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GENERAL

C058

FG6-6

J. F. Keffer

P.O. Box 6, Endicott, New York 13760

February 11, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I had an occasion recently to contact the White House staff regarding the Guatemala situation since my son was in Guatemala on a student exchange program. I was so very impressed with the responsiveness displayed by your Mr. Stephen<sup>x</sup>Low that I felt an obligation to call this to your attention. Mr. Low was most responsive and helpful regarding the action that was being taken in Guatemala. He was so sensitive to the situation that he even called me following the State Department's call to make sure I had learned that my son was alive and well.

This to me is a prime example of the best form of responsive government, and I want you to know that I am most appreciative of the most professional manner in which Mr. Low handled my request.

Sincerely,

*John Keffer*

/gal



The President, The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

To Central Files

no reply sent.



RECEIVED  
JAN 13 1977  
CENTRAL FILES

February 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Pellecer:

Thank you for your telegram of February 14 commenting on what you believe is unauthorized use of your name and that of the Guatemala Consulate in Houston.

I appreciated hearing from you on this subject, but on checking several sources here in the White House, I have been unable to find any evidence of such misuse. Nevertheless, I will bring your telegram to the attention of the appropriate officials at our Department of State so that they may be aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Cheney  
Assistant to the President

Mr. Carlos<sup>x</sup> Manuel Pellecer  
Consul General of Guatemala  
5500 El Camino Del Rey  
Houston, Texas 77081

RBC:MD:rs

bcc w/cc of incoming to State

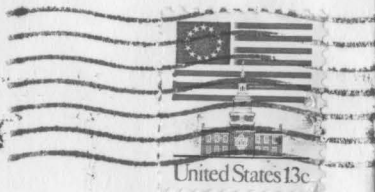


FEB 25 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

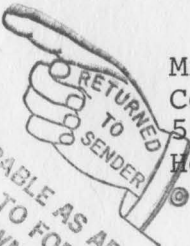
9



THE WHITE HOUSE



NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED  
UNABLE TO FORWARD  
SHARPSTOWN STATION  
HOUSTON, TX 77036

An illustration of a hand with the index finger pointing towards the return address text.

Mr. Carlos Manuel Pellecer  
Consul General of Guatemala  
5500 El Camino Del Rey  
Houston, Texas 77081

FEB 28

100

What is this  
all about?  
17.

The White House  
Washington

1  
2 WHD002 1248A EST FEB 14 76

WAG005(0021)(1-000127A045)PD 02/14/760

3 ICS IPMHSTA HOU

1976 FEB 14 AM 1 03

4 Q1538 HOUSTON TX 71 02-13 1102P CST

5 PMS CHIEF OF STAFF

6 WHITE HOUSE

7 WASHINGTON DC

8  
9  
10  
11 0906 PLEASE PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN FOR NON AUTHORIZED  
12  
13 USE OF MY NAME AND THE NAME OF THIS CONSULATE IN HOUSTON  
14  
15 STOP ONLY THE EMBASSY OF GUATEMALA IN WASHINGTON CAN  
16  
17 ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO THE  
18  
19 FEDERAL AUTHORITIES STOP MR ASENSIO HAS BEEN INFORMED OF MY  
20  
21 ATTITUDE NEVERTHELESS I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANY IMPERTINENCE  
22  
23 OF PERSONS INTERESTED IN HELPING GUATEMALA IN ITS PRESENT  
24  
25 SITUATION STOP RESPECTFULLY  
26

CARLOSMANUEL PELLECE

CONSUL GENERAL OF GUATEMALA





Ag

GENERAL

CO58

Shell, Elizabeth Ann

February 27, 1976

Dear Mrs. Snell:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of February 16 in which you ask for assistance in ascertaining the well-being of your daughter in Guatemala.

I have been informed that subsequent to your writing the President you were advised by the Department of State that your daughter is well and is working in Izabal, Guatemala. I realize the anxiety which resulted from the long period of being unable to learn about your daughter, and I am particularly pleased to know that she is well.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,



Roland L. Elliott  
Director of Correspondence

x  
Mrs. Margaret V. Snell  
142 - 10 Holly Avenue  
Flushing, New York 11355

RLE:State:NSC:JHH:aby

9

RECEIVED

FEB 26 1976

CENTRAL FILES

*Final*

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mrs. Snell:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of February 16 in which you ask for assistance in ascertaining the well-being of your daughter in Guatemala.

