E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY’S VISIT TO GUATEMALA

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY’S DAY AND A
HALF IN GUATEMALA ALLOWED HIM TO MEET WITH THE CHIEF OF
STATE, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE, THE ACTING
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND SENIOR OFFICERS, A GROUP
INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND VARIOUS GROUPS OF
BUSINESSMEN, AS WELL AS AT DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF
THE SUPREME COURT AND THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED OPAQUELY ABOUT HIS

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON A
SCHEME TO REPATRIATE REFUGEES NOW LOCATED IN CAMPS NEAR

UNCLASSIFIED
THE BORDER
FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO WAS ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT MEXICAN CORDIALITY AND IMPROVED BILATERAL
UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER’S POSITIONS ON CONTADORA
PROCESS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY WARNED FOREIGN
MINISTER AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO SPLIT HIM OFF FROM OTHER
MEMBERS OF CORE FOUR AND STRESSED GREAT IMPORTANCE OF
MAINTAINING UNITY OF CORE FOUR. ANDRADE PONTIFICATED
ABOUT GUATEMALA RESUMING ITS PROPER ROLE AS THE
DOMINANT POWER IN CENTRAL AMERICA. HE ALSO INSISTED ON
A TERRITORIAL CESSION ON THE MAINLAND BY BELIZE.
GENERAL MEJIA ASKED FOR US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
AND REITERATED THAT GENERAL VIDES CASANOVA
HAD OFFERED TO SERVE AS CONDUIT FOR US MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA. IN CONTRAST, ACTING CHIEF
OF STAFF COL. GRAMAJÓ FLATLY STATED THAT GUATEMALA DID
NOT WANT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THAT US SHOULD LIMIT
ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF
ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. GRAMAJÓ LATER EXPLAINED
PRIVATELY TO US COMMILGRP THAT HE HAD MADE THESE
REMARKS BECAUSE HE AND OTHER MILITARY HAD GIVEN UP HOPE
THAT US ADMINISTRATION COULD OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

BEFORE DINNER AT RESIDENCE SEPTEMBER 2, PRESIDENT
OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL BRIEFED ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOTLEY ON THE STEPS TOWARD ORGANIZING THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD JULY 1, 1984.

4. GUATEMALAN REFUGEES IN MEXICO - DURING DINNER,
FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE BRIEFED SECRETARY MOTLEY ON

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HIS DISCUSSION DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MEXICO CONCERNIN
GUATEMALAN REFUGEES THERE. ANDRADE NOTED WITH
SATISFACTION THAT THE MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD
ESTIMATED THAT GUATEMALAN REFUGEES IN HIS COUNTRY
NUMBERED SOME 10,000 TO 12,000, AS CONTRASTED WITH THE
FIGURE OF SOME 40,000 ATTRIBUTED TO THE UNHCR. ANDRADE
REPORTED THAT MEXICO HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE IN
ENCOURAGING GUATEMALAN REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME, BUT HE
DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHAT HIS MEXICAN COUNTERPART HAD
AGREED TO UNDERTAKE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF GUATEMALA WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR RETURNI
REFUGEES AND SAID THAT GUERRILLAS HAD PHYSICALLY HARMED SOME EARLIER RETURNEES TO DISCOURAGE SUCH MOVEMENT AND MAINTAIN THE CAMPS IN MEXICO AS GUERRILLA SAFE HAVENS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN WINNING A COMMITMENT FROM CATHOLIC LEADERS IN GUATEMALA TO ENCOURAGE THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS STEP WOULD COME IN RETURN FOR A GOVERNMENT DECISION TO EXEMPT CATECHISTS FROM SERVICE ON CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS. UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF RIOS MONTT, HE SAID, ONLY PROTESTANT MINISTERS HAD BEEN EXEMPTED FROM SERVICE. (COMMENT: HE DID NOT MENTION CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, WERE SIMILARLY EXEMPTED.) AMBASSADORS MOTLEY AND CHAPIN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING THE ICRC OR THE UNHCR IN THE REPATRIATION. THE OPPOSITION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUATEMALAN RED CROSS TO AN ICRC ROLE WAS ALSO TOUCHED ON. ANDRADE WAS VAGUE ON THESE POINTS.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND LOBBY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS - ANDRADE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6733
INFO AMBASSADY BOGOTA
AMBASSADY MANAGUA
AMBASSADY MEXICO
AMBASSADY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMBASSADY SAN JOSE
AMBASSADY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMBASSADY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMBASSADY CARACAS
AMBASSADY BELIZE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

