



POLICY

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

#13

7 March 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: White House Meeting with Congressional Leaders, 8 March 1983 --  
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

(P) Secretary Shultz will probably be calling you this evening or tomorrow morning for final coordination. According to Bill Schneider, Secretary Shultz does not want to get into any details in tomorrow's meeting with the Congressmen. He prefers to focus on the general strategy and emphasize the positive developments in El Salvador. Secretary Shultz will mention the need to reprogram \$60M to meet immediate requirements but not the country from which the funds will be reprogrammed. He will indicate we are studying different options for additional out-of country training to be funded by a reallocation within the global security assistance supplemental. No figures will be mentioned.

*Bill Schneider*

(S) The subject of the number of trainers in El Salvador continues to be a sensitive issue in the Congress.

(S) Attached for your background information are the talking points prepared earlier when a more detailed discussion was planned with the Congressmen. Also for your information are the breakouts for the \$60M package (TAB A) and the \$110M package (TAB B).

*Fred C. Ikle*  
for Fred C. Ikle

Attachments  
a/s

*P.S. Above is the information available to us as of 2000 hours 7 March.*

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: NOV 09 2018

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*7 Mar 83*

*320-85-0023, bx 7, El Salvador (Gen-Aus)*

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**Talking Points for the Secretary of Defense  
For Use During President Reagan's Meeting with Congressional Leadership  
Tuesday, 8 March 1983**

Lately, I have witnessed a mistaken thought take root to the effect that the situation in El Salvador is beyond help. That is just not true. At present, although neither side can defeat the other, and the guerrillas continue to be able to capture remote, relatively small towns for a short time, they cannot hold them once the government mounts a sustained counterattack.

But government forces are confronted with the twin task of defending the economic infrastructure and taking the offensive against the guerrillas. With present levels of US support, the Salvadoran Armed Forces cannot do both.

Our comprehensive plan for \$110M is dependent on the whole package of funds. (\$60M reprogramming plus \$50M supplemental). If we receive less than the whole package of \$110M or the funds are incremental, we will by necessity fund the critical short-term requirements first. The \$60M is needed immediately to fund critical consumables (ammo & spare parts) and begin an intensive short term training effort to prepare for upcoming elections security. (See TAB A -\$60M TAB B -\$110M).

The principal thrust of the comprehensive support package will be directed toward increased training of the Armed Forces. Approximately 27 % of the funds we are requesting will be dedicated to the training effort. To date, our training has reached only 10% of the Armed Forces. We intend to increase this percentage sharply. Our training includes emphasis on human rights.

Support for training, although paramount, is only part of our mission. We will also channel about 24% of the funds toward civic action training and equipment, medical support and other defense support functions.

To maintain the momentum of action a continuous and sufficient supply of consumables is essential. The military must be able to plan and execute an effective anti-guerrilla plan based on a dependable supply line. In war this is a must. Based on our best estimate of the future level of combat, we have set aside 37 % of the funds for consumable support.

Lastly we must move beyond the day-by-day support and help to build a solid base of capability within the Salvadoran defense establishment. Funds are required for those capital items which add to mobility and increase their own internal training effort. Therefore, we expect to use 12 % of the funds for added mobility (trucks, cargo A/C and helicopters) and to rebuild and expand the Salvadoran's own training capability.

Let me end on one theme. We have followed a program from the day we began of providing that aid which helps the Salvadoran fight his own war. Emphasis has and will continue to be on training. We have and will continue to supply consumables.

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SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR EL SALVADOR  
(\$ MILLIONS)

INITIAL \$35M (EMPHASIS ON CONSUMABLES)

- AMMUNITION	\$15
- SMALL ARMS	\$ 3
- COMMUNICATIONS (SECURE)	\$ 3
- VEHICLES	\$ 6
- SPARE PARTS	\$ 6
- UNIT EQUIPMENT	\$ 2
	—
	\$35M

\$25M FOLLOW-ON (EMPHASIS ON TRAINING)

- TRAINING	\$20
- AIR FORCE/NAVY REQUIREMENTS (COMBAT LOSS REPLACEMENT)	\$ 5
	—
	\$25M

\$60M

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SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)  
(\$ MILLIONS)

SUPPLEMENTAL \$50M (UPGRADE/TRAINING)

- TRAINING	\$10
- AIR FORCE UPGRADE	\$11
-- UH-1H (8)	
-- O-2A (2)	
-- C-123K (2)	
- NAVY UPGRADE	\$ 4
-- PATROL BOATS (4)	
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 8
- CIVIC ACTION/ENGINEER EQUIPMENT	\$ 7
- SPARE PARTS	\$10

—  
\$50M

\$60M TAB A

—  
\$60M

—  
\$110M

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