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GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE

EVENT

A major earthquake occurred about 80 miles northeast of Guatemala City at 3:02 a.m. (local time) February 4, 1976. The U.S. National Earthquake Center reported the magnitude registered 7.5 on the Richter scale.

CASUALTIES

As of 8:00 p.m. local Washington time, there were still no official reports on casualties in Guatemala City, although reports of deaths in outlying areas are now 1,100 dead and 200 injured in five communities. These are clearly fragmentary reports.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED AND ACTION TAKEN

The following help has been requested:

- (a) 500 family tents
- (b) 500 pints of blood plasma
- (c) Tetracycline and penicillin for 5000 people
- (d) Tetanus anti-toxin
- (e) One 100-bed military hospital
- (f) One 15 KW generator
- (g) Laboratory for the 200-bed packaged disaster hospital (PDH) previously sent to Guatemala (unrelated to this disaster)
- (h) Operating room sterilizer
- (i) Water pump and tank for the PDH
- (j) Supplies for first aid stations
- (k) Specialist personnel: a seven-man Disaster Area Survey Team, an epidemiologist, a disaster emergency water advisor, and two disaster relief officers from AID/FDRC
- (l) Twelve 3000 gallon rubber water storage tanks

Of the above items, the tents, medicine, generator, water tanks and water pump are being airlifted - we expect today - from the AID/FDRC relief stockpile in Panama. DOD has been requested to provide the blood plasma, anti-toxin and operating room sterilizer from their stocks in Panama. Airlift of the 100-bed hospital (with a staff of 200) will commence beginning today probably from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. The Embassy has withdrawn the request for a laboratory; they will use one of the existing Guatemalan hospital labs to service the PDH as it becomes operational. The supplies



for first aid stations are awaiting specific selection from Guatemala as medical people arrive and can identify priority needs. All of the personnel except the water specialist are either in country or enroute. The disaster water specialist, who has experience in previous earthquake disasters, has been requested from DOD and, when approved, will arrive later today.

FUNDING

\$525,000 have been obligated from foreign disaster relief funds so far, but this will not fully pay for all costs expected. Deployment and return of the military hospital, for example, may reach one million dollars.

DISASTER OPERATIONS

The Disaster Relief Coordination Center has been activated and staff have been continuously on duty since shortly after the disaster was first reported. Telephone traffic has been heavy, particularly with requests to special consular services staff for information on family and friends in Guatemala.



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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Conversation with Amembassy Guatemala

TIME: Approximately 1:00 a.m., Thursday, February 5, 1976

I spoke with Ambassador Meloy, DCM George Andrews and Political Officer Robert Snyder. Ambassador Meloy said that the Government of Guatemala has now informed our Embassy that the most pressing and severe problem is the destruction of the water system in Guatemala City. The GOG has asked for our help on an immediate basis. Water purification equipment and some means of distributing palatable drinking water is what is being requested.

Colonel Waller of the military group was at the airport this morning when President Laugerud landed from his inspection tour. The President wanted to speak with the Colonel, but had to leave before he could do so. The President asked Minister of Defense Lucas to speak with Colonel Waller on behalf of the President. General Lucas asked for our help with water purification equipment and tank trucks to deliver the water.

Ambassador Meloy has asked the mayor of the city, who has told the Embassy independently that it will take about a year before the water delivery system can be repaired.

Ambassador Meloy asked for a sanitary engineer to be located and sent to Guatemala immediately. He must be capable of surveying the situation quickly and accurately and providing immediate recommendations as to how the water supply problem can be alleviated.

We told Ambassador Meloy that we had just such a person in mind, a Captain Wehman, who is in the U.S. Army, stationed in Texas. This was acceptable to Ambassador Meloy, and we have since asked the Department of Defense to make him available to us.

Ambassador Meloy is taking General Lucas's request for water purification and delivery equipment as an official request of the Government, and recommends that we do everything possible to accede to it. He emphasized that the need is immediate and could become desperate. He is seeing the President today at 10:00 a.m.

We suggested to Ambassador Meloy that 55 gallon drums with large plastic bags as liners have been used successfully to transport drinking water in other emergency situations. We suggested he begin to look around for drums and heavy plastic bags immediately. We told him that we would immediately begin to investigate the possibility of providing water purification and delivery equipment. We needed to know as soon as possible the extent of the damage to the water system; was it the city delivery pipes that were broken, the pumping stations themselves, the purification system, the reservoirs or sisterns, or the equipment for channeling water into



the reservoirs and sisterns. The answers to these questions would determine what type of equipment would be needed. The Embassy indicated it would try to obtain this information as quickly as possible.