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EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA
INTENDED TO MEET WITH SEVERAL U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AT AN EARLY OCCASION, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHOSE NAMES HE RAISED WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE CRITICAL OF GUATEMALA. HE SOUGHT SECRETARY MOTLEY'S ADVICE, AND MR. MOTLEY ENCOURAGED HIM TO COME TO WASHINGTON AND MAKE SUCH VISITS. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO ASSIST HIM.

AID CONTRACTOR CASE - THE CONVERSATION ABOUT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS LED NATURALLY TO AMBASSADOR MOTLEY TELLING THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HE NEEDED HIS HELP WITH THE CONGRESS ON THE CASE OF THE FOUR PERSONS

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CONNECTED WITH THE AID PROJECT, WHO HAD BEEN MURDERED. LIKE THE FOUR CHURCHWOMEN IN SALVADOR AND THE SHERATON MURDER CASE, THE AID PROJECT CASE HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL IN THE US. IT MIGHT BE SIMPLISTIC BUT THIS WAS REALITY. FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE INITIALLY SHIFTED SUBJECTS AT THE DINNER TABLE, BUT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY TOOK ANDRADE ASIDE PRIVATELY IN ANOTHER ROOM AFTER DINNER TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE TO EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR GUATEMALA. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY ALSO VERY DEFTLY AND DELICATELY RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH CHIEF OF STATE.
GENERAL MEJIA (THE AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL COVER UP OF THE CASE) DURING A CALL ON HIM SEPTEMBER 3. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY SAID HE WAS SPEAKING AS A POLITICIAN AND THAT HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO THE MERITS OF THE CASE. HE UNDERSTOOD THE GUATEMALAN ARGUMENTS AND AGREED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFER
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SALVADORAN CASES AND THE
GUATEMALAN CASE, BUT THESE DISTINCTIONS BECAME BLURRED IN THE MINDS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAD TO DEVOTE THEIR ATTENTION TO MANY DIFFERENT PROBLEMS. WHENEVER HE RAISED GUATEMALA WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE AID CASE WAS MENTIONED. HE NEEDED SOME PROGRESS ON THIS MATTER.
GENERAL MEJIA IN RESPONSE REFERRED TO THE RECENT VISIT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER AND THE NINE PAGE DOCUMENT HE HAD GIVEN TO THE REPORTER ON THE TRIAL OF THE JUNIOR LIEUTENANT, WHICH IS, OF COURSE, IRRELEVANT TO THE HEART OF THE ISSUE, THAT THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
GENERAL MEJIA LET IT GO AT THAT.

7. THE CONTADORA PROCESS - AFTER DINNER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADORS MOTLEY AND CHAPIN MET PRIVATELY. THE CONVERSATION FIRST TURNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER’S RECENT MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SEPULEDA AT CANTUN. ANDRADE WAS ECSTATIC ABOUT THE RAPPORT HE HAD ESTABLISHED WITH SEPULEDA NOT ONLY ON REFUGEE MATTERS BUT OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES AND THE DIFFERENT VIEW ON THE CONTADORA PROCESS.

ANDRADE RESPONDED THAT GUATEMALA WAS EMERGING FROM ITS ISOLATION UNDER THE RIOS MONRT GOVERNMENT AND REASSERTING ITS PROPER ROLE AS THE DOMINANT POLITICAL FORCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. GUATEMALA WOULD MAINTAIN ITS LEADERSHIP IN THE CORE FOUR AS WELL AS THE UNITY OF THAT GROUP.
GUATEMALA HAD ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS TO PROTECT AND WOULD NOT FAIL TO DO SO. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY AGREED THAT PROTECTION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS WAS THE NAME OF THE GAME AND THAT CORE FOUR UNITY WAS ESSENTIAL.

