

PHILLIP HARMAN

STAT

Nov. 4th, 1972

General George V. Underwood, U.S. Army  
Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command  
Quarry Heights, Canal Zone

Dear General Underwood:

I read with a great deal of regret that you are retiring on January 31st and that you have been ill. I do want to wish you a very speedy recovery.

Being the grandson-in-law of the founder of the Republic of Panama and knowing Panama well, I have been devoting all of my time and efforts in exposing Omar Torrijos and the Communist Party of Panama by informing Congress, both the Senate and the House, the Executive Branch, the Department of State, the Pentagon, and others about Torrijos' close ties with Cuba and Moscow in their objective of trying to gain control over the sovereignty of the U.S. Canal Zone.

As General Creighton Abrams was recently appointed Chief of Staff, I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent him as well as a copy of a letter that I sent to Dr. Henry Kissinger about events in Panama. In my letter to Dr. Kissinger, I wanted to remind him what President Eisenhower did for the people of Guatemala when he ordered Allen Dulles of the CIA to intervene and help the people of Guatemala to overthrow the leftist dictatorship of Colonel Arbenz. It was a great and bold step by President Eisenhower and the people of Guatemala were so very appreciative of what he did for them. I only wish, and so do the people of Panama, that President Nixon would issue a similar order to Richard Helms so that democracy and free speech would be returned to the people of Panama and to the country that President Teddy Roosevelt created in 1903 with the help of my grandfather-in-law.

Although the Panamanians cannot express themselves because they would be shot, imprisoned, or deported as your intelligence knows so very well, they know the situation is ten times worst with Torrijos at the helm than the Guatemala situation of 1954 with Arbenz. Moreover, if the people of Panama can restore their friendly constitutional government of President Arnulfo Arias and his pro-American cabinet, they know that President Arias would not ask for the closing of the military bases and the other demands that Torrijos is demanding and threatening for. I can say with all sincerity that President Arias knows that the security of the Canal and the Western hemisphere depends upon the strength and presence of the United States in the Isthmus of Panama.

With my warmest regards and I know that President Arias joins me in wishing you and your family every good wish and Godspeed.

Most cordially yours,

*Phillip Harman*

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