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TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY 9587
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E.O. 12065:GDS 7/20/88 (JOHNSTONE, L. CRAIG)
TAGS: PEPR, GT
SUBJECT: CBI-PROPOSED ASSISTANCE FOR GUATEMALA

REFERENCE: ICA GUATEMALA 161931Z

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. FOREIGN MINISTER IN COMMENTS ON DOLLARS 11 MILLION ESF FOR GUATEMALA UNDER THE CBI ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE RATIONALE FOR HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUPPORT AND THE TROUBLES THAT LIE AHEAD IN OBTAINING PASSAGE. THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DECISION REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUT CONTINUED EFFORTS WILL BE NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN MEASURE IN THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE LATER AS WELL AS IN THE FULL HOUSE AND SENATE.
3. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT IN CONTACTS WITH KEY GOG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE MILITARY, THAT IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THIS SUBSTANTIAL BREAKTHROUGH IN US-GUATEMALA BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO BUILD ON THIS PROGRESS AND TO FURTHER EXPAND OUR RELATIONSHIP IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. OUR ABILITY TO DO SO WILL DEPEND ON A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENTLY FAVORABLE TRENDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. GOG PROGRESS IN THIS AREA WILL PAY HIGH DIVIDENDS, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF GUATEMALA BUT ALSO BY STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR THE GOG, AND UNDERCUTTING SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLAS, WITHIN GUATEMALA.

SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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