8. BELIZE - ANDRADE SAID THAT TALKS WERE CONTINUING
WITH THE BRITISH ON BELIZE AND THAT GUATEMALA ABSOLUTELY HAD TO HAVE A TERRITORIAL CESSION IN THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE IT WITH ADEQUATE SEAWARD ACCESS. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US LEGAL EXPERTS BELIEVED THAT SUCH ACCESS COULD BE GUARANTEED BY TREATY BETWEEN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA WITHOUT A FORMAL TERRITORIAL CESSION ON THE CONTINENT. ANDRADE WAS ADAMANT ON A TERRITORIAL CESSION AS WAS CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL MEJIA THE NEXT DAY. MEJIA BROUGHT OUT A MAP TO BUTTRESS HIS RATHER GENERAL STATEMENTS. THE IMPORT WAS CLEAR: A
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
USCINCST QUARRY HTS PN

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EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINN, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY’S VISIT TO GUATEMALA TERRITORIAL CESSION WAS A SINE QUA NON FROM THE GUATEMALAN POINT OF VIEW.

9. MEETING WITH GENERAL MEJÍA - ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY OPENED THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH THE DECLARATIONS MADE BY THE GENERAL AT THE OUTSET OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE MEASURES TAKEN SUCH AS LIFTING THE STATE OF ALARM, ENDING THE SPECIAL TRIBUNALS, ESTABLISHING AN AMNESTY AND CONFIRMING THE ELECTORAL TIMETABLE. GENERAL MEJÍA RESPONDED THAT THESE WERE NOT JUST DECLARATIONS BUT ACTIONS AND HE WOULD STAND BY THEM. TALK NEXT TURNED TO HIS VISIT TO THE USS RANGER AND MEJÍA REITERATED HOW IMPRESSED HE HAD BEEN. THIS LED GENERAL MEJÍA TO REPEAT THAT WHILE THEY WERE TOGETHER GENERAL VIDÉS CASANOVA HAD OFFERED TO HAVE SALVADOR SERVE AS A CONDUIT FOR US ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE US CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE THEM DIRECTLY. AMBASSADOR MOTLEY RESPONDED WITH AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS AND THE AID CASE, AS SUMMARIZED IN PARA 6 ABOVE GENERAL MEJÍA RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO THE VISIT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER AND SAID THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF NEW WEAPONS, IT SHOULD DONATE OBsolete WEAPONS LING AROUND IN WAREHOUSES. ASIDE FROM HELICOPTERS AND HELICOPTER SPARE PARTS WHICH THE ARMY NEEDED FOR MOBILITY TO BRING SUPPLIES TO ISOLATED CIVILIAN HAMLETS AND TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED, THEY COULD USE TRACTORS, SULLDOZER AND OTHER ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT TO BUILD RURAL ROADS AND MOBILE HOSPITALS. GENERAL MEJÍA CLEARLY ADVOCATED ADDITIONAL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE CONTADORA
PROCESS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS, WITH
AMBASSADOR MOTLEY REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD
STRESSED THE PREVIOUS EVENING TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRAD
THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE CORE FOUR
GENERAL MEJIA ALSO DISCUSSED BELIZE AS REPORTED IN PARA
ABOVE. AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT AS THE MEETING WAS BREAKING
UP IN ORDER FOR THE GENERAL TO MEET ANOTHER COMMITMENT,
THE GENERAL ASKED THAT THE US TRAVEL ADVISORY BE LIFTED
SPUR TOURISM.
COMMENT: UNLIKE SIMILAR MEETINGS WITH GENERAL RIOS MONT
WHERE HE WAS OFTEN ALONE OR HAD ONE OR BOTH OF HIS VERBO
ADVISERS PRESENT IF INTERPRETING WAS REQUIRED, MEJIA WAS
FLANKED BY HIS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, COL. MOREIRA, THE

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CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, COL. MARROQUIN, AND THE
PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, COL. NUILA.

