UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2013-21120 Doc No. C05655049 Date: 10/02/2014

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02996 212056Z
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-11 DODE-00
H-01 IO-14 NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 PM-09 PA-01
SP-02 SPRS-02 /093 W
----------126126 212103Z /71
P R 212025Z APR 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3435
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 474
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF
DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2996

E. O. 12065: GDS 4/20/87 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P
TAGS: PBOR, ES, HO
SUBJ: USG COOPERATION IN SURVEYING THE EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS BORDER

REF: A) STATE 85480; B) TEGUCIGALPA 2510

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. IT SEEMS PERFECTLY FINE TO US TO HELP THIS PROJECT IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE, INCLUDING EVEN WITH A U.S.G. HELICOPTER AND MAKING MORE AND BETTER AND LARGER MAPS-- IF ALL THIS LEADS TO STRENGTHENING THE PEACE BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS AND FITS WITHIN THE EXIGENCIES OF OUR U.S.G. BUDGET. THIS BEING THE CASE WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH SENDING NOTES AND RECEIVING LISTS AND WHATEVER ELSE IS NECESSARY FOR PLANNING.

3. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THE APPARENT ASSUMPTION THAT BY EARLY 1982 THE GUERRILLA WAR IN THE BORDER AREA WILL HAVE BEEN CONTROLLED TO THE POINT THAT U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02996 212056Z

CAN PROVIDE "SUPPORT FOR GROUND SURVEY OPERATIONS". IF SUCH IS THE CASE, VERY GOOD. BUT IF THE SITUATION REMAINS EVEN NEAR WHAT IT IS TODAY WE SEE NOTHING BUT DISADVANTAGE IN HAVING U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS OPERATING IN AN AREA WHERE "ATROCITY STORIES" --E.G. RIO LEMPA, CUEVA PINTADA-- ARE OFTEN CIRCULATED.

4. HOWEVER FORTHCOMING WE MAY BE "IN PRINCIPLE" WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ABOUT THIS MAPPING PROJECT WE SHOULD FROM THE OUTSET STATE OUR SECURITY

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Donna M. DiPaolo, Senior Reviewer

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CONCERNS, AND THAT IT WILL BE THE U.S.G. THAT FINALLY DECIDES WHETHER THINGS ON THE GROUND ARE "SAFE ENOUGH" TO PROCEED. GIVEN THE ESCALATION OF JOINT BORDER COMMISSION REQUESTS FIRST FROM "ACQUISITION OF NEW HIGH ALTITUDE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY" TO "U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR GROUND SURVEY OPERATIONS" WE MIGHT ALSO GUARD AGAINST EXPECTATIONS THAT IT WILL BE U.S. PERSONNEL THERE ON THE GROUND WITH THE POLES AND TELEMETERS.
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