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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: THE HONORABLE LANGHORNE MOTLEY
Assistant Secretary of State for
Inter-American Affairs

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell, *MB*

SUBJECT: Lynn Bouchey's Visit to Honduras and
El Salvador

L. Francis Bouchey, who heads the Council for Inter-American Security will be visiting Central America later this month. He is traveling with his associate, Greg Robertson.

They are filming material for a television program in support of the President's policies in Central America. Bouchey provides office space for the Central American Freedom Alliance, the principal coordinating group for conservative and pro-defense organizations' activities that are supporting this Administration.

Bouchey asked that we do him the courtesy of informing our Ambassadors and Public Affairs Officers at the U.S. Embassies in Honduras and El Salvador. I hope our Embassies could cooperate in any appropriate fashion. These people are highly supportive and are spending substantial sums of money in support of the U.S. policy.

Bouchey and Robertson will be in Honduras August 21 through 23, and in El Salvador, August 24 through 25. If it is appropriate for you to notify the Embassies of their scheduled visits, I would appreciate it.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: THE HONORABLE NESTOR SANCHEZ,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Inter-American Affairs

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

SUBJECT: A Bibliography on Central America

Thank you very much for agreeing to put together a bibliography of relevant information on Central America.

A great many supportive groups have talented people interested now in this topic for the first time. I have had repeated requests for a listing of good source material.

There may well be some better way of organizing the bibliography, but I would suggest sections on each country and general works about the region. Books, scholarly journal articles, magazine articles, and important newspaper stories are each important as is a listing of the major government documents on the subject.

I would anticipate promptly disseminating this bibliography to all of the organizations which have participated in our Outreach Working Group briefings.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MS*

SUBJECT: Briefing on Central America for
Hispanic Evangelicals

On Tuesday, August 23, 1983, at 10:00 a.m., in Room #450-OEOB, we will have between 150 to 200 protestant Hispanic evangelical religious leaders in for a major briefing.

This is the briefing which Juan Williams would like to attend.

The briefing is scheduled to be from 10:00 a.m. to noon. I think it would be very appropriate for you to Chair this briefing, particularly since we will there unfold our documentation of Sandinista persecution of protestant groups. Will your calendar permit you to Chair this briefing?

The speakers tentatively set are:

Ambassador H. Eugene Douglas,
U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs

Nestor Sanchez,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Inter-American Affairs.

One other speaker is Kerry Ptasek of Penn Kemble's Institute for Religion and Democracy.

MCB:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: JOHN TILLER
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MCB*
SUBJECT: Central American Briefings

This is to confirm our conversation of yesterday pursuant to Mrs. Whittlesey's request that you work to set up a series of briefings regarding Central American policy.

Her idea is that you would undertake to arrange with the appropriate Administration officials briefings for:

1. White House and EOB staff, which should be cleared through Jim Baker's Office.
2. Presidential Appointees and appropriate Schedule C staff in other Departments and Agencies, which should be coordinated through Craig Fuller's Office.
3. Members of Congress and their staffs, coordinated through Ken Duberstein.
4. Appropriate State and local government officials which should be coordinated through Rick Neal in Lee Verstanding's Office.

You should work closely with Dolf Droge on this. He is in charge of providing our speakers and briefers. Joyce Thomann will help you reserve appropriate rooms in our complex. I would think that the invitations to the briefings should come not from the Office of Public Liaison, but from Lee Verstanding with respect to the State and local officials, Jim Baker with respect to White House and EOB personnel, etc. This will lighten our administrative load considerably.

I will be happy to assist in every way and look forward to chatting with you frequently as the series progresses.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO JUDGE WILLIAM P. CLARK,
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

SUBJECT: White House Digest Paper, "Human Rights in
Cuba" for Release August 3, 1983, and
Related Matters

As we have all realized by now, one of the difficulties we face in selling the President's policies on Central America is the American people's unfamiliarity with the region and the players. Only a tiny percentage of Americans know which governments in Central America are friendly to the United States and which are not. The same holds true for the guerrilla groups.

