

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Baker, Howard H. Jr: Files
Folder Title: Honduras 03/16/1988
Box: 2

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at:
reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Baker, Howard H. Jr.: Files
 OA/Box: Box 2
 File Folder: Honduras 03/16/1988

Archivist: kdb
 FOIA ID: F1997-066/6, D. Cohen
 Date: 08/04/2004

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<u>entire folder</u>			
1. notes	re technical points made, 1p R 5/24/11 F97-066/6 #19	n.d.	B1
2. chronology	Decision Making Chronology, 2p R " " #20	3/17/88	B1
3. cable	re letter from Pres. Azcona to Reagan, 2p R " " #21	3/15/88	B1
4. cable	copy of item 3, w/notations, 2p R " " #22	3/15/88	B1

RESTRICTIONS

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- B-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].
- B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].
- B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].
- B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].
- B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].
- B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA].
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Technical Points Made by General Powell
Thursday, March 17, 1988

The first request for assistance from Azcona was general. It said in essence, "i'm being invaded. If I decide to act what kind of support can I expect?"

In the course of the day we let him know what kind of things we could do, including sending in an exercise unit, but we were not prepared to enter into combat.

DECLASSIFIED
NLRR F97-0166/6#19
BY RW NARA DATE 5/24/11

DECISION-MAKING CHRONOLOGY
AS DESCRIBED BY COLIN POWELL
Thursday, March 17, 1988

Wednesday, March 16, 1988

Early Morning

Opening business. Several cables had arrived from Honduras. President Azcona was expressing his concern about Sandinista invasion. He wanted to know what the Americans could do in terms of support; what could he count on?

We met and got our own confirmation of the situation. It's clear there was a border crossing. We looked at options -- diplomatic and other. We talked to the Ambassadors in the region.

(At the State Department at 7:30 am, the initial possibilities on military options were discussed in a very general way at breakfast of Department of Defense, State and NSC officials.)

Early Afternoon

By early afternoon we had told Azcona that among our diplomatic and military options were, we could send some units to Honduras under an Emergency Readiness Deployment exercise. We put some units on alert.

The President said this would only be if Honduras wanted something and thought it was useful.

Secretary of State Shultz and Senator Baker went up to the Hill.

4:00 or 5:00 pm

By 4 or 5 pm the story about the 82nd Airborne was one the wire, saying they were in the air. Senator Baker was reached at the meeting with the leadership, and denied the story to the press as he was leaving the meeting. He came back and alerted me, and I told the leadership the story was incorrect. I said the President has options, but no decisions have been made. I came back to the White House and went to the Policy Review Group meeting, which finished about 6 or 6:30 pm.

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F97-0666 #20

BY RW NARA DATE 5/24/11

6:00 or 6:30 pm

I knew the Ambassador was with Azcona. I waited to see if the Hondurans would ask for anything.

7:00 or 7:45 pm

The State Department called. They said they had heard from Ambassador Briggs, who said a letter from Azcona was on the way, along with a reporting cable. Azcona was requesting the exercise deployment. I called Senator Baker. Senator Baker came back to the White House. We went to see the President.

We laid out to the President our readiness to perform, and the nature of Azcona's request.

Shortly after 8:00 pm

Shortly after 8 pm the President said to go ahead. I called Taft at the Defense Department and told them to go ahead.

We made Congressional notifications.

10:15 pm

Marlin briefed.

<ORIG>FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9463
INFO RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE 8742
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE 5572
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 2806
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 3845
RUEOEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN IMMEDIATE
RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0463
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1911

<SUBJ>SUBJECT: **LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA**

<TEXT>BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 04501
ROME PASS VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, HO

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA TO PRESIDENT REAGAN
CONDEMNING NICARAGUAN AGGRESSION AND REQUESTING SECURITY
ASSISTANCE.

BEGIN TEXT:

TEGUCIGALPA
MARCH 15, 1988

HIS EXCELLENCY
RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE HONOR OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY,
FIRST OF ALL TO INFORM YOU THAT TODAY NICARAGUAN ARMY
TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER LIMITS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND
NICARAGUA, ATTACKING, WITH ARTILLERY FIRE AND COMBAT
AIRCRAFT SUPPORT, LOCATIONS SITUATED IN HONDURAN
TERRITORY IN SOUTHEAST OLANCHO DEPARTMENT.

WITH THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING THE WORSENING OF THE
SITUATION ON THE FRONTIER, I HAVE DEMANDED OF PRESIDENT
ORTEGA THAT HE ORDER HIS TROOPS TO ABSTAIN FROM
VIOLATING NATIONAL TERRITORY, AND IMMEDIATELY REDEPLOY
TO THEIR TERRITORY THE MILITARY UNITS THAT HAVE INVADED
HONDURAS.

I HAVE ALSO COMMUNICATED WITH PRESIDENTS JOSE
NAPOLEON DUARTE, VINICIO CEREZO AND OSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ
TO ASK THAT THEY DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA
STOP ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST HONDURAS AND REMOVE THE
TROOPS FROM THE BORDER REGION.

MY GOVERNMENT, EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF LEGITIMATE
DEFENSE, CONSECRATED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, HAS PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO EXECUTE THE
NECESSARY ACTIONS TO REPEL THE INVASION OF WHICH IT IS
THE OBJECT, ORDERING ITS ARMED FORCES TO REPLUSE THE
TROOPS OF THE SANDINISTA POPULAR ARMY.

