

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1981

~~CONFIDENTIAL-SENSITIVE~~

SITUATION ROOM CHECKLIST

1. U.S. Initiatives on Guatemala: The State Department has advised our Central American embassies that it has been studying ways to restore a closer, cooperative relationship with Guatemala. State believes a number of changes have occurred which could make Guatemalan leaders more receptive to a new U.S. initiative: the Guatemalans view the new administration as more sympathetic to their problems; they are less suspect of the U.S. role in El Salvador; and the understanding reached with Britain makes the prospect of Belize independence less threatening. State has concluded that any attempt to reestablish a dialogue would require some initial, condition-free demonstration of our goodwill. However, this could not include military sales which would provoke serious U.S. public and congressional criticism. State will undertake a series of confidence building measures, free of preconditions, which minimize potential conflict with existing legislation. It has also decided that the administration should engage the Guatemalan government at the highest level in a dialogue on our bilateral relations and the initiatives we can take together to improve them. Secretary Haig has designated General Vernon Walters as his personal emissary to initiate this process with President Lucas. If Lucas is prepared to give assurances that he will take steps to halt government involvement in the indiscriminate killing of political opponents and to foster a climate conducive to a viable electoral process, the U.S. will be prepared to approve some military sales immediately. (State 88047, PSN 15779) ~~(C)~~

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Roger
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on here?
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REVIEW ON APRIL 8, 2001
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