I have been informed that subsequent to your writing the President you ~~have been~~<sup>were</sup> advised by the Department of State that your daughter is well and is working in Izabal, Guatemala. I realize the anxiety which resulted from the long period of being unable to learn about your daughter, and I am particularly pleased to know that she is well.

*With the President's best wishes,*  
Sincerely,

R L E

Mrs. Margaret V. Snell  
142 - 10 Holly Avenue  
Flushing, N.Y. 11355



*R L E / State / NSC / JH*



Jim -

2/26

No Blue



MEMORANDUM

1104

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506**

(Correspondence Referral)

February 24, 1976

TO: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *WJD*

REFERENCE:

To: The President      Date: February 16, 1976

From: Mrs. Margaret V. Snell

Subject: Her Daughter in Guatemala

Comment: The State Department informed Mrs. Snell on February 20 that it had received word that her daughter, Elizabeth Ann, is well and is working in Guatemala.

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is attached at Tab B.

Attachments



## NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	
2	24	2	24	11	7601104

INITIAL ACTION O

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES

FROM: KISSINGER, H

S/S

REFERENCE:

CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

KISSINGER

COLBY, W

OTHER

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SCOWCROFT

SCHLESINGER, J

C

EYES ONLY EXDIS

DAVIS

ST EX SEC

S

CODEWORD

TS

SENSITIVE

SUBJECT:

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

## INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

ACTION

INFO

REC  
CY  
FOR

## ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK . . . . . ( )

MEMO FOR PRES . . . . . ( )

REPLY FOR . . . . . ( )

APPROPRIATE ACTION . . . . . ( )

MEMO TO . . . . . ( )

RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . . ( )

JOINT MEMO . . . . . ( )

REFER TO . . . . . FOR: . . . . . ( )

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? . . . . . ( )

CONCURRENCE . . . . . ( )

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE

FROM

TO

S

SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):

CY TO

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:

NOTIFY

&amp; DATE

BY

SPECIAL DISPOSITION:

CROSS REF W/

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED:

FOLDER:

MICROFILM &amp; FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D

BY

CRT ID:

OPEN

CLOSE

SA

SF

HP

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WH

EP

PA

DY

(NSC 75-22)  
575-600

A



1104

5  
 General Scowcroft  
 MRS. MARGARET V. SNELL  
 142 - 10 HOLLY AVENUE  
 FLUSHING, N. Y. 11355

Feb. 16, 1976



Dear President Ford,

I am writing to you - I have tried every avenue I heard about from friends, TV, Radio and newspapers. My daughter Elizabeth Ann <sup>signed</sup> Snell is in Guatemala. I have called the Embassy in Guatemala, Senator Buckley, The State Dept, the Disaster Unit for Guatemala in Washington, the American Red Cross, etc etc. inc. a Cablegram.

It is now the 12th day and I have not been able to get any information of her condition.



She is at Casa Maria, Las Amates,  
Izabal, Guatemala.

It is hard for me to believe  
that this town about 125 miles  
from Guatemala City cannot be reached  
by radio or something, the Guatemalan  
mission at the U.N. said there is  
no listing for a phone in Las Amates  
but in this day and age no communication  
at all is <sup>is</sup> unbelievable. If some one  
cared it could be accomplished.

My son Raleigh was killed in Viet  
nam on Dec. 16, 1969 at the age of 19. So  
this is my first experience with a solid  
wall of no communication. The army did  
all they could. Maybe you as a father  
will try to do something, anything at  
all will be better than the past 12 days  
of nothing.

