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DOCUMENT_ID: 172018956
INQNO: GSCAN2D 00559342
DOCNO:
PRODUCER:
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE:
DOR: 19830818
TOR: 05260000
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198308180526
DOCCLASS: U

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TEXT
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ALL POSTS PASS PAOS
E O 12356: N/A
AGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES/BRIEFING AUGUST 17, 1983

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1. GUIDANCES PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 17:

-- NICARAGUA/HONDURAS: GRN REJECTION OF INVITATION TO AHUAS TARA II --

Q: IT APPEARS THAT THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED DOWN THE HONDURAN INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE US-HONDURAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES, AHUAS TARA II, SAYING THE EXERCISES ARE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE REGION. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT? (REUTERS)

A: WE'VE SEEN PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT THE NICARAGUANS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT THE HONDURAN INVITATION TO OBSERVE THE AHUAS TARA II EXERCISES, BUT CAN'T CONFIRM THEM. AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS INVITED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE EXERCISES, INCLUDING NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS' OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS, AS WELL AS THE CONTADORA COUNTRIES. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WOULD ACCEPT HONDURAS' INVITATION TO SEE FIRST-HAND THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE JOINT EXERCISES, WHICH, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, POSE NO THREAT TO ANY NATION. THE HONDURANS EXTENDED A SIMILAR INVITATION FOR THE JOINT US-HONDURAN EXERCISES HELD IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, AND A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES DID SEND OBSERVERS. NICARAGUA WAS INVITED AT THAT TIME AS WELL, BUT REFUSED THE INVITATION.

-- EL SALVADOR: DECISION NOT TO INCREASE TRAINERS? --

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM OR COMMENT ON THIS MORNING'S REPORT IN THE WASHINGTON POST THAT A PENTAGON-STATE DEPT. WORKING GROUP WILL RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THE NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINERS IN EL SALVADOR STAY AT THE SELF-IMPOSED LIMIT OF 55?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE A COMMENT ON THAT FOR YOU. AS WE'VE SAID BEFORE, THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY TRAINERS IN EL SALVADOR HAS BEEN CONTINUALLY UNDER REVIEW. IT REMAINS UNDER REVIEW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THAT MATTER.

Q: THE STORY ALSO INDICATED THAT THE STATE-PENTAGON GROUP WILL RECOMMEND REDEFINING THE WORD "TRAINER," SO THAT CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE COUNTED IN THE 55 TOTAL. THIS WOULD ALLOW FOR A FEW MORE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ACTUALLY WORK WITH SALVADORAN TROOPS TO GO TO EL SALVADOR. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT, AND TELL US HOW MANY PEOPLE THIS CHANGE WOULD AFFECT?

A: AGAIN, I'M NOT GOING TO ADDRESS A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE MADE TO THE PRESIDENT.

IF ASKED ONLY:

Q: WHO IS COUNTED UNDER THAT 55-MAN LIMIT NOW?

A: THE 55-MAN LIMIT INCLUDES ALL U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL NOW IN EL SALVADOR WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT AND THE HUMANITARIAN TEAM OF MILITARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL NOW IN THAT COUNTRY.

-- NICARAGUA: SOVIET FREIGHTER WITH ARMS SPOTTED? --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST THAT U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANES PICKED OUT A SOVIET FREIGHTER, APPARENTLY LOADED WITH ARMS, HEADED TOWARD THE USS CORAL SEA BATTLE GROUP IN THE CARIBBEAN?

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A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT SPECIFIC REPORT. AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, SOVIET AND EAST BLOC SHIPS CONTINUE TO MAKE DELIVERIES OF MILITARY-ASSOCIATED CARGO AND OTHER MATERIALS TO NICARAGUA, AND THIS REPORT MAY REFER TO YET ANOTHER CASE OF SOVIET DELIVERIES.

Q: WILL THE BATTLE GROUP CHALLENGE THE SOVIET FREIGHTER IF IT, IN FACT, APPROACHES?

A: THIS IS A PURELY HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION. I WOULD REFER YOU TO OUR PREVIOUS GUIDANCE ON THE SUBJECT.

-- EL SALVADOR: ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH THE GOES --

Q.- WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO EL SALVADOR'S REPORTED DECISION TO MOVE ITS EMBASSY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM?

