIR HOME. OVER 15,000 HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS. MISKITO REFUGEES CONTINUE TO REPORT CASES OF TORTURE, KILLING AND ARBITRARY ARREST BY THE NICARAGUAN SECURITY FORCES. SO THE SITUATION OF THE MISKITOS REMAINS ONE OF CONCERN TO US.

Q: WHAT COMMENT DO YOU HAVE TO THE FACT THAT THE REPORT DOES NOT SUBSTANTIATE CHARGES OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE NICARAGUANS HAVE IMPLEMENTED A POLICY OF "ETHNOCID"?

A: AGAIN, SINCE THE REPORT HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED, WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW IT.

2. SUMMARY OF DEPT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, 6/8/84 (ROMBERG)

AMONG OTHER QUESTIONS ON THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR, SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS SAYING THAT CHILE IS SELLING IRAQ CLUSTER BOMBS WHICH CONTAIN US-MADE COMPONENTS. HE USED THE PREPARED GUIDANCE. ARE THERE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CHILE REGARDING SUPPLIES GOING TO IRAQ? SPOKESMAN HAD NO SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON THAT, BUT WE HAD STATED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR.

COMMENT ON THE LONG SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION ON EL SALVADOR AID? SPOKESMAN USED THE GUIDANCE. ANYTHING WITH RESPECT TO THE ELECTION OF A NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL IN EL SALVADOR OR ON THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW COMMANDERS? NOTHING ON THE SECOND PART; ON THE FIRST, CHECK WITH THE PRESS OFFICE FOR GUIDANCE PREPARED THE OTHER DAY (JUNE 6).  
DAM

END OF MESSAGE

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