ELIZABETH ANN SNELL  
Casa MARIA  
LOS AMATES  
IZABAL, Guatemala

Thank you

Margaret V. Snell



B



4

GENERAL  
5107  
PL  
AT  
CO58

February 27, 1976

Dear Mr. Harford:

The President has asked me to reply to your recent letter requesting an opportunity for a spokesman for the research and development community to appear before the Platform Committee. As this is a function of the Republican National Committee, I am forwarding your letter to Mary Louise Smith, Chairman of the Committee, for consideration. You will be hearing directly from her concerning your request.

Thank you for letting us know of your interest.

Sincerely,

Rogers C. B. Morton  
Counsellor to the President



X  
Mr. James J. Harford  
Executive Secretary  
American Institute of Aeronautics  
and Astronautics  
1290 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019

cc: Mary Louise Smith

REC-  
7-10  
COUNCIL FILED

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(Correspondence Referral)

March 11, 1976

TO: JON HOWE

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *WJD*

REFERENCE:

To: The Vice President Date: February 17, 1976

From: Michael Tolbert<sup>x</sup>

Subject: Offering services for Guatemala relief effort.

Comment:

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is attached at Tab B.

Attachments



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

March 15, 1976

(Correspondence Preferred)

GENERAL

012/058  
F08  
PP5  
0058

Dear Mr. Mesones:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of February 10, suggesting a visit by Mrs. Ford or Susan Ford to Guatemala.

As you know, the President has been closely following developments in Guatemala since the tragic earthquake of February 4. Quick action was taken by this government to provide emergency assistance. The President sent Daniel Parker, his Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance, to Guatemala on February 12 to make a personal assessment of damages done and assistance needed and met with him on several occasions to discuss the ongoing relief needs. On February 19 the President submitted to the Congress a Special Bill for Guatemalan Relief and Rehabilitation calling for grant assistance of \$25 million.

While there are no present plans for either Mrs. Ford or Susan Ford to visit Guatemala, Secretary of State Kissinger did visit there on February 24 to convey personally the condolences of the American Government and people.

We appreciate your expression of interest and the benefits of your constructive idea.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott  
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Pedro<sup>x</sup> de Mesones  
Pedro de Mesones Associates, Inc.  
Suite 903  
1625 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

RE:State:NSC:JHH:aby

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1976

CENTRAL FILES



BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL

C058

3/4/76

Previously filed

Date

Name

Mr. Anthony Low

Organization

GENERAL

C058

3/18/76

New File Symbol

Date

Final Action

Referral to Sec. of  
State



BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL  
C058  
Previously filed 3/18/76  
Date

Name Mr. Anthony Low  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL  
C058  
New File Symbol 5/13/76  
Date

Final Action Further from Mr.  
Elliott  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





09

May 13, 1976

GENERAL

C058

Ottenger, Richard  
(Cong.)

Dear Mr. Low:

I am responding to your letter to the President dated March 3 relating to your claim to the former Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations for damages which are alleged to have been done by him while a tenant in your house. I previously wrote to you on this subject on March 4. Please accept my apology for the delay in this reply.

I am now advised by the Department of State that the Office of Protocol wrote to the Embassy of Guatemala in Washington in February requesting proper investigation by the Embassy into the matters raised in your original letter to the President. The Office of Protocol sent a second letter to the Embassy on April 21, 1976 (copy enclosed) asking for a progress report. The Office of Protocol assures this office that it will continue to pursue this matter, and when the Guatemalan Embassy has responded to its two requests for investigation of this matter, it will inform you of the results directly.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott  
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Anthony Low<sup>x</sup>  
18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, New York 10583

Enclosure: As Stated  
RLE:State:NSC:JHH:aby



RECEIVED

MAY 13 1976

GENERAL FILES

SUGGESTED REPLY

Final

Dear Mr. Low:

I am responding to your letter to the President dated March 3 relating to your claim to the former Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations for damages which are alleged to have been done by him while a tenant in your house. I previously wrote to you on this subject on March 4.

*Please accept my apology for the delay in this reply.*

I am <sup>now</sup> advised by the Department of State that the Office of Protocol wrote to the Embassy of Guatemala in Washington in February requesting proper investigation by the Embassy into the matters raised in your original letter to the President. The Office of Protocol sent a second letter to the Embassy on April 21, 1976 (copy enclosed) asking for a progress report. The Office of Protocol assures this office that it will continue to pursue this matter, and when the Guatemalan Embassy has responded to its two requests for investigation of this matter, it will inform you of the results directly.

