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SECRET [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] SALV 39869

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CITE SAN SALVADOR 39869
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF CONGRESSMEN ZSCHAU AND KOSTMAYER AND STAFFS

1. ON 7 SEPTEMBER 1983, COS BRIEFED CONGRESSMEN ZSCHAU, KOSTMAYER AND STAFFS. SHAW SMITH PRESENT FOR PART OF BRIEFING. FOCUS WAS PRIMARILY ON MILITARY SITUATION, INSURGENT NUMBERS, AND TRENDS OF INSURGENCY.

2. LATTER PART OF BRIEFING, HOWEVER, TURNED UNPLEASANT WITH HOSTILE AND LEADING QUESTIONS FROM KOSTMAYER TO SURFACE MILITARY CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES AND PARTICIPATION IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY AND INCIDENCE OF MILITARY CORRUPTION. COS SAID LAS HOJAS CASE WAS UNRELATED TO INSURGENCY BUT LACK OF ANY PROSECUTION IN CASE LEAVES MILITARY OPEN TO CRITICISM. COS SAID THAT THERE IS NO CURRENT "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" OF MILITARY CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES ALTHOUGH IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THERE ARE RIGHT WING SYMPATHIZERS IN MILITARY.

3. KOSTMAYER FIXED ON "DEATH SQUADS" AND ATTEMPTED TO BRING OUT MILITARY OR CIVILIAN SECURITY SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES. COS AGAIN CITED LACK OF "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" AND ASCRIBED ANY SUPPORT TO ANY "DEATH SQUADS" AS SINGLETON OPERATIONS OF RIGHT WING SUPPORTERS.

4. QUESTIONING THEN TOOK UNCOMFORTABLE TURN TO [STATION] REPORTING ON "DEATH SQUADS". AT THIS POINT COS SAID THIS WAS SUBJECT WHICH CONGRESSMAN SHOULD TAKE UP IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY OF THIS INFORMATION. KOSTMAYER INDICATED THAT HE WILL FOLLOW [COS] RECOMMENDATION.

[REDACTED]
END OF MESSAGE

SECRET
[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

NOV 1993