

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 21, 1980

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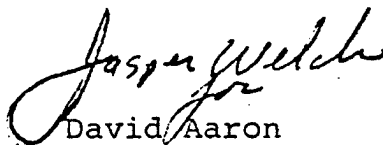
MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: US Intelligence Requirements and Resources
in Central America (TS)

The NSC has reviewed your memorandum of April 24, 1980 on the above subject to Dr. Brzezinski, and concurs in the critical importance of obtaining the maximum amount of high quality intelligence from Central America in order to pursue our nation's objectives to contribute to peaceful democratic change and to resist both leftist subversion and rightist repression. Obviously, it would be desirable to proceed with Option 1 and to utilize the intelligence contributions of Options 2 and 3, as much as feasible. But given existing budgetary constraints, we cannot assure you the prospect of enhanced funding levels. (TS)

However, my staff has reviewed with yours the question of whether we could obtain some of these contributions by reallocating other resources, and we have concluded that a sharp reduction in US intelligence resources in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, or Colombia could be accomplished without as dramatic a reduction of our national security interests as if we did not transfer these capabilities to Central America and the Caribbean. Specifically, we need a Defense Attache in Suriname as soon as possible. In addition, it is much more important for us to have another Defense Attache in El Salvador than a Naval Attache in Guatemala. If we could do both under the existing MODE, fine; if not, El Salvador should obtain priority. (TS)



David Aaron
Deputy Assistant to the
President for National
Security Affairs

cc: The Secretary of State
The Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Director of Central Intelligence

DOS, NSC, DIA HAVE REVIEWED

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