Sincerely,

RLE



Mr. Anthony Low  
18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

RLE/State/NSC/JA  
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

613

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(Correspondence Referral)

May 11, 1976

TO: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *WJD*

REFERENCE:

To: The President Date: March 3, 1976

From: Anthony Low

Subject: Problem in obtaining restitution for  
damage done to a private home by the former  
Ambassador of Guatemala.

Comment: Please send a copy of the reply to the  
State Department.

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is  
attached at Tab B.

Attachments



MICROFILM DATA	
DO	_____
INIT	_____
DATE	_____
ORIG	NSC _____
TO	PAF _____
	WHC <i>X</i> _____
	SUBJ _____

*WJD*

RECEIVED  
JUN 2 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506  
(Correspondence Referral)

May 11, 1976

TO: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *WJD*

REFERENCE:

To: The President Date: March 3, 1976

From: Anthony Low

Subject: Problem in obtaining restitution for  
damage done to a private home by the former  
Ambassador of Guatemala.

Comment: Please send a copy of the reply to the  
State Department.

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is  
attached at Tab B.

Attachments





UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

S/S# 7606033

Date May 7, 1976

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Brent Scowcroft  
National Security Council  
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: The President

FROM: Anthony Low

DATE: March 3, 1976

SUBJECT: Problem in obtaining restitution  
~~for damage done to a private~~  
home by the former Ambassador of  
Guatemala

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: March 18, 1976 NSC#  
(if any)

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- xx A draft reply is attached.
- A draft reply will be forwarded.
- A translation is attached.
- An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- We believe no response is necessary for the  
reason cited below.
- Other

REMARKS:



*Inty M. Schumi*

*for* George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Low:

I am responding to your letter to the President dated March 3 relating to your claim to the former Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations for damages which are alleged to have been done by him while a tenant in your house. I previously wrote to you on this subject on March 4.

I am advised by the Department of State that the Office of Protocol wrote to the Embassy of Guatemala in Washington in February requesting proper investigation by the Embassy into the matters raised in your original letter to the President. The Office of Protocol sent a second letter to the Embassy on April 21, 1976 (copy enclosed) asking for a progress report. The Office of Protocol assures this office that it will continue to pursue this matter and when the Guatemalan Embassy has responded to its two requests for investigation of this matter, it will inform you of the results directly.

Sincerely,

Mr. Anthony Low  
18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583





Honorable Richard L. Ottinger  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ottinger:

I have your letter of March 29, requesting that we follow-up our initial inquiry to the Guatemalan Ambassador concerning Professor Low's claim against the former Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre.

We have again addressed a communication to Ambassador Asencio Wunderlich, asking for his further help in reaching a settlement and for a report on the present status of the claim. I have enclosed a copy of our letter for your information.

As soon as we hear from the Guatemalan Ambassador, we will let you know.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McCloskey  
Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