I also spoke with Colonel Waller who told me that there was water in some of the sisterns, but he had no idea as to how much water was available and the extent of damage to the whole system. He said the Guatemalan military has approximately 6 600-gallon, two-wheel trailers in Guatemala City that could be used to deliver water. These are to be attached to a jeep or truck. Colonel Waller thought there were an additional 20 of these trailers in Panama.

We told the Embassy that we would immediately begin to staff out this request and would treat it as a matter of the highest priority.

ACK

Mark J. Platt
ARA/CEN



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Situation Report on Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Meloy, AmEmbassy Guatemala
Mark Platt, ARA/CEN
James Lockard, LA/CEN
George Beauchamp, FDRC

Date and Time: February 4, 1976, 7:00 p.m.

We contacted the Embassy at 7:00 p.m. and spoke with Ambassador Meloy, DCM George Andrews, USAID Mission Director Edward Coy, and Chief of Political Section George Jones.

The Embassy stated that as of the time of the conversation, they had had no information on any Americans injured or killed in the earthquake.

The Embassy added that preliminary estimates are that some 10,000 Guatemalans were injured in the quake and in the after-shocks. Many of the injured have already been treated but there is a need for additional facilities.

The Embassy reported that as of the time of the conversation the city's water system was inoperable. Electricity is functioning in Zones 9, 13 and 14.

Medical Equipment

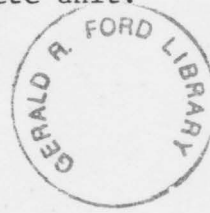
The Embassy has received a series of questions about the type of medical equipment needed that we had phoned down to our Embassy in Honduras. Our Embassy in Honduras passed this information to Guatemala through their high frequency radio network. This was done as we were unable to reach the Embassy in Guatemala by phone.

The Embassy said that what they need are two 100-bed hospitals complete with military personnel, water supply, generating equipment and medicine. They want these hospitals delivered as quickly as possible and did not want to wait until the disaster team from Panama arrived. The Embassy said the Mil Group had been told through their own channels that two such hospitals were available at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

The Embassy said that the four hospitals in Guatemala were all full and were treating most of the injured on an out-patient basis. The Embassy estimated that they would need the 100-bed units for one to two months. The Embassy also said that it may be necessary to break up the hospitals into 50-bed units to send to outlying areas such as Chimaltenango. Also, they might have to send one of the 100-bed units out to the provinces as a complete unit.

Package Disaster Hospitals (PDHs)

We advised the Embassy that the State of Alabama and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) are each trying to get another PDH.



said it would be better not to try to obtain
 The Embassy [did not appear interested in obtaining] these units at this time because they anticipate difficulties in assembling and staffing and in providing fuel, water, and so forth, on such short notice.

The PDH that had already been delivered to Guatemala (by PADF in November) has been brought up to Guatemala City. The generating equipment, medicines, cots, pumps, water storage, and drugs and X-ray film are all lacking. The Embassy asked for this equipment to be sent to Guatemala as quickly as possible.

First-Aid Stations

We asked the Embassy whether or not First-Aid Stations and teams were needed. The Embassy replied that for the time being it would be best to stick to hospitals, as flooding the country with too many men and too much equipment would only complicate matters.

Shelter

Ambassador Meloy emphasized that what is most needed are shelters for the homeless people. He added that food is not a problem as there seems to be enough.

Timing of Assistance

We discussed with the Embassy the feasibility of sending in one of the 100-bed hospitals as quickly as possible and beginning to process the second hospital upon receiving a bit more information as to the actual extent of damages and injuries. Ambassador Meloy agreed to an initial shipment of one 100-bed hospital.

Hotels

The Embassy added that the El Camino Real Hotel and the Biltmore Hotel, both near the Embassy, were severely damaged. The Camino Real was closed. The Biltmore will remain open tonight only. None of the other major hotels were badly damaged.

Medicines

The supply of plasma is critically short. With the loss of electricity, the supply available in the local blood banks will soon spoil. Anti-biotics are also necessary, including penicillin.