We are all working to overcome this information gap. We realize that it would not be possible to educate every American thoroughly on the subject, however, Dr. Richard Wirthlin's Central American poll data shows a very great concern about the installation of "Marxist" and especially "Communist" governments or revolutions. If the American people knew we are opposing the Communists in Central America, the data suggests they would very much sympathize with our goals even lacking a detailed knowledge of the situation.

Common sense suggests the same conclusion. Wouldn't it be a great deal more difficult for some Congressmen to oppose aid to El Salvador if the network news shows had been using the identifying phrase, "Communist guerrillas" when speaking of the Salvadoran guerrillas rather than the phrase, "leftist guerrillas" as they have been?

The President and the United States would gain enormously by successfully identifying the Sandinistas and the Salvadoran guerrillas as Marxists but particularly as "Communists," a word about which there is no ambiguity and which is recognized by the largest number of people. "Marxist" and "Marxist-Leninist" will, occasionally, be appropriate, but both sound a little professorial, and also sound as if we are avoiding the word "Communist" and thus deliberately inviting ambiguity.

I am very distressed, therefore, by attempts by some people at NSC, DoD, and the State Department to sanitize the word "Communist" out of the White House Digest series.

The latest instance is our paper scheduled for release Wednesday, August 3, 1983, "Human Rights in Cuba." As drafted by this office, the paper identified the government of Nicaragua as "Communist." Some people in the clearance process at the State Department and DoD objected. NSC concurred in the objections and inserted "pro-Soviet" for "Communist."

After strenuous objections from us, NSC, through Walter Raymond, went as far as "Marxist-Leninist" but no further.

At the Monday, August 1, 1983, meeting of the Outreach Working Group there was, except for Walter Raymond, a unanimous consensus to use the stronger and more well-recognized word, "Communist."

Despite this unanimity of opinion, NSC, through Walter Raymond, refused to reinsert "Communist" and the paper has been forwarded to Mr. Darman with the less effective "Marxist-Leninist" phrasing.

This is ridiculous. "Marxist-Leninist" is an exact synonym for "Communist" as that word is most frequently and popularly used. If "Communist" has more impact, as it obviously does, there is no reason whatsoever to forbid its use in any case where "Marxist-Leninist" could be used.

At some times, and for some audiences, we will certainly use "Marxist-Leninist." But as there is no cause for shyness or ambiguity in this instance, I would appreciate it if you would clear the paper with the word "Communist" as a description for the Nicaraguan government.

More generally, it should be made clear to interested parties that the description "Communist" holds great advantages and should be used when the facts permit. As the key Sandinista leadership as well as the key Salvadoran guerrilla leadership have publicly accepted the label "Marxist-Leninist" on various occasions, there should never be any hesitation about identifying them as Communists.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 1, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: ED ROLLINS
KATHY VILLALPANDO

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

SUBJECT: Statement of Cuban-American Community

On July 28th, I was called by Jay Duccasi of the Miami Herald, who wanted my comment on complaints from the Cuban-American Community about the appointment of Carlos Diaz Alejandro to the President's Commission on Central America headed by Henry Kissinger.

The reporter's information was that some complaint was raised at our Central American Outreach Working Group meeting on Wednesday afternoon, July 28th. No one made any mention of this matter, but one of those present did hand me the attached statement critical of the gentleman in question. I know nothing about this man or the complaint against him other than what I have read on the attached statement. I thought you should see it.

After receiving clearance, I spoke with Mr. Duccasi today and informed him of the above.

MCB:jet

1 Attachment a/s

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Mary Ann Meloy

STATEMENT OF THE CUBAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Regarding Carlos Diaz Alejandro
of the Kissinger Commission on Central America

Presented by Lisa Gonzales, Miami College Republicans
and Bob Godoy, chairman, Dade County Republicans

"The Cuban-American community condemns the naming of Carlos Diaz Alejandro to the commission on Central America over which Henry Kissinger presides. We have been expressing our protest through telegrams, telephone calls, and letters, and we hope that President Reagan will reconsider the appointment of Carlos Diaz Alejandro because he brings a negative image to the Commission in the eyes of the people of the Cuban-American community. His past dialogues with Fidel Castro have demonstrated his unwillingness to further the freedom of Cuba and of the other people of Central America."

