

#41

## VALUE OF IMET PROGRAM TO RECIPIENTS

QUESTION: General Graves, what kinds of "peacekeeping" activities do you anticipate will be taught at the Latin American Regional IMET Program?

ANSWER: We anticipate that the training will involve the techniques and logistics for participation in UN and OAS international peacekeeping efforts and international truce observation and peacekeeping operations. The course for senior level officers will review the history of such operations, their contribution to world peace, and the growing need of the UN and the OAS for properly trained and equipped personnel to participate in such activities. The lower level courses will train participants in working together in multinational-multilingual situations and in resolving problems of organization, communications, and logistics. Finally, if the funds are made available, we propose to offer the initial training this fall at the US Army School of the Americas in the Canal Zone.

QUESTION: General Graves, will civilians nominated by their Ministries of Defense be eligible for training in the Latin America Regional IMET Program?

ANSWER: Yes, civilians would be eligible for this regional training.

QUESTION: General Graves, it has been "argued" that the IMET program has not really been very successful and that it has trained a large number of dictators "rather" than democratic leaders. Where specifically have IMET program participants vigorously implemented measures to further internationally recognized human rights in their own countries?

ANSWER: First, may I say, that IMET is basically apolitical; and its principal purpose is to instill military expertise and professionalism. The large number of trainees which friendly governments have been willing to commit to the armed forces of the U.S. for training and the number of countries willing to adopt, in large measure, U.S. tactics and techniques is indicative of the success of IMET and prior grant aid training. Never before in history have so many governments entrusted so many men to the training of another country. Concerning human rights, the Department of Defense has also implemented since inception of the training program an information program whose objective is to assist foreign trainees in acquiring a balanced understanding of U.S. society, institutions, and goals. With the passage in 1978 by the Congress of the third purpose for IMET concerning internationally recognized human rights awareness, we have now cast our informational program additionally to reflect the way in which all these elements parallel the U.S. commitment to the basic principles of internationally recognized human rights. We believe by letting the foreign trainees learn by seeing and experiencing is the best possible American way to increase awareness of human rights issues.

QUESTION: General Graves, can you describe for us how the U.S. Government attempts to keep track of FMS and IMET trainees upon their return to their own country so that we can better advise the U.S. security assistance program participants on ways to absorb U.S. origin defense articles? What efforts are made to keep track of the senior noncommissioned officers who are trained as service technicians or technician instructors to ensure that these personnel are used in the tasks for which they were trained?

ANSWER: Formerly, the MAAGs were staffed adequately either to assign members to or visit frequently at host armed forces installations to

monitor the end use of foreign military trainees. The continued reduction in MAAG personnel in recent years, however, has made this task increasingly difficult. As a result, the MAAGs today for the most part must depend upon the host governments to use former trainees in the work and specialties for which they were trained recognizing the cost benefit to them as well as for ourselves.

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