10. BRIEFING BY ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF - FROM GENERAL
MEJIA'S OFFICE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY WENT TO
A 75 MINUTE BRIEFING ON THE GUERRILLA SITUATION IN
GUATEMALA BY THE ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF, COL. GRAMAJO.
(CHIEF OF STAFF LOPEZ FUENTES HAD LEFT THAT MORNING
FOR EUROPE.) COL. GRAMAJO OPENED WITH A LONG STATE-
MENT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATES MARCH 23, 1982
AND AUGUST 8, 1983. HE SAID MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN
MADE SINCE THE FIRST DATE BUT THE EXTRAORDINARY
PERSONALITY OF ONE MAN (WHOSE NAME HE NEVER MENTIONED)
AND HIS INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE HIS OWN LIMITS, HAD
LED TO THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 8. THERE FOLLOWED AN OLD
CANNED BRIEFING ON THE REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE
GUERRILLA MOVEMENT AND SLIDES ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE
FOUR DIFFERENT GUERRILLA GROUPS. COL. ROUANO, THE
BRIEFER WHO IS JUST BACK FROM THE INTER AMERICAN
DEFENSE COLLEGE, DID NOT APPEAR VERY MUCH AT HOME
WITH THE FIRST PART OF THE BRIEFING. THE MOST
INTERESTING STATEMENT WAS THAT ONLY 10,000 PERSONS
WERE BEING FED AT ONE TIME UNDER THE "BEAMS AND
BULLETS" PROGRAM. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BRIEFING,
COL. GRAMAJO WALKED OVER TO A HUGE LOCKED CABINET,
WHICH HE OPENED, REVEALING AN ALMOST CEILING TO FLOOR
MAP OF GUATEMALA WITH OVERLAYS SHOWING THE CURRENT
POSITIONS OF ACTIVE AND INACTIVE GUERRILLA GROUPS AND
THE DISPOSITION OF GUATEMALAN UNITS. AFTER SOME
DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION, COL. GRAMAJO SUDDENLY

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6735
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

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EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

CURRENT CLASS: C
CURRENT HANDLING: EXDIS
DOCUMENT NUMBER: 1983GUATEM07515

UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINS, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY’S VISIT TO GUATEMALA
ANNOUNCED THAT GUATEMALA DID NOT NEED U.S. MILITARY
ASSISTANCE: THAT THE U.S. SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS
EFFORTS WITH THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PROVIDE WHATEVER
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS POSSIBLE. THE MEETING BROKE
UP JUST AFTER THIS, AS THE BRIEFING HAD RUN ON BEYOND
THE ALLOTTED TIME AND AMBASSADOR MOTLEY HAD ANOTHER
APPOINTMENT AND THE PRESS WAITING OUTSIDE. COL. RODRIGUEZ
THE U.S. MILGRP COMMANDER, LATER LEARNED FROM COL.
GRAMAJO THAT HE HAD MADE THIS STARTLING DECLARATION
WHICH WAS AT 180 DEGREE VARIANCE FROM STATEMENTS JUST
MADE BY THE CHIEF OF STATE, BECAUSE COL. GRAMAJO AND

OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS (PROBABLY INCLUDING CHIEF OF
STAFF LOPEZ FUENTES) HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE CONGRESS
WILL SIMPLY NOT PROVIDE ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
GUATEMALA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

AMBASSADOR CHAPIN’S COMMENT: IF THIS IS SO, AND
I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT COL. GRAMAJO’S STATEMENT,
IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO WASHINGTON THAT IT WILL BE
VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PROGRESS ON THE AID
CONTRACTOR CASE. NOT ONLY WAS GENERAL MEJIA THE
AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL COVER UP; BUT THE OFFICERS
HAVE CLOSED RANKS ON THIS ISSUE; THE STRONGEST
MEJIA SUPPORTER ON AUGUST 8 WAS THE COMMANDER OF
THE HUEHUETENANGO BASE WHEN THE AID CASE OCCURRED
AND HE IS STILL THERE; AND NOW IMPORTANT ARMY
OFFICERS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO U.S.
MILITARY ASSISTANCE ANYWAY, SO WHY STIR UP A HORNET’S
NEST INSIDE THE MILITARY HIERARCHY?

11. VISIT TO GUATEMALA DISPLACED PERSONS – AMBASSADOR
MOTLEY HAD A BRIEF LUNCH WITH GENERAL FUENTES CORADO,
FORMERLY HEAD OF THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
AND WHO NOW HAS TAKEN ON HARRIS WHITBECK’S FORMER DUAL
ROLE OF COORDINATOR OF ALL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND
VISITORS TO THE INTERIOR, WORKING OUT OF THE PRESIDENT’S
OFFICE, AND SECRET NEGOTIATOR ON BELIZE. GENERAL
FUENTES CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON BELIZE WERE
CONTINUING OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY. ONCE THE ESSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN
REACHED, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD REDUCE IT TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT. THE GENERAL DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILS. HE DISCUSSED THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO FORMER GUERRILLAS AND CAMPESINOS WHO HAD BEEN RECRUITED