This is the sentiment of the general Cuban community in Miami.

July 27, 1983

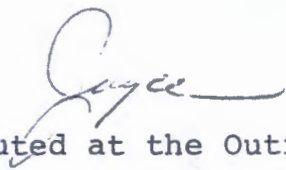
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: SUSAN GRAF

FROM: Joyce Thomann



SUBJECT: Items Distributed at the Outreach Meeting

Attached are copies of documents which were distributed by various members of the outside attendees at the Outreach Meeting today. I thought Faith might like to see some of them.

Attachments a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jonathan Vipond, III

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

Attached is a proposed Agenda (handout) for the Religious Broadcasters briefing on Central America.

We lost Ambassador Vernon Walters who had to extend his time in Europe, hence Ambassador Douglas as the substitute.

I hope you will be able to greet this group who are generally very supportive of the President's policies.

Following is the time sequence I would propose for the meeting:

- 1:00 p.m. - Welcome to the White House - Faith Ryan Whittlesey
- 1:05 p.m. - The Honorable John Lehman
- 1:35 p.m. - The Honorable H. Eugene Douglas
- 2:05 p.m. - Major Oliver North, NSC*

MCB:jet

1 Attachment

*NOTE: Major Oliver North has specifically requested that his remarks NOT be on the record and that any remarks which he may make must be attributed to "a White House source" and not to him directly.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

JULY 28, 1983

OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL AMERICA

FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY,
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison,
Chairman

TIME: 1:00 p.m.
DATE: Thursday,
July 28, 1983
PLACE: Room #450
Old Executive Office Building

A G E N D A

FOR THE MEETING WITH THE

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

- I. WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE
- II. The Honorable John Lehman,
Secretary of the Navy
- III. The Honorable H. Eugene Douglas
United States Ambassador-at-Large
U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs
- IV. Major Oliver North,
Staff Member
National Security Council

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: DOLF DROGE

FROM: Joyce Thomann *Joyce*

SUBJECT: Briefings

At one time, Morton compiled a listing of groups which should receive briefings at the White House on Central America. For your ready reference, the listing follows:

Friendly News Media (Mort Allin)

Ad Hoc Committee/Stanton Group (Ken Stribling)

Hispanic Evangelicals (John/Anna Gimenez)

Business Leaders

Labor Union Leaders (From listing which FRW sent to Lane Kirkland)

Religious Broadcasters

Catholic Bishops (Linas Kojelis)

Women's Groups

For those groups that do not have a parenthetical contact person from whom you should obtain a listing, the briefings are completed. I know you are on track on the Hispanic Evangelicals, but how are we doing on the remainder?

Morton:

FYI

Joyce

Needed
Briefings:

List
Compilers:

Friendly news media

Karna Small or ^{*}Mort Allin

Ad Hoc Committee and
Stanton Group

Ken Stribling

Hispanic Evangelicals

(804) 495-1905
* John Gimenez, Virginia Beach
evangelicals 640 Kempsville Rd.
Rock Church Va. Be 23464

Business leaders

* Dixie Davis, U.S. Chamber

Labor Union Leaders

List which FRW sent to
Lane Kirkland

Religious Broadcasters

* Ben Armstrong, National
Religious broadcasters

Catholic Bishops

* Linas Kojelis

Women's Groups

* Dee Jepsen + J. B. ...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: JONATHAN VIPOND, III

FROM: Joyce Thomann 

SUBJECT: Security Briefing

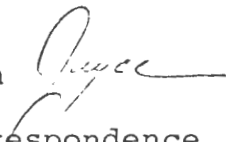
It is my understanding that in the Staff Meeting today you asked to be informed of those individuals who did not receive the Security briefing.

As you may recall, on Wednesday, July 20th when the Security briefing was given to the OPL staff, the entire staff of the Blackwell Office was involved with a 9:30 a.m. meeting of the Outreach Working Group on Central America which involved the President. Therefore, none of the Blackwell staff, named below, received the Security briefing.