~~Malitakes~~/CPR:RGoekin

X 27984 4/22/76

1. Correspondence returned.
2. Copy of letter to  
Ambassador Asencio-Wunderlich.



Clearance: H - Kay Folger

## NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
1	28	3	17		7600613	Low

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION	TO: PRES <u>X</u>		FROM: <u>Low, Anthony</u>		REFERENCE:		CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE	
	KISSINGER _____		COLBY, W _____		S/S _____		UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT	
	SCOWCROFT _____		SCHLESINGER, J _____		OTHER _____		LOU NO FORN NODIS	
	DAVIS _____		ST EX SEC _____				C EYES ONLY EXDIS	
							S CODEWORD	
							TS SENSITIVE	
SUBJECT: <u>Ask Lth to Pres for Low seeking assistance in obtaining money damages for former omb to UN from Guatemala Alejandro Maldonado</u>								
DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT	INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION				REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED		
	ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT	ACTION	INFO	MEMO FOR HAK _____				
	STAFF SECRETARY			MEMO FOR PRES _____				
	FAR EAST			REPLY FOR <u>Scowcroft</u> <u>Scj</u> <u>X</u>				
	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			APPROPRIATE ACTION _____				
	MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			MEMO _____ TO _____				
	EUROPE / CANADA			RECOMMENDATIONS _____				
	LATIN AMERICA	<u>X</u>		JOINT MEMO _____				
	UNITED NATIONS			REFER TO _____ FOR: _____				
	ECONOMIC			ANY ACTION NECESSARY? _____				
	SCIENTIFIC			CONCURRENCE _____				
	PROGRAM ANALYSIS			DUE DATE: <u>2/10</u>				
	NSC PLANNING			COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)				
	CONGRESSIONAL			<u>index: Maldonado, Alejandro</u>				
OCEANS POLICY								
INTELLIGENCE								
SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS	DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):			CY TO
	<u>2/2/76</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>To State for direct reply with a copy to NSC.</u>			
	<u>2/2</u>		<u>STATE</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Direct reply</u>			
NSC/S DISP INSTR	DISPATCH <u>X</u> <u>From</u> <u>2/2/76</u>				MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:			
	CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:				M/F'D _____ BY _____			
	NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____				CRL ID: _____			
	SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____				OPEN _____			
	CROSS REF W/ _____				CLOSE _____			
	SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: <u>X</u>				FOLDER: _____			
					SA SF			
					HP NS			
					WH EP			
					PA DY			

NSC 32  
DISP  
INST

REFERENCE ATTACHED:

CROSS REF NO:

SPECIAL DISPOSITION:

NOTES:

CA MONTH: SEE ABOVE PAGE:

DISPATCH:

LOGDER:

Name

DATE

#17  
P BYRNE /411

3/8/76  
4-15-76

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION AGENT

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

INTELLIGENCE

OCEANIC LOGIC

CONGRESSIONAL

NSC PLANNING

PROSPECT ANALYSIS

SCIENTIFIC

ECONOMIC

UNITED NATIONS

LATIN AMERICA

EUROPE / CANADA

AFRICA / NO. AFRICA / SO. AFRICA

AFRICA / NORTH AFRICA

AFRICA

STATE SECRETARY

ADVANCE CASE TO HUKUSCOMSOFT

ACTION

INFO

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INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT:

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NSC CORRESPONDENCE BYRNE

1381	3913	140013	1501
NO	DA	NO	DA
DOC	REC	DOC	REC
INITIAL ACTION			

MEMORANDUM

613

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506**

(Correspondence Referral)

March 1, 1976

TO: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *MMH*

REFERENCE:

To: The President

Date: January 28, 1976

From: Anthony Low

Subject: Asks Assistance in Obtaining Damages in  
Rental of Home to Former Guatemalan Ambassador to UN

Comment: The letter indicates that the Department  
of State has been asked to investigate the matter and  
that it will be reporting the results of its investigation  
directly to Mr. Low.

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is  
attached at Tab B.

Attachments





S/S# 7602160

Date February 24, 1976

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Brent Scowcroft  
National Security Council  
The White House

*Reopen*REFERENCE:

TO: President Ford FROM: Anthony Low  
DATE: January 28, 1976 SUBJECT: asks assistance in obtaining  
damages in rental of home to former Guatemalan ambassador to UN  
WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: Feb. 2, 1976 NSC# 613  
(if any)

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- ☒ A draft reply is attached.  
☐ A draft reply will be forwarded.  
☐ A translation is attached.  
☐ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.  
☐ We believe no response is necessary for the  
reason cited below.  
☐ Other

REMARKS:

NSC referral form had originally requested a direct reply.  
This was later changed per telecon with State Secretariat.



*LaWolf*  
for George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)



17  
*Lin Schwartz*  
New York University

Graduate School of Arts and Science  
Department of English

19 University Place, Room 200  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
Telephone: (212) 598-2868, 2869

18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, N. Y. 10583  
March 3, 1976

President Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I wrote you on January 28th concerning problems my family and I are having with Alejandro Maldonado, formerly Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations. Ambassador Maldonado did \$14,888 of damage while tenant in our house, neglected to pay his last month's rent, and abused his diplomatic immunity by first requesting a number of delays and then leaving the country without informing us.