Condition of Airport

The Embassy stated that, contrary to earlier reports, the head of Pan Am's Guatemala operation has told them that Pan Am was able to move everyone out of the city who wanted to go. We suggested to the Embassy that they inform the GOG that it will be necessary to augment their airport personnel to handle the influx of traffic for the relief effort. The Embassy said that a Colonel Fuentes will be in charge at the airport and they will pass on this information to him. The US Mil Group personnel have all moved their offices to the airport. We told the Embassy that if additional US personnel to help operate the airport were needed, they could be made available.



The Embassy added that the control tower is operating on emergency power and has limited range of communication.

Embassy

The Embassy said that they are also on emergency power and have some 40 hours of fuel left for the generator. They hoped to replenish their supply in the morning. If more fuel is needed, they will let us know.

Ambassador's Residence

The Ambassador's Residence has been severely damaged and is ^{un-}inhabitable. The Ambassador is staying with the DCM for the time being.

Visit of FDRC Staff and US Geological Survey Team

The Ambassador gave permission for two members of the FDRC staff -- Carson Crocker and Brian Moss -- to come to Guatemala tomorrow. He also gave permission for the team of technicians from the US Geological Survey to come to monitor their equipment.

Highway Infrastructure

We inquired about the need for Bailey bridges to restore major highways. We reminded the Embassy that it had taken quite a considerable effort and time to send a Bailey bridge to Guatemala several years ago when the Pan American Highway was made inoperable at the time of another disaster. It is believed that the unit provided several years ago is still in the country and might be useable. The Embassy reported that until the assessment team completes its analysis of the highway network, they cannot report on whether additional bridges might be needed.

Drafted:ARA/CEN:MJPlatt;JPLockard



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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 5, 1976

TO: MARGIE VANDERHYE

FROM: MARY BROWNELL *YCB*

Please run these by Brent. The letter to President Laugerud has been coordinated with Doug Smith. When approved, we will ask State to transmit it by cable.



PRESS STATEMENT

GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE

The President today sent the following message to
President Laugerud of Guatemala:

Dear President Laugerud:

On behalf of the people and Government of the
United States I extend to you and the brave people of
Guatemala our deepest sympathy over the loss of life
and suffering caused by yesterday's disastrous earth-
quake. The close bonds of friendship between our two
countries makes your loss the more deeply felt.

You may be assured of our commitment to cooperate
with you to bring prompt relief and assistance to the
areas affected so that human suffering may be eased and
recovery from the devastation speeded.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

The President was informed promptly of the earthquake
which hit the Guatemala area yesterday. In order to assist
the Guatemalan effort of relief and rehabilitation in stricken
areas, a Disaster Area Survey Team was dispatched to



Guatemala yesterday and other specialists will be arriving from the U.S. today to help with the relief effort. Temporary housing, medicines, and water purification equipment are being airlifted from the disaster relief stockpile in Panama. An Army hospital including its equipment and staff will be airlifted today from the U.S. and is expected to be in operation tomorrow morning. A half million dollars has been obligated from disaster relief funds, though more will probably be necessary. The Disaster Relief Coordination Center at the Department of State has been in operation continually since first reports of the disaster were received.

The President has asked to be kept informed of developments and continues to follow the situation closely.



BACKGROUND

GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE

A major earthquake occurred about 80 miles northeast of Guatemala City at 3:02 a.m. (local time) February 4. The U.S. National Earthquake Center reported the magnitude registered 7.5 on the Richter Scale. Reported numbers of deaths and injuries are varying widely and official figures are not yet available, but enough is known to indicate that the tragedy is of significant proportions.

U.S. Government Assistance

A seven-man Disaster Area Survey Team has been sent to Guatemala from Panama to help assess the relief needs. An epidemiologist is en route and a disaster emergency water advisor is expected to arrive in Guatemala later today to help assess the damage to the water system. Two Disaster Relief officers from the AID Federal Disaster Relief Center also will be arriving in Guatemala today to help with the emergency relief effort.

Five hundred family tents, tetracycline and penicillin for 5,000 people, a 15 kilowatt generator, 12 3,000-gallon rubber storage tanks and a water pump are being airlifted from the Disaster Relief stockpile in Panama.

A 100-bed Army hospital with a staff of 200 will be airlifted today from the U.S. and is expected to be in operation tomorrow morning.

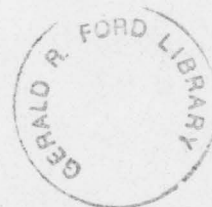


The Department of Defense has been requested to provide 500 pints of blood plasma, tetanus antitoxin, and an operating room sterilizer from their stocks in Panama.