BY OR FORCED TO JOIN THE GUERRILLAS. THOUSANDS WERE RALLYING TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, COMING IN BY THE DOZENS OR HUNDREDS. BASIC SHELTER, I.E. ALUMINUM ROOFING HAD BEEN SUPPLIED TO OVER 120,000 PEOPLE. THE PROGRAM WAS TO FEED THE STARVING CAMPESINOS WHEN THEY INITIALLY CAME IN, PROVIDE WHAT BASIC MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WAS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY TO THE CHILDREN, AND THEN RELOCATE THE CAMPESINOS BACK IN THEIR ORIGINAL HAMLETS AS SOON AS THE AREA COULD BE MADE SECURE AND THE CAMPESINOS PERSUADED TO GO BACK. THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WAS PROVIDING CORN AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

GENERAL FUENTES SAID HE HAD SUPPLIES ONLY FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. AMBASSADOR CHAPIN’S COMMENT: AMBASSADOR CESAR MIQUEL, THE UNREP IN GUATEMALA, TOLD ME THAT HE HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED $40 MILLION OF NEW ASSISTANCE FOR GUATEMALA. GENERAL FUENTES SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS NEW PROGRAM. AID MISSION DIRECTOR AND I WILL CHECK WITH THE UN SEPTEMBER 7. AS USUAL, I FOUND GENERAL FUENTES CHARMING BUT VAGUE ON PROGRAMMATIC DETAILS.

12. FOLLOWING LUNCH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY, GEN. FUENTES AND AMBASSADOR WENT BY HELICOPTER TO VISIT GUATEMALA’S ONE DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP AT NEBAJ. THE HELICOPTER WAS DIVERTED BY GENERAL FUENTES AT THE LAST MINUTE FROM LANDING AT THE STRIP NEAR THE REFUGEE CAMP, WHICH WE NEVER DID VISIT, TO THE TOWN A FEW KILOMETERS AWAY WHERE THE LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER WAS WAITING TO SHOW US SOME RECENTLY ARRIVED RALLIERS WHO WERE SERIOUSLY MALNOURISHED. WE VISITED THE 160 PEASANTS
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

SECTION 05 OF 07 GUATEMALA 07515

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA
WHO HAD BEEN PUT UP IN MOST PRIMITIVE FASHION IN TWO
HOUSES IN TOWN. THERE WERE NO MEN IN SIGHT AND IN
REPLY TO AMBASSADOR MOTLEY'S QUESTION HE WAS TOLD THAT
THEY WERE OUT CLEANING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD EARNING
THEIR FOOD IN THE FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM. THEY WOULD
BE BACK AT 5:00 P.M. STACKS OF FIREWOOD WERE EVERY-
WHERE AND THE CHILDREN WERE BEING FED ON THE FLOOR
AND ON THE PORCH WITH CORN AND TORTILLAS (IT WAS ABOUT 2:15 P.M.). TWO ARMY DOCTORS ARRIVED TO SAY THAT THEY HAD ARRIVED IN TOWN THE DAY BEFORE AND WERE SETTING UP A HOSPITAL IN PART OF AN ENORMOUS HEALTH CENTER

OUTSIDE OF TOWN, THE SHELL OF WHICH WAS BUILT STARTING IN THE LUCAS GARCIA GOVERNMENT WITH IDB MONEY BUT WHICH WAS NEVER FINISHED OR EQUIPPED. THE ARMY DOCTORS ASSURED US THAT THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN 24 HOURS. A WOUNDED OFFICER HAD RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT IN AFTER HOURS ON HORSEBACK. TWO ARMORED MILITARY AMBULANCES WITH A 30 CALIBER AND 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN EACH WERE PARKED OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL IN CREATION. THE ARMY DOCTORS CANDIDLY ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD VIRTUALLY NO MEDICINES TO TREAT THE RALLIERS OR THEIR CHILDREN. THE ESSENTIAL THING WAS TO IMPROVE THEIR DIET. SOME CHILDREN WERE DYING. GENERAL FUENTES SAID HE HAD TRIED TO EVACUATE ONE CHILD TO GUATEMALA BUT THE CHILD HAD DIED BEFORE HE COULD GET A HELICOPTER IN.


