MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
   Daniel P. Parker, Administrator, Agency for International Development
   Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, February 16, 1976
   11:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Guatemala Earthquake Relief

[Parker: The rainy season begins in May and we really need to get things done by then.]

[The press leaves. Pictures are brought in. Parker described the aerial photos of the damaged areas.]

Parker: Our U-2 is going to be invaluable to locate damage and especially to find where the landslides have made dams which will subsequently break.

The President: What are you recommending?

Parker: The Guatemalans want to take care of themselves. They are in pretty good economic shape. If they can get their economy back to work, they can take care of most of it. There are some things they can't do, though. The greatest need is housing. I probably will recommend a package of $100-150 per family for corrugated tins, nails, etc. which will help. It depends on what others do.
No one knows whether the quakes are over, so many people won’t sleep in their homes.

We want to focus on helping the poor with building material.

The President: How much are you thinking of?

Parker: Maybe 50,000 families. A total of about $7.5 million, and it should be a grant.

The other thing is to open the highways before the rains. The other main cost component of our expenses is the operating expense. The AID and Embassy people are working very hard.

The President: Were there any Americans killed?

Parker: No one was killed. One Mormon Missionary had spine damage when the roof fell. It is a beautiful country. It’s called the land of eternal spring.

The President: How frequently do they have earthquakes?

Parker: The capital has been moved at least twice over the centuries for that reason.

The President: Would you need a supplemental?

Parker: Yes. We would probably ask for a supplemental and take it out of the Security Assistance.

The President: I don’t know about that. I think I would do it as a separate bill. The Security Assistance is in trouble. I would consult with the Committees, but my gut feeling is to go for one-shot legislation.

Parker: The Committees have indicated a wish to attach it to the economic assistance bill.

The President: Sure, but I would be careful. Get some Congressmen behind it who can push.

Parker: I will have a chance today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When you designated me as Special Coordinator for
Disaster Relief, we began to reorganize -- to handle disasters better. We have greatly improved our capability to do what is required in a timely fashion. We have brought know-how in very quickly this time -- not simply pouring in commodities.
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Press on for landfall idiocy
I'm sure ourfragments may and we
really need to get the whole thing
Peter service Engineer harvest
is (Declaration criminal photo of damaged area)
Chen 4-2 is going to be inadequate to start
damage 4 exp. to found where buildings
have been blown which will subsequently
leak.

1) What are your plans?

The Great event to take care of Churches
They can be pretty good in shape. If they can
get a training school to work they can be said
demolished. Those are some they can't do so.
The greatest need is housing. I just will recommend
a package of 100-150 for family for every 400
men. This will help a lot. On what
returns do,

We are known what a fantasee owner, so money
must play in this business.

We want to press on helping poor civil building
materials

2) I see Grandpa is a thristy of

The Morgan 53,000 from the Total of what 2.5 mil,
= the total amount. This other thing is problem
every house being a reminder. The largest east
reaplacement from the are in getting space
The civil engineering project making very


DECLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: 93-79-14
BY: NLF. DATE: 14/14
P: Any more talking?
P: None talked. Our trains moving and aground-maneuver won't stop well. It's a beautiful country. Emboldened by Ethel's
P: How frequently do they have earthquakes?
P: Here, the capital has been moved at least twice. The center can be that same.
P: I work open world's supplemented.
P: Yes, we would put, write supplemented. Take it down in world's contact.
P: I don't know about that. I think I would do it as separate bill. The security needs is intimated. I would come in. I content, that my grant folk is due for one that designation.
P: The entries have indicated a wish to attach it to the, apart bill.
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P: I decided have a chance today before 5 P.M.
when your design are you coordinates for observer, we began the previous 3 really
direction mention. We have greatly improved our way to do what is required in timely fashion.
I was told I brought down - how the very quickly,
this time - not simply passing in consideration.