\$525,000 has been obligated from foreign disaster relief funds thus far, but this will not fully pay for all relief costs expected (deployment and return of the military hospital, for example, may cost \$1 million).

The Disaster Relief Coordination Center has been in operation continuously since shortly after first reports of the disaster were received.

There have been no reports of injured U.S. citizens in Guatemala.



MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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LOW ←

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

February 6, 1976

J

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT

BS

SUBJECT:

New Guatemala Earthquake

We have just been informed that a new earthquake shook Guatemala at 1:00 this afternoon. Its strength has been registered as between 5.7 and 6 on the Richter Scale, so it is somewhat less severe than the first quake of 7.5 but nevertheless of major proportions.

The Embassy premises were evacuated by the staff but we understand all personnel are safe.



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING ON GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE EFFORT

Friday, February 6, 1976

3:15 p.m. (10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

I. PURPOSE

To underline your personal concern over the tragic loss of life and serious damage in Guatemala and to emphasize your personal interest and involvement in the U.S. Government relief effort.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Background: A major earthquake struck in the early hours Wednesday, February 4, in Guatemala and the neighboring countries of Honduras, El Salvador and southern Mexico.

A message was sent Thursday from you to Guatemalan President Laugerud expressing our sympathy to the Guatemalan people and assuring him of our commitment to help bring prompt relief and assistance to the affected areas. Ron Nessen made a statement on your continuing interest in the relief effort at this morning's press briefing.

The epicenter of the quake was in Guatemala near Guatemala City. While damage in neighboring countries has occurred, it is substantially less serious than that in Guatemala and no loss of life has yet been reported outside of that country. In Guatemala deaths are now being estimated at figures as high as 6,000. Over 40,000 are believed injured. Guatemala City was hard hit, with the lower-income residential areas suffering particularly heavy damage and high incidence of injury and death. Outside the city, casualty figures are much higher, with whole villages having been destroyed and as many as 2,000 persons killed in a single location. Communications and transportation have been disrupted and reports from the outlying areas are still fragmentary.



Immediate relief needs are for medical facilities, water and temporary housing. Over the longer term, the critical need will be for more permanent housing and reconstruction assistance.

The U.S. Government reacted rapidly to early reports of the disaster, and substantial assistance has already been provided or is en route. \$1 million has thus far been obligated from foreign disaster relief funds for the effort, but more will probably be needed. A seven-man Disaster Area Survey Team was sent to Guatemala from Panama on Wednesday to help assess the relief needs. Additionally we have sent an epidemiologist to help with potential health problems and a disaster emergency water adviser has been examining damage to the water system in Guatemala City.

A 100-bed Army hospital with a staff of 200 is being airlifted by 16 C-141 flights from the U.S. and should be able to begin functioning in Guatemala today. We have also airlifted from the Disaster Relief stockpile in Panama temporary housing in the form of family tents, medicine, an electrical generator, water storage tanks and a water pump. Additionally, we have sent blood plasma and other medical equipment and supplies.

The State/AID Disaster Relief Coordination Center organized a Task Force which has been operating continuously since first reports of the disaster were received. The Task Force is coordinating the U.S. assistance effort and is maintaining contact with private voluntary organizations which also are providing assistance. Private organizations involved in the assistance effort include the Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, and Church World Services.

There have been no reports of injured U.S. citizens in Guatemala City or elsewhere in the country to date.

- B. Participants: Daniel Parker, Administrator of AID and Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance;
Herman Kleine, Deputy AID Administrator for Latin America;
Georgiana Sheldon, Deputy Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance; and
Brent Scowcroft



C. Press Arrangements: Press photo session. Meeting to be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

(At opening of meeting)

1. I am concerned over reports I have been reading about the situation in Guatemala following the earthquake there Wednesday. So I asked you to come over to give me a more detailed briefing about the situation and the steps we are taking to help.

(At end of meeting)

2. I am pleased with our prompt and vigorous response to this tragedy. Please keep me informed on the situation and the progress of our efforts to help. We should continue to give full support to the Guatemalans' efforts to relieve the human suffering involved. Then after there has been an opportunity to survey the damage more completely, we can review with the Government of Guatemala and others the longer-range reconstruction measures which are required.

Attachment

Tab A: Message to President Laugerud



Dear President Laugerud:

On behalf of the people and Government of the United States I extend to you and the brave people of Guatemala our deepest sympathy over the loss of life and suffering caused by yesterday's disastrous earthquake. The close bonds of friendship between our two countries makes your loss the more deeply felt.