14. WE WERE NEXT INVITED FOR A BRIEFING ON THE GUERRILLA SITUATION AND THE ARMY’S CAMPAIGN IN THE AREA IN THE LOCAL ARMY COMMANDER’S HEADQUARTERS
IN A HOUSE IN TOWN. THREE REPORTED RALLIERS FROM THE GUERRILLAS WERE BROUGHT IN FOR US TO TALK TO: ONE YOUNG GIRL WHO SHOWED FAMILIARITY WITH THE M-16 CARRIED BY OUR SECURITY DETAIL; AN OLD MAN WHO HAD BEEN AN ORGANIZER OF THE ELDERLY IN HIS HAMLET (ALDEA); AND A YOUNG MAN WHO HAD ACTED AS A MESSENGER AND IRREGULAR (FIL) FOR THE GUERRILLAS. THEY ALL TOLD MORE OR LESS THE SAME STORY. THEY HAD BEEN LURED INTO JOINING THE GUERRILLAS BY FALSE PROMISES THAT THE GUERRILLAS WOULD END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE INDIANS AND DIVIDE UP THE WEALTH OF THE "RICH" SO EVERYONE WOULD HAVE CARS AND HELICOPTERS. THEY HAD COME TO REALIZE THAT THE GUERRILLAS WERE JUST AS HARD ON THE INDIANS AND WERE UNABLE TO DELIVER ON THEIR MESSIANIC PROMISES. THEY FOUND THAT THE ARMY DID NOT KILL FORMER GUERRILLAS SO THEY CAME BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE. IT WAS AGREED THAT DISPLACED CAMPESINOS NOW IN NEBAJ WOULD BE RESETTLED BACK IN THEIR HAMLETS, SOME OF WHICH WERE NOW DESERTED OR ONLY OCCUPIED BY A MILITARY PLATOON, AS SOON AS THE AREA HAD BEEN CLEARED OF GUERRILLAS.

15. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE WEATHER WAS CLOSING IN SO WE DID NOT VISIT THE OLD DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP NEAR THE AIRSTRIP, BUT FROM THE AIR IT LOOKED IMMENSELY BETTER THAN WHEN I VISITED THE RUDIMENTARY SITE 11 MONTHS AGO. CORN WAS GROWING AROUND EACH HUT, THE HUTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE TIN ROOFS WERE IN PLACE. IT LOOKED A VIABLE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PIN, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA
WEATHER, WE ALSO DID NOT VISIT PLAYA GRANDE, WHERE
NEW GROUPS OF RALLIERS WERE ALSO REPORTED TO BE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE.
-
16. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY ALSO MET WITH FATHER
BILL MULLAN, A MARYKNOLL PRIEST WHO HAS WORKED IN
GUATEMALA FOR 21 YEARS, AND ADOLFO HERNANDEZ, A
GUATEMALAN LABOR UNION LEADER, TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUATEMALA.
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HERNANDEZ EXPLAINED THAT ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF
THE GUATEMALAN LABOR FORCE WAS ORGANIZED. THIS HE
ATTRIBUTED PRINCIPALLY TO TWO FACTORS: FIRST, THE
MURDERS OR KIDNAPPINGS OF MANY LABOR ORGANIZERS
WHICH OCCURRED UNDER THE LUCAS-GARCIA GOVERNMENT; SECOND
CURRENT HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS WHICH MADE
WORKERS UNWILLING TO RISK THEIR JOBS. HERNANDEZ
WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR LABOR UNIONS
UNDER CURRENT HEAD OF STATE GENERAL MEJIA VICTORES.
HE SAID THAT UNDER RIOS-MONTT THE UNIONS HAD ACTED
IN GOOD FAITH IN RESPONSE TO HIS PROMISES OF
FREEDOM OF ACTION, BUT THAT NOW THEY HAD
NO FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE AND THAT THEIR COMMITTEES
WERE NOT FUNCTIONING. GENERAL MEJIA, SAID HERNANDEZ,
HAD THUS FAR MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL
SECTORS OF GUATEMALAN SOCIETY EXCEPT FOR THE WORKERS.
AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM FOR GUATEMALAN WORKERS,
ACCORDING TO HERNANDEZ, WAS THAT NO POLITICAL PARTY
REALLY CARED ABOUT THEM OR HAD A REALISTIC POLICY
FOR IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS. ALL THAT PARTIES
IN GUATEMALA WERE INTERESTED IN, OBSERVED HERNANDEZ,
WAS WINNING ELECTIONS.