A. THE LOCATION OF EL SALVADOR'S EMBASSY IN ISRAEL IS A MATTER CONCERNING EL SALVADOR AND ISRAEL.

US POLICY WITH RESPECT TO JERUSALEM HAS BEEN CONSISTENT FOR OVER THREE DECADES AND WAS REITERATED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN WHEN HE PRESENTED HIS SEPTEMBER 1 PEACE INITIATIVE. IN OUR VIEW, THE FINAL STATUS OF JERUSALEM MUST BE RESOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED, IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE. OUR POSITION IS THAT JERUSALEM SHOULD REMAIN UNDIVIDED WITH FREE ACCESS TO THE HOLY PLACES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS POLICY AND PENDING A RESOLUTION OF JERUSALEM'S STATUS, OUR EMBASSY IS LOCATED IN TEL AVIV.

Q. DID EL SALVADOR CONSULT THE US IN MAKING ITS DECISION?

A. WE WERE NOT CONSULTED. TO REPEAT, THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND ISRAEL.

Q. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT ISRAEL MAY PROVIDE SECURITY AID FOR EL SALVADOR AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR EL SALVADOR'S MOVING ITS EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM?

A. THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF EL SALVADOR AND ISRAEL.

Q. DOES THE US GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO PROVIDE ARMS TO EL SALVADOR TO AID THE WAR AGAINST THE LEFTIST REBELS?

A. NO. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR IS A BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

Q. DOES ISRAEL CURRENTLY PROVIDE ANY US-SUPPLIED ARMS TO EL SALVADOR OR ANY OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN NATION?

A. IN ORDER TO TRANSFER US-ORIGIN ARMS OR ARMS WITH US-SUPPLIED COMPONENTS, ANY COUNTRY IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRIOR US APPROVAL. THE US HAS NOT APPROVED ANY ISRAELI REQUESTS TO TRANSFER US ORIGIN ARMS TO EL SALVADOR OR ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY. ISRAELI ARMS FROM NON-US SOURCES OR PRODUCED IN ISRAEL WITHOUT AMERICAN COMPONENTS WOULD NOT REQUIRE PRIOR US APPROVAL.

2. SUMMARY OF NOON PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 17 (ROMBERG)

BRIEFING WAS SPLIT ABOUT EVENLY BETWEEN ARA AND NEA TOPICS, SOME OF WHICH WERE COMBINED:

HOW DOES THE ADMINISTRATION FEEL ABOUT THE VFW CAMPAIGN TO RAISE MONEY FOR ANTI-SANDINISTAS? SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN HAD ADDRESSED THAT SUBJECT, AND HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD (WH SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT UNTIL THE WHITE HOUSE COULD STUDY THE PROPOSAL). ANY COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE REDEFINITION OF TRAINERS IN

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EL SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN USED THE GUIDANCE. IS THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE LIMIT STAY AT 55? SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD NOT ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY A RECOMMENDATION MADE OR NOT MADE TO THE PRESIDENT. WE NEVER CONFIRM THAT WE MAKE A PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. THERE FOLLOWED A LONG EXCHANGE ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL REOPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR AND THE SALVADORANS WILL MOVE THEIR EMBASSY IN ISRAEL TO JERUSALEM, AND THAT THIS MAY MEAN CLOSER COOPERATION MILITARILY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SPOKESMAN FIRST USED THE GUIDANCE -- THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EL SALVADOR. WE HAVE A PARTICULARLY INTENSE INTEREST IN BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES -- WHY NO COMMENT? SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE MATTER. THE QUESTION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED. WERE WE CONSULTED ON THE MOVE OF THE SALVADORAN EMBASSY? SPOKESMAN SAID NO, IT WAS A BILATERAL QUESTION. DOESN'T THAT MOVE TO JERUSALEM RUN COUNTER TO THE US, WHICH WANTS THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS? SPOKESMAN REPEATED IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE ISRAELIS AND SALVADORANS. US POLICY IS CONSISTENT TOWARD THE MATTER OF JERUSALEM'S STATUS -- WE FAVOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. OUR EMBASSY IS IN TEL AVIV. WOULD YOU WELCOME THE ISRAELI DECISION TO OPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT IS NOT UP TO US TO EXPRESS A VIEW ON THIS KIND OF DECISION. WHY IS THIS A MATTER SOLELY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EL SALVADOR WHEN THE SUPPLY OF NICARAGUA BY EXTERNAL POWERS IS SAID TO BE OUR BUSINESS? SPOKESMAN SAID THESE WERE TWO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, THAT WE HAVE ADDRESSED BEFORE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE NICARAGUAN MILITARY BUILDUP AND WHY IT CONCERNS US. IT IS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER. PRESSED ON WHY THIS IS A DIFFERENT MATTER, SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT WE HAVE ADDRESSED THE ISSUE BEFORE AND OUR CONCERN THAT THE NICARAGUAN MILITARY BUILDUP IS FAR SSED THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT FACES AN EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED INSURGENCY. ARE YOU SAYING THAT EL SALVADOR NEEDS MORE ARMS FROM ISRAEL? SPOKESMAN SAID HE WAS NOT ADDRESSING THAT QUESTION, THAT IT WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WOULD THE US WELCOME ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN SAID ONCE MORE HE WAS NOT GETTING INTO THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THERE IS OR IS NOT SUCH ASSISTANCE, SINCE IT IS A BILATERAL ISSUE. WHAT IF ISRAEL IS SUPPLYING US-FURNISHED ARMS TO EL SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN USED THE SECOND ANSWER OF THE GUIDANCE, SAYING THAT THE US HAS NOT APPROVED ANY ISRAELI REQUEST TO PROVIDE US- FURNISHED ARMS TO EL SALVADOR OR ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY. HAS ISRAEL MADE SUCH A REQUEST? SPOKESMAN SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW. WOULDN'T YOU WELCOME ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO EL SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN SAID OBVIOUSLY AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION WE SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR, THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON RELATIONS