You may be assured of our commitment to cooperate with you to bring prompt relief and assistance to the areas affected so that human suffering may be eased and recovery from the devastation speeded.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Kjell Laugerud Garcia
President of Guatemala
Guatemala City, Guatemala



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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~INFORMATION

February 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HORMATS
STEVE LOW
CLINT GRANGER

FROM: BARBARA BOWIE

SUBJECT: Guatemalan President Laugerud's
Request for US Army Engineer Battalion

Guatemalan President Kjell Laugerud has requested that the US send to Guatemala a US Army Engineer battalion for the purpose of rebuilding the highway from Guatemala City to Puerto Barrios (302 kilometers). The highway, which is the only link for the capital and for the coffee producing region with any port capable of handling major ships, has been severely damaged by the earthquake and succeeding tremors. The Embassy's Sit Rep number 6 of February 8 estimates that it would require two months to reconstruct the highway. Until such time as the highway is again operable, travel from the coast to the capital can be accomplished only by the use of secondary roads over a circuitous route which more than doubles the distance. Many of these secondary roads are unpaved and will not be useable during the rainy season which begins in May.

Personnel at the Foreign Disaster Relief Center at State on Sunday were discussing referring the Guatemalan President's request to the NSC. Some considerations which should enter into our evaluation follow.

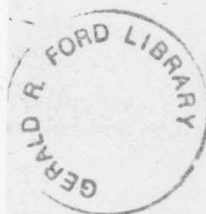
1. Economic Importance of the Highway

Coffee prices on the world market jumped 15 percent within 24 hours after the earthquake, not because of any known damage to the anticipated coffee crop but because of the knowledge that Puerto Barrios had been damaged. This jump in coffee prices occurred before any knowledge was available of the highway destruction. All of Guatemala's foreign exchange producing exports must be shipped from Puerto Barrios. Given the devastating economic effects of the quake, Guatemala will be hard pressed to withstand the further impact of an inability to earn foreign exchange.

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/00, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY CL, NARA, DATE 7/19/2002

2. Guerrilla Activity in the Izabal-Zacapa Area

Many of the small communities along the Atlantic highway in the Departments of Izabal and Zacapa have been centers of guerrilla activity for many years. Several commanding officers of the Puerto Barrios district of the Guatemalan Army have been assassinated by terrorist groups over a period of years -- one of them two years after his return to duty in Guatemala City. A current assessment of guerrilla activity and strength in this area should be obtained before further evaluation of the Guatemalan President's request.

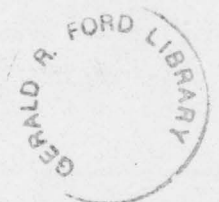
3. Geologic Assessment of the Present Highway Route

The US Earthquake Center in Colorado has pinpointed the epicenter of the quake on the south side of Lake Izabal along the highway route, although Mexican and Nicaraguan seismologists differ in their opinions of the location of the epicenter. Measurements in Guatemala indicated that effects on the northeast side of the city occurred five seconds prior to those measured on the south side of the city. Now that it has been possible to assess the areas of severe damage and of total destruction from the air, the pattern appears to substantiate the Lake Izabal epicenter location.

Although the Motagua Valley route is the most direct and is the site of the existing road bed, the alignment of the valley with the Cayman trough (which runs between Jamaica and Haiti on the south and Cuba on the north) and the apparent tectonic movements along the valley route suggest that geologic analysis of the present road bed would be advisable prior to any reconstruction effort.

4. Response to President Laugerud

The Guatemalan President's request has been reiterated several times throughout the weekend. He has been informed that the US Government is giving serious consideration to his request. It would seem advisable to offer some further response to Laugerud before an apparent turn-off of his request has the opportunity to create any problem in our relation with the Guatemalan's in attempting to assist them. I would think that the Guatemalan President should be advised that we thoroughly understand the economic importance of the Atlantic highway to Guatemala and concur in his placing priority on its repair. We should suggest to him



CONFIDENTIAL

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at this point, however, that we would prefer as a preliminary to any decision on the provision of the scale of assistance he has requested, to send a team from the US Geological Survey to evaluate the advisability of rebuilding along the same route or of relocating if a fault line is indicated. The telephone operators at the Disaster Center were being advised to respond to inquiries of the public on the possibility of sending our engineers by saying that we were studying the cost of such an operation in order to reach a decision. While this may be an adequate PR response within the US, President Laugerud deserves a more substantive answer soon.