I have not yet heard from you or your office, but recently the State Department got in touch with us. At first they spoke hopefully to us of obtaining payment, but then almost immediately they began talking about complications. Señor Maldonado may be running for president of his country. Several factions are competing for power, including the Communists. If news of Ambassador Maldonado's questionable behavior got out, it might be taken advantage of. As a result, the State Department, while sympathetic, has asked us to avoid publicity at this time.

Since publicity is among the few remaining weapons we have against a man who has abused our trust and cannot be pursued in the courts, it is asking a good deal of us not to make use of it as a last resort. Up to now we have refrained from doing so; but few other channels are left to us.

That is why I am writing again to you now. We should like to settle this matter quietly and certainly have no desire to permit the Ambassador to involve what is essentially a matter of a breach of private contract with international politics. The State Department must regrettably weigh justice to American citizens against expediency in international relations. As President, representing us as citizens of the United States, I hope you can persuade them to put justice first. Payment of this just debt, either by Ambassador Maldonado or his government, would allow us to pay the mounting bills coming in for repair of our house and furniture, and at the same time it would remove any possibility that this matter could damage relations between our countries in any way.

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Low*  
Anthony Low

c: Ambassador Julio Asencio-Wunderlich





add. on 613

3/9 Recd Low Ltr to Pres  
dttd 3/3

cap: Low  
R. Elliott Recd to attn of  
Pat Byrne & ref our Log #1.



file WH

MAR 09 1976

## THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

7606033

## REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of State

Date: March 18, 1976

## ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

## NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

*2 week's*  
If more than ~~2 weeks~~ delay is encountered,  
please telephone ~~the undersigned~~ immediately,  
~~Code 1450~~. Miss Pat Byrne, 456-6688.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

## REMARKS:

With further reference to State Secretariat # 7602160.

## Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The President  
From: Anthony Low, 18 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, New York 10583  
Date: 3/3/76  
Subject: Problem in obtaining restitution for damage done to a private home by the former Ambassador of Guatemala.

By direction of the President:

*RE*  
Roland L. Elliott  
Director of Correspondence

RLE:JHH:PB:blh

(Copy to remain with correspondence)



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

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4/8 Written f-up

4/15 Rindacalled -  
 Second letter  
 crossed with 1st

NOTE

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Basic correspondence should be returned when draft  
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so Bureau  
 feels nothing  
 further need be  
 said (written)

4/15 Called Ando. In

REMARKS:

With further reference to State Secretariat # 7602160.

2nd P of March 4 W.H. ltr.  
 to Low, we state that  
 State Dept. will look  
 into. Ando said shed  
 different light.

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The President  
 From: Anthony Low, 18 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, New York, 10583  
 Date: 3/3/76  
 Subject: Problem in obtaining restitution for damage done to a private home by the  
 former Ambassador of Guatemala.

5/3 Called Loretta again.  
 Said NBC never send

By direction of the President:

5/3 Called States 3/22 Legal  
 Roland L. Elliott  
 Director of Correspondence

5/6 Came to Ofc.



RLE:JHH:PB:blh

(White House Suspense Copy)

State still has, Bureau doing it  
 is against it. But State pushing.

April 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for informing me on February 24 (Ref: No. 138 Clas. E.2.5/F.2) that you have transmitted to your Government my letter and certain documents pertaining to the claim made by Professor and Mrs. Anthony Low against His Excellency Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre.

We are writing at this time at the request of The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Member of Congress, to ask if there have been any developments relative to the claim which can be reported to Professor and Mrs. Low and to others who have expressed an interest in an early and satisfactory resolution of this problem. You no doubt will recall that members of Congress including Representative Ottinger have indicated continuing concern in the matter, and through the Department of State are also strongly urging that a response be forthcoming from the Guatemalan Government.

We should be grateful for your further assistance in this matter and for a report on the prospects for reaching an acceptable settlement of the Lows' claim in the near future.