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BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND OTHERS.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REGIONAL PEACE PROPOSALS FLOATING AROUND; ONE ASPECT OF MANY OF THEM IS THE ELIMINATION OF ARMS SUPPLIES AND FOREIGN ADVISERS -- THE US HAS ALSO NOT WELCOMED EXTRACONTINENTAL POWERS IN THIS ISSUE -- HOW DOES THIS FURTHER THE CHANCES FOR PEACE AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE ROLE OF A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION LIKE THE OAS? SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAD NOT ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF ANY ISRAELI-SALVADORAN ARMS RELATIONSHIP, AND OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION WITHOUT DOING SO. IT IS TRUE THERE ARE A VARIETY OF PROPOSALS, AND IT CERTAINLY IS OUR POLICY TO SEE THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN ADVISERS AND THE DECREASE OF ARMS BUILDUPS IN A VERIFIABLE CONTEXT. THE US AGREES WITH THE CONTADORA PROPOSALS -- HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THAT? SPOKESMAN SAID WE FAVOR AN AGREEMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS, WITH VERIFICATION OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FLOWS OF ARMS. WE ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF AN ISRAELI-SALVADORAN ARMS RELATIONSHIP. THIS IS IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT, OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT THROUGHOUT THE REGION, ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN ADVISERS, FOR INATANCE.

THERE APPARENTLY IS AN ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP WITH HONDURAS AND GUATEMALA AND NOW POSSIBLY EL SALVADOR. DOES THE US APPROVE OF ALL THIS, OR DOES IT HAVE NO OPINION? SPOKESMAN REPEATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT ARMS RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE US AND EL SALVA;OR. THAT IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.

REFERRING TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENTS YESTERDAY FORMALLY APOLOGIZING TO FRANCE FOR ASSISTING ACCUSED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL **KLAUS BARBIE** AFTER WORLD WAR II, WHY DOESN'T THE US EXTEND ITS REGRETS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA, WHICH ACCEPTED BARBIE INTO THAT COUNTRY WITHOUT KNOWING WHO HE WAS? SPOKESMAN SAID WE EXPRESSED OUR REGRETS TO FRANCE BECAUSE THAT COUNTRY HAD TRIED TO GET BARBIE BACK FOR TRIAL. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAYS BARBIE WAS INVOLVED IN PARAMILITARY GROUPS IN BOLIVIA SINCE THE 1970S -- WHAT IS SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT FROM THE PROBLEM OF CUBA SENDING CRIMINALS HERE? SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY WAS DIRECTED TO WHETHER BARBIE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE USG AFTER THE WAR.

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON IS GOING TO THE CONTADORA COUNTRIES -- HE HAD A BRIEFING WITH AMB. STONE -- WILL HE BE CARRYING ANY SPECIAL MESSAGES? SPOKESMAN SAID THAT QUESTION CAME UP YESTERDAY. THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO GO TO SEN. CRANSTON. SPPKESMAN SAID WE OFTEN PROVIDE BRIEFINGS TO VISITING CONGRESSMEN, AND HE WOULD NOT ASSUME THAT SEN. CRANSTON WAS CARRYING ANY MESSAGES. WE HAVE ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. DAM

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