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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

DECLASSIFIED FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

NLRM 453/2 # 155743

August 20, 1981

BY CN NARA DATE 7/3/16

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From : Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.
Acting Secretary of State

1. El Salvador. El Salvador is facing a renewed guerrilla offensive. Since August 10 the guerrillas have succeeded in occupying and holding the northeast town of Perquin, putting three of the government's ten helicopters out of action, and temporarily blacking out much of the country by sabotaging electrical towers. Government casualties have increased substantially due to guerrilla ambushes along the country's main roads. The military has resorted to ground transportation for its troops, which increases their vulnerability to guerrilla attacks. El Salvador has requested four additional helicopters and some mobile electric power generators to meet the new threat. We are responding by assessing the electricity problem and by providing additional helicopters from funds remaining under the Section 506A Presidential determination made earlier this year. This will require deferring other urgent needs, but we are exploring the possibilities of obtaining additional funds.

2. Libya. Americans in Libya appear to be in no danger following the August 19 incident. Libya's Deputy Secretary of Petroleum has informed an Exxon executive that "the highest authority" has guaranteed the safety of Americans there. Foreign reaction is mixed but reasonable. The European press has tended to see the incident in the context of the Administration's foreign policy; official European reaction has been sparse. Arab media reaction is generally critical of the U.S., but the official reaction has been mild.

3. Puerto Rico. The UN Special Committee on Decolonization completed its annual review of Puerto Rico on August 20 by adopting a highly objectionable resolution co-sponsored by Cuba, Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. The resolution calls for debate on Puerto Rico's status to be placed on the agenda of the 1982 UN General Assembly. We will have further opportunities to deflect the proposal before the item can actually be formally inscribed on the 1982 agenda.

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RDS-1 8/20/01 (STOESSEL, Walter J., Jr.)

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AUGUST 21, 1981

SECRET ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN
SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY STOESSEL'S EVENING REPORT

ATTACHED IS ACTING SECRETARY STOESSEL'S EVENING REPORT FOR
AUGUST 20, 1981.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
James Baker
Michael Deaver

SECRET ATTACHMENT

Received August 20, 1981, 9:47 p.m.

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DISPATCHED
3/12/13
RW