CONFIDENTIAL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

February 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: STEPHEN LOW *SL*

OBE

SUBJECT: Presidential involvement in Guatemalan
Earthquake Disaster Relief

As it becomes apparent that the Guatemalan earthquake is one of the major natural disasters of the decade, we want to be certain that the President is personally associated with the substantial U.S. relief effort. The following are some means by which this association can be demonstrated:

1. Secretary's trip to South America

The Secretary will be stopping in Costa Rica on February 23. If Guatemalan President Laugerud attends the Chiefs of State meeting with him, the Secretary could fly Laugerud back to Guatemala City and visit there for a few hours. If Laugerud is unable to attend the meeting, then the Secretary could stop over in Guatemala City on his return. In either case he would express the President's personal concern with the situation and desire that the U.S. provide effective assistance.

2. Other Presidential emissary

We should send Dan Parker to Guatemala as a Presidential emissary designated to survey the situation and determine how the U.S. can most effectively assist the Guatemalan rehabilitation effort. The President might appoint one or two members of the appropriate Congressional committee to accompany Dan. On their return they could meet with the President to report their conclusions.

3. Involvement by Mrs. Ford

a) We can consider a trip to Guatemala by Mrs. Ford at a later date after the rehabilitation program has been established and funded. She could convey the U.S. commitment to help and perhaps the first installment of voluntary assistance.

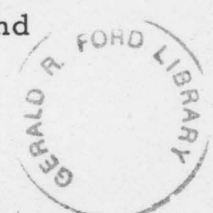
DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12058, SEC. 3.5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NSC MEMO, 11/24/88, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES

BY *64*, NARA DATE 7/19/2002



b) We could establish a body to coordinate voluntary organization contributions with a nationally known figure to head it and Mrs. Ford as Honorary Chairman. (In the case of Peru, Charles Taft was put in charge of the effort.)

4. Parker - White House press briefing

report again to the President and

Have Dan Parker come over to do a press briefing with Ron Nessen summarizing our assessment of the disaster and the record of U.S. assistance to date.

Suggestions (1), (2) and (4) seem to me to be the most immediately appropriate, and I believe should be implemented. They should be adequate for the moment. At a later date we can consider again the other suggestion. We would have to keep in mind, of course, that a trip to Guatemala by Mrs. Ford could be seen as a replay of Mrs. Nixon's trip to Peru with its attendant advantages and disadvantages.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve my setting in motion suggestion number (2) to have Dan Parker go down to Guatemala as Presidential emissary.

Approve ____ Disapprove ____

Including Congressional representatives (Les Janka supports).

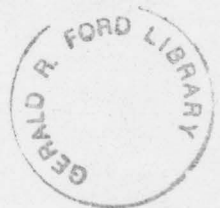
Approve ____ Disapprove ____

Alternatively, that you do so.

Approve ____ Disapprove ____

That you approve a Nessen-Parker press briefing in the White House *today* to be arranged by Margie Vanderhye and Ron Nessen.

Approve ____ Disapprove ____



MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

February 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: STEPHEN LOW *SL*

SUBJECT: Schedule Proposal for Meeting with
Dan Parker

Attached is a Schedule Proposal recommending the President meet with Dan Parker on the latter's return from Guatemala in order to receive his report and discuss follow-on actions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you initial the Schedule Proposal at Tab A.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
DATE:
FROM: Brent Scowcroft
VIA: William Nicholson

MEETING: With Dan Parker on Guatemala earthquake situation and US relief efforts.

DATE: Monday, February 16.

PURPOSE: To receive Dan Parker's report following his trip to Guatemala as your personal emissary and discuss with him further assistance.

FORMAT: - Oval Office
- Dan Parker
Herman Kleine, Deputy Administrator, AID,
for Latin America
Brent Scowcroft
- Fifteen minutes

CABINET
PARTICIPATION: None

SPEECH
MATERIAL: Talking points to be provided by NSC.

PRESS
COVERAGE: Meeting to be announced; press photo session.

STAFF: Brent Scowcroft

RECOMMEND: Brent Scowcroft

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: Dan Parker briefed you on the Guatemala earthquake situation Friday, February 6.

BACKGROUND: On February 11 you asked that Parker go to Guatemala to study the situation and report to you. He left early Thursday morning and is due to return late Friday evening. As a result, he should be able to give you his first-hand impressions and a clearer idea of what will be required in terms of the longer term rehabilitation and reconstruction effort.



APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____