Sincerely,

Hampton Davis  
Assistant Chief of Protocol

His Excellency  
Julio Asensio-Wunderlich  
Ambassador of Guatemala  
2220 R Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.



cc: ARA - Mr. Platt  
IO - Mr. Hage

S/CPR:RGookin:kvb



CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

7602160

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date: 2 Feb 1976  
NSC log # 613

MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: letter

To: President Ford

From: Anthony Low

Date: 28 Jan 1976

Subject: Assistance to writer re damages in rental of home & fru furnishings  
to former amb to un fm Guatemala



ACTION REQUESTED:

☒ *per NSC call to state*  
Draft reply for:

☐ President's Signature  
☒ White House Staff  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Direct reply

☒ Furnish info copy

☐ Dispatch

☐ Translation

☐ Recommendations / Comments

☐ Appropriate Handling

☐ Other

☐ Information

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

*J. W. Davis*

for Jeanne W. Davis  
Staff Secretary

CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

2/3

to Jack Murphy,

Jack, I believe  
this should be  
a WH reply.

MW



*Final*

February 12, 1976

Mr. Anthony Low  
18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Dear Mr. Low:

I have been asked to respond to your letter of January 28 to President Ford relating to damage allegedly done to your home by the Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations, His Excellency Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre. You state that this damage occurred between July 1974 and August 1975 when Ambassador Aguirre rented your house in Scarsdale, and that your efforts to collect estimated monetary damages have been futile.

As a general rule, the type of dispute which you have outlined is a matter of private concern and is not one in which the United States Government can or should intervene. Nevertheless, since you have asserted that Ambassador Aguirre is using his diplomatic immunity as a shield to avoid payment of a just debt, this matter is one appropriate for investigation by the Department



of State. Therefore, <sup>we have</sup> ~~the White House has~~ referred a copy of your letter to the State Department for appropriate action. In cases of this nature, the State Department would normally raise the subject with the Embassy of Guatemala through usual diplomatic channels.

Without reference to the specifics of the dispute between yourself and Ambassador Aguirre, you may be assured that the United States Government expects foreign diplomatic officers who enjoy privileges and immunities in this country to abide by its laws and regulations and not to abuse their diplomatic immunity in this regard. I am hopeful that the Department of State will be able to carry out a thorough investigation of this matter and have asked that it communicate the results to you directly.

Sincerely,

RLE

RLE/State/NSC/5A



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Sincerely,

B





22  
GENERAL

0058

IT64

(2)

cg  
March 4, 1976

Dear Mr. <sup>x</sup>Low: *Anthony*

I have been asked to respond to your letter of January 28 to President Ford relating to damage allegedly done to your home by the Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations, His Excellency Alejandro Maldonado<sup>x</sup>Aguirre. You state that this damage occurred between July 1974 and August 1975 when Ambassador Aguirre rented your house in Scarsdale, and that your efforts to collect estimated monetary damages have been futile.

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RECEIVED

MAR 5 1976

GENERAL FILES

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Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott  
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Anthony Low  
18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, New York 10583

RLE:State:NSC:JHH:aby



7

## NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR			
2	24	2	25	16	7600613		

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_  
KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_  
SCOWCROFT \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_FROM: KISSINGER, H \_\_\_\_\_  
COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_  
ST EX SEC \_\_\_\_\_REFERENCE:  
S/S 7602160  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT  
LOU NO FORN NODIS  
C EYES ONLY EXDIS  
S CODEWORD  
TS SENSITIVESUBJECT: Ack ltr to Pres fm Anthony Low asking assistance  
in obtaining damages in rental home to former  
Guatemalan amb- to VA Alejandro Aguirre

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

## INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ( )
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ( )
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR ( )
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION ( )
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO TO ( )
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO ( )
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO FOR: ( )
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ( )
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ( )
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE:
NSC PLANNING				
CONGRESSIONAL				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
2/24		Low	S	Memo Davis to Elliott (3-5)	
3/1	Low	JWD		Memo/Reply to Elliott	
3/2				Davis ref memo to Elliott	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH ✓ 3/2/76  
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS:  
NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_  
SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_  
SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: \_\_\_\_\_ X FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:	
M/F/D	BY
MAR 05 1976	
CRT ID:	SA SF
OPEN	HP NW
CLOSE	WH EP
	PA DY





17  
*Sen Scurcraft*  
New York University

Graduate School of Arts and Science  
Department of English

19 University Place, Room 200  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
Telephone: (212) 598-2868, 2869

613  
7602160

18 Greenacres Avenue  
Scarsdale, N. Y. 10583  
January 28, 1976

President Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing as an American citizen and one of your constituents to ask your help in a matter that cannot be solved through normal legal channels.