IN VIEW OF THE UNJUSTIFIABLE AGGRESSION AND THE
EVIDENT DISADVANTAGE IN WHICH, IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF
MILITARY FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, MY COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F-97-066/6#21

BY RW NARA DATE 5/24/11

IN RELATION TO THE AGGRESSOR FORCES, MY GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF FORCED TO APPEAL FOR CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY TO REPEL THE AGGRESSION OF WHICH IT IS SUBJECT AND TO REESTABLISH PEACE IN THE REGION.

THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE INVADING ARMY REPRESENT, BEFORE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AN ACT OF AGGRESSION THAT AS A RESULT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ALL THE STATES OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

THEREFORE, IN CONFORMITY WITH WHAT IS ESTABLISHED IN THE CITED ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ARTICLES 3, 8, AND 9 OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY FOR RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE; BY VIRTUE OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO STATES AND THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED ON THE 20TH OF MAY 1954, I FIND MYSELF REQUIRED TO ASK YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT FOR EFFECTIVE AND IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN THE SOVEREIGN AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MY COUNTRY.

I HAVE THE CONVICTION THAT YOU SHARE WITH ME, MR. PRESIDENT, THE CERTAINTY THAT COMBINED ACTION BY BOTH NATIONS IS NECESSARY TO DEFEAT THIS NEW AGGRESSION OF THE SANDINISTA REGIME.

THE OCCASION IS PROPITIOUS TO REITERATE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST AND MOST

BT

#4501

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 04501

ROME PASS VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, HO

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.

/S/ JOSE AZCONA H.
PRESIDENT

END TEXT. BRIGGS

BT

#4501

<SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 02 <SSN> 4501 <TOR> 880316201213 MSG000195855133

<SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02 <SSN> 4501 <TOR> 880316201223 MSG000195855143

<DIST>

SIT: WHSR IN

<PREC> FLASH

<CLAS> CONFIDENTIAL <OSRI> RUEHTG <DTG> 170108Z MAR 88

<FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9463
INFO RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE 8742
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE 5572
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 2806
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 3845
RUEOHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN IMMEDIATE
RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0463
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1911

<SUBJ>SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA

<TEXT>BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 04501

ROME PASS VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, HO

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA TO PRESIDENT REAGAN CONDEMNING NICARAGUAN AGGRESSION AND REQUESTING SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

BEGIN TEXT:

TEGUCIGALPA
MARCH 15, 1988

HIS EXCELLENCY
RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE HONOR OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY, FIRST OF ALL TO INFORM YOU THAT TODAY NICARAGUAN ARMY TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER LIMITS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA, ATTACKING, WITH ARTILLERY FIRE AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT SUPPORT, LOCATIONS SITUATED IN HONDURAN TERRITORY IN SOUTHEAST OLANCHO DEPARTMENT.

WITH THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING THE WORSENING OF THE SITUATION ON THE FRONTIER, I HAVE DEMANDED OF PRESIDENT ORTEGA THAT HE ORDER HIS TROOPS TO ABSTAIN FROM VIOLATING NATIONAL TERRITORY, AND IMMEDIATELY REDEPLOY TO THEIR TERRITORY THE MILITARY UNITS THAT HAVE INVADED HONDURAS.

I HAVE ALSO COMMUNICATED WITH PRESIDENTS JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE, VINICIO CEREZO AND OSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ TO ASK THAT THEY DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA STOP ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST HONDURAS AND REMOVE THE TROOPS FROM THE BORDER REGION.

MY GOVERNMENT, EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF LEGITIMATE DEFENSE, CONSECRATED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO REPEL THE INVASION OF WHICH IT IS THE OBJECT, ORDERING ITS ARMED FORCES TO REPLUSE THE TROOPS OF THE SANDINISTA POPULAR ARMY.

IN VIEW OF THE UNJUSTIFIABLE AGGRESSION AND THE

*powell
negroponte
stevens
Perito
Donley
Batzer
Soyano
Kostov
Fortin
Kelly B
Jillma
Cochell
Popovich*

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR F97-216/6 #22

BY RW NARA DATE 5/24/11

EVIDENT DISADVANTAGE IN WHICH, IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, MY COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF IN RELATION TO THE AGGRESSOR FORCES, MY GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF FORCED TO APPEAL FOR CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY TO REPEL THE AGGRESSION OF WHICH IT IS SUBJECT AND TO REESTABLISH PEACE IN THE REGION.

THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE INVADING ARMY REPRESENT, BEFORE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AN ACT OF AGGRESSION THAT AS A RESULT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ALL THE STATES OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

THEREFORE, IN CONFORMITY WITH WHAT IS ESTABLISHED IN THE CITED ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ARTICLES 3, 8, AND 9 OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY FOR RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE; BY VIRTUE OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO STATES AND THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED ON THE 20TH OF MAY 1954, I FIND MYSELF REQUIRED TO ASK YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT FOR EFFECTIVE AND IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN THE SOVEREIGN AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MY COUNTRY.

I HAVE THE CONVICTION THAT YOU SHARE WITH ME, MR. PRESIDENT, THE CERTAINTY THAT COMBINED ACTION BY BOTH NATIONS IS NECESSARY TO DEFEAT THIS NEW AGGRESSION OF THE SANDINISTA REGIME.

THE OCCASION IS PROPITIOUS TO REITERATE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST AND MOST

BT

#4501

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 04501

R PASS VATICAN

E.C. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, HO

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM PRESIDENT AZCONA DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.

/S/ JOSE AZCONA H.
PRESIDENT

END TEXT. BRIGGS

BT

#4501

:SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 02 <SSN> 4501 <TOR> 880316201213 MSG000195855133

:SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02 <SSN> 4501 <TOR> 880316201223 MSG000195855143