

Soviet Union

GRS 350 CONFIDENTIAL

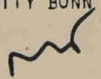
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FM WASHINGTON 190058Z MAR 81

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 920 OF 19 MAR 81.

INFO SAN JOSE GUATEMALA CITY TEGUCIGALPA HAVANA MEXICO CITY BONN
PARIS UKDEL NATO MOSCOW.



EL SALVADOR

1. WHEN I SAW DEPUTY SECRETARY WILLIAM CLARK THIS AFTERNOON I ASKED IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO TELL ME ABOUT EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE PLEASED THAT THEY WERE NOT FINDING ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE ARMS TRAFFIC WAS CONTINUING INTO EL SALVADOR ; SOME ARMS APPEARED STILL TO BE BEING STOCK-PILED IN NICARAGUA. BUT THE U S GOVERNMENT'S GRAVE CONCERN HAD NOT ABATED EVEN THOUGH THE STORY WAS FOR THE MOMENT OUT OF THE HEADLINES. THEY WERE STILL DETERMINED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF SUBVERSION AT THE SOURCE. IE CUBA. THEY WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO BOTH THEIR FRIENDS AND THEIR CRITICS THAT THIS ISSUE WAS A GLOBAL ONE AFFECTING ALL OF THE ALLIES, NOT JUST SOMETHING HAPPENING ON THE U S DOORSTEP AND NOT JUST AFFECTING THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THAT HAD BEEN THE PURPOSE OF EAGLEBURGER'S MISSION, WHICH SOME PEOPLE HAD DUBBED THE TRUTH SQUAD. IF THE U S GOVERNMENT DID NOT DRAW THE LINE, OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DOUBT U S NATIONAL RESOLVE WHEN CRISES AROSE ELSEWHERE, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE GULF. THE WHOLE PROBLEM WAS BEING STUDIED URGENTLY, AS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY. CLARK EXPECTED A POLICY TO UNFOLD RAPIDLY AND SPOKE AS IF CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE REACHED WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER TO U S POLICY TOWARDS THE CUBANS WAS GOING TO FOCUS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA OR EXTEND TO THEIR PRESENCE IN AFRICA CLARK ASKED HIS NOTE-TAKER TO STOP WRITING AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE POLICY TOWARDS CUBA WHICH THEY PROPOSE TO FINALISE WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS WOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO CENTRAL AMERICA BUT WOULD ENCOMPASS CUBAN ACTIVITIES WORLDWIDE. I THINK THIS SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF SAVIMBI'S FORTHCOMING VISIT HERE (MY TELNO 919).

HENDERSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

EL SALVADOR LIMITED

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(REPETITION TO TEGUCIGALPA
REFERRED FOR DEPTL. DECISION
REPEATED AS REQUESTED TO
OTHER POSTS)

[NOT ADVANCED]

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