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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM P. CLARK
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Supplementary Issues and Objectives for NSC Discussion

Attached are three supplementary issues and objectives as requested in your LDX of this morning. With [redacted] approval, we are circulating this simultaneously to the participating agencies.

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L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

- cc:OVP - Donald P. Gregg
- Commerce - Mrs. Helen Robbins
- Defense - Col. John Stanford
- JCS - Ltc. Dennis Stanley
- CIA - Mr. Thomas B. Cormack
- OMB - Mr. Alton Keel
- DOE - Mr. William Vitale
- Treasury - Mr. David Pickford
- UNA - Amb. Harvey Feldman
- USTR - Mr. Dennis Whitfield

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Attachments:

State Dept. review completed.

As stated.

NSC Review Completed as Redacted.

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SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA

1. Issue: Improvement of U.S.-Guatemalan Relations

Objective: To convince Rios Montt that the USG supports his efforts to defeat the guerrillas in Guatemala while cleaning up the human rights situation.

Rios Montt represents the first government that the U.S. has been able to support in Guatemala in the last six years. Even though engaged in a brutal guerrilla war, Rios Montt has departed from past tradition by attempting to end indiscriminate violence and corruption. His hold on power is tenuous and he is dubious that the USG will ever support him. He needs to be convinced that we share the same mutual goal of GOG victory in the guerrilla war. He must understand that the GOG image abroad is so bad that it is difficult for the democratic countries, including the United States, to convince their legislatures to appropriate assistance. We should encourage him to continue the human rights progress, which will help us in our effort to convince the Congress that the GOG and USG share a common objective in defeating the guerrillas.

2. Issue: U.S. Salvadoran Relations

Objective: To express to President Magana in the strongest and most convincing terms our support for his government and our common objectives.

Magana, as a compromise President, is ably maneuvering the diverse elements in his polarized government to an improved democratic and human rights situation. He needs to be convinced that USG will stay with the task our two governments face in El Salvador until it is completed. Magana is aware of the importance we attach to significant improvement in the human rights situation and the periodic test of progress built into the congressional certification requirement. He should be commended for his effort and reminded of the importance of continued progress to achieving our common objectives.

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3. Issue: U.S.-Honduran Relations

Objective: . Reassure our Honduran Allies of the U.S. commitment to the preservation of their nation and democracy.

President Suazo, in power less than a year, heads a fragile democracy on the front lines of the regional battle to contain Cuban/Nicaraguan subversion. Despite pressure from Nicaragua, he has sided with his El Salvador and U.S. allies, fully recognizing the short term liabilities of that action. He needs to be reassured that the USG will remain steadfastly committed to his defense and the economic development of his economy, the second poorest in the hemisphere after Haiti. He should be told that the Administration is committed to continue military and economic assistance for Honduras. The CBI with its trade preferences and investment incentives is an important vehicle for the development of the Honduran economy.

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