FR. MULLAN TOLD ASST SEC MOTLEY THAT ACCORDING TO
HIS INFORMATION, VIOLENCE HAD DECLINED IN THE VILLAGES
AND THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD NO REPORTS OF ANY LARGE-
SCALE KILLINGS WHICH HAD OCCURRED SINCE MAY. REPORTS
THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRIESTS WORKING IN THE
PETEN (THE LARGE northern AREA OF GUATEMALA
LOCATED BETWEEN MEXICO AND BELIZE), AND HUEHUETENANGO
(A MOUNTAINOUS REGION NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL NEAR
THE MEXICAN BORDER) WERE THAT THE ARMY WAS NOT
CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN ANY POLICY OF TERROR OR
REPRESSION. HOWEVER, FR. MULLAN STRONGLY CRITICIZED
THE OPERATION OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS SAYING
THAT THE INDIGENOUS (WHO CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY OF
THE PATROL MEMBERS IN THE COUNTRY) WERE BEING FORCED
TO PARTICIPATE AND THIS PARTICIPATION IN A FORM OF
ORGANIZED VIOLENCE VIOLATED THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE.
HERNANDEZ JOINED IN THE CRITICISM, SAYING THAT THE
CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS WERE FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-UNION
AND PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO EXERT TOTAL
CONTROL OVER ALL OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE
OF VILLAGES IN THE COUNTRY. IN THE PAST, HE SAID,
THE CIVIL DEFENSE PATROLS WOULD BE GIVEN LISTS OF
PEOPLE TO ARREST OR KILL IN THEIR AREA AND THAT
UNION ORGANIZERS WERE FREQUENT TARGETS. HERNANDEZ
CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE MASSACRE OF ABOUT 25 PERSONS
WHICH OCCURRED IN "CHIJTINIMIT" (A VERY SMALL
VILLAGE NEAR CHICHCASTENANGO) AROUND JULY 30
(GUATEMALA 6856).

FR. MULLAN ALSO RELATED THE STORY OF A SMALL VILLAGE
IN THE PETEN WHERE THE LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER HAD
ORDERED THE VILLAGES TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITARY
CONDITIONS AND TO PAINT THE STONES LINING THE ROAD
IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSES WHITE SO THAT THEY WOULD
LOOK NEAT AND ORDERLY. ACKNOWLEDGING THE GOOD
INTENTIONS OF THE LOCAL COMMANDER, HE ARGUED THAT
NEVERTHELESS THIS AUTHORITARIANISM VIOLATED MAYAN
CULTURE AND MORES.

ADOLFO HERNANDEZ CLOSED THE DISCUSSION BY REQUESTING
THAT U.S. AID TO GUATEMALA SHOULD BE MADE CONDIT-

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ACTION SS-25
INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SSO-01 (AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, VE, XK, XM, ES, GT
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA
TIONAL ON THE GOVERNMENT GIVING THE WORKERS THE
FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE.

17. IN THE EVENING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY
ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF A HOTEL EQUIPMENT
TRADE SHOW SPONSORED BY THE HOTEL ASSOCIATION AND
THE U.S. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. HE TOURED THE
EXHIBITS AND MET THE EXHIBITORS. LATER HE MET
OTHER AMERICAN AND GUATEMALAN BUSINESSMEN, PRIMARILY
IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS AND BANKERS, AT A RECEPTION
COMMERCIAL

FOR A VISITING EX-IM DELEGATION. MR. MOTLEY ALSO
MET THE LEADERS OF THE AMCHAM AND THE PRESIDENT OF
THE GUATEMALA CITY ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN THE MARCH
1982 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WHO EXPLAINED THE
TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAD PREVENTED FRADULENT
VOTING OR TABULATING OF THE ELECTION RESULTS. HE
HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE LONG TIME RESIDENT
PUBLISHER OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS SHEET.
FINALLY, THERE WAS AN INFORMAL DINNER WITH A NUMBER
OF LEADERS OF THE GUATEMALAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY IN WHICH THEY EXPOUNDED THEIR VIEWS.
CHAPIN