

CONFIDENTIAL
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

8987

PAGE 01
ACTION PM-09

SAN SA 08010 231338Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 ARA-16 /043 W
-----230431 240637Z /13

R 222147Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6215
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

C O N F I D N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 8010

E. O. 12065: GDS 10/22/87 (HINTON, DEANE R.) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PINT, PINS, ES, MASS
SUBJ: HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: MILGP 192315Z OCT 81

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. I HAVE TALKED STRAIGHT, BLUNTLY, AND SEPARATELY
TO COLONEL GUTIERREZ AND GARICA ABOUT INCIDENT IN WHICH AIR FORCE
HELICOPTER WITH AMERICANS ABOARD FIRED ON INDIVIDUALS ON GROUND
NEAR RIO LEMPA. (RETEL)

3. IN BOTH CASTS I MADE TWO POINTS. ONE, AMERICANS
ARE NOT HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY ACTIONS. SECOND, I AM
GREATLY CONCERNED BY FLAGRAN CASE OF LACK OF FIRE DISCIPLINE.
SUCH INCIDENTS IN MY VIEW COULD LOSE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE
NECESSARY TO WIN WAR. GENERAL WOERNER, WHO WAS PRESENT AT
TALK WITH COL. GUTIERREZ, ADDED THAT SUCH ACTIONS RECRUIT
INSURGENTS.

4. GUTIERREZ SAID PILOT JUSTIFIED HIS ACTION BY CLAIM HE HAD
BEEN FIRED UPON. WOERNER SAID TWO U.S. OFFICERS ON BOARD
WITH VIETNAM COMBAT EXPERIENCE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO
GROUND FIRE. IN ANY CASE, GUTIERREZ SAID OFFICER WAS UNDER
ARREST AND WOULD BE PUNISHED. HE WAS KNOWN AS WILD PILOT
WHO EVEN HORSIED AROUND WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FLYING
FORMATION. STILL, HE WAS OUTSTANDING PILOT AND FAES
NEEDED HIM. BE THAT IS IT MIGHT BE, HIGH COMMAND
INTENDED TO USE INCIDENT TO BRING HOME TO ALL PILOTS NEED FOR
CARE IN ENGAGING GROUND TARGETS.

5. GARCIA SAID HE AGREED WITH MY OBSERVATIONS. HE HAD BEEN
SIMILARY CONCERN'D WITH REPORT. PILOT HAD BEEN STUPID.
INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN ORDERED. AND PILOT IN QUESTION WOULD
BE DISCIPLINED.
HINTON

Department of State IS/FPC/CDR El Salvador SP Date 9/22/93
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