My wife and I rented our house in Scarsdale to the Ambassador of Guatemala to the United Nations, Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, from July 1974 through August 1975. I was on sabbatical leave from New York University during that time, living in Cambridge, England, with my family while I worked at Jesus College writing a book.

On our return in September, we discovered that our house and many of our furnishings had been extensively damaged. After getting estimates from a number of painters, plasterers, upholsterers, cabinet makers, antiques appraisers, and other professionals, we fixed the damages at \$13,808. The Ambassador also failed to pay other bills forwarded to him by the real estate agents for cleaning and emergency plumbing. After several months I felt a moral obligation to pay them myself. Finally, the Ambassador never paid the last month's rent. The total amount owed is \$14,888. This sum is not inflated but is based on expert appraisals and detailed documentation. In fact, as time passes the actual cost of putting matters right will be higher. The repairs must be made, but this is not a sum my wife and I can easily afford.

Because Ambassador Maldonado has and refuses to waive diplomatic immunity, we cannot seek justice in the courts.

From September to January, Ambassador Maldonado and his representatives repeatedly requested delays from us in settling this matter, pleading the heavy responsibilities of his post and urgent business. We had to live in our house--with our five children--for about two months before we could even begin to repair the most annoying and inconvenient damage, such as chairs with their bottoms broken out, because the Ambassador kept on putting off inspection of the house.

Much more important, because the Ambassador told us that his government had instructed him to pay for the damages, we refrained from any action that might make the matter public or embarrass the Ambassador and his family while he held the negotiations open. My wife and I finally met the Ambassador for the first time in January. After a lengthy and fruitless meeting in New York City, during which the Ambassador made a variety of offers and then withdrew them when they were accepted, he offered to pay us something under a thousand dollars in full settlement.



He also indicated that we could do nothing because of his diplomatic immunity. He said to us: "If I can say it without cynicism"--a phrase he repeated several times--"I can shoot a man on your streets and you could do nothing about it." He then went to the window and pointed to a car--a gray Mercedes--outside. He noted that although it was illegally parked, it could not be touched.

A few days after this meeting, we learned that the Ambassador had retired from his post at the U.N., without informing us, and had returned to Guatemala, to run (we are told) for the presidency of his country. In the circumstances, my wife and I both feel that, aside from grievous damages that have caused us great inconvenience and distress as well as financial loss, we have been taken advantage of several times over. As private citizens of the United States, however, we have no legal recourse through ordinary channels.

The facts are indisputable. We have presented the damages to the Ambassador openly, in detail, and in good faith. We have also given him sworn and notarized affidavits from the real estate agents, who examined our property before and after this drastic damage took place and who swore under penalty of perjury that the damage is fairly summarized in our statements, that by no impartial standard can it be interpreted as "fair wear and tear," and that it took place during the time that the Ambassador resided in our house with his family. The Ambassador has relied on his diplomatic immunity to escape his responsibilities, moral and legal. I say legal because I am told that, according to article 14 of the U.N. charter, diplomats have the duty to respect the laws of the receiving state.

We hope and trust that, as our representative in Washington, you will make every effort to see that the Ambassador or his Government pay this just debt, or else that the matter is adjudicated before some impartial forum. My wife, my family, and I will be deeply grateful for anything that you can do to bring this painful and distressing episode to a happy conclusion.

Very truly yours,

*Anthony Low*  
Anthony Low

cc: President Gerald Ford  
Secretary of State Henry Kissinger  
Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan  
Senator Jacob K. Javits  
Senator James L. Buckley  
Representative Ogden Reid



1974 FEB 9 PM 10 53



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Representative Ogden Reid

1976 FEB 6 AM 10 27