Morton C. Blackwell
Dolf Droge
Maiselle Shortly
Kenneth Stribling (Volunteer)
Joyce Thomann
Richard Vigilante

:jet

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 20, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: Joan Moreci
FROM: Joyce Thomann 
SUBJECT: Attached Correspondence

Mr. Miceli has been called and asked to bring the members of the Productive Alliance Delegation to the Wednesday, July 27th meeting of the Outreach Working Group on Central America. In addition, Senor Juan Vicente Maldonado, Executive Director, National Association for Private Enterprise will be one of the speakers for the meeting of the 27th.

I have called Central Reference to clear Blackwell. If I need to do anything else, please let me know.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence received (YY/MMDD) 83 07 15

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: Keith Mucili

PL Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

SUBJECT: Delegation of Salvadoran business
sent to D.C. 7/25 week per C.A.
Outreach Group meeting

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION			
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PL MORE</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>83 07 15</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>PL BLAC</u>	<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>A 83 07 15</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	<u>Referral Note:</u>				<u>1 1</u>
	<u>Referral Note:</u>				<u>1 1</u>
	<u>Referral Note:</u>				<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be	DISPOSITION CODES: 1 - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral C - Completed S - Suspended	FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing
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COMMENTS: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the Correspondence Tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN LATIN AMERICA

1615 H St., N.W. / Washington, D.C. 20062 (202) 463-5485 COCUSA Telex: RCA 248302

President
John T. Plunket

Vice Presidents
R. Bruce Cuthbertson
Thomas L. Hughes
Patrick N. Hughson
Richard Johnson
Alexander Perry, Jr.
David A. Wicker

Treasurer
J.R. Downey

Executive Vice President
Keith L. Miceli

July 12, 1983

The Honorable Faith R. Whittlesey
Assistant to the President for
Public Liaison
2/WW
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Faith:

As a member of the "Outreach" group, I want to commend you for your leadership in bringing about greater public awareness of events in the troubled Central American region. This important public diplomacy effort is absolutely necessary if we are to achieve the necessary domestic and Congressional support for the President's policies.

As you may know, my own organization has 21 American Chambers of Commerce throughout Latin America, including six in Central America. Consequently, we have an interest and stake in U.S. policy which protects and promotes U.S. national interests--economic, political and security.

With this in mind I want to bring your attention to the fact that a small delegation of Salvadoran business leaders who represent the Productive Alliance--a broadly based private sector organization--will be in Washington the week of July 25.

In view of the gravity of the situation in El Salvador and the key role that the private sector must play to bring about economic and political stability, it seems both timely and appropriate to have them address the Outreach group on current events in their troubled country. If you are agreeable, I will be happy to work out the details with your staff.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Miceli

Enclosure



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN LATIN AMERICA

1615 H St., N.W. / Washington, D.C. 20062 (202) 463-5485 COCUSA Telex: RCA 248302

PRODUCTIVE ALLIANCE DELEGATION

President
John T. Plunket

Vice Presidents
R. Bruce Cuthbertson
Thomas L. Hughes
Patrick N. Hughson
Richard Johnson
Alexander Perry, Jr.
David A. Wicker

Treasurer
J.R. Downey

Executive Vice President
Keith L. Miceli

Miguel Angel Salaverria
President
Coffee Growers' Association

Eduardo Funes Hartmann
President
Manufactures' Association

Conrado Lopez Andeu
President
Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce

Ricardo Siman
Board Member
Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce

Juan Vicente Maldonado
Executive Director
National Association for Private Enterprise

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 20, 1983

OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL AMERICA

DATE: Wednesday, December 21, 1983
LOCATION: Room #450 - OEOB
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

I. PURPOSE:

To brief certain individuals from the private sector on matters relating to Central America and the Administration's policies.

II. BACKGROUND:

This is the 31st in a series of meetings of the White House Outreach Working Group on Central America chaired by Faith Whittlesey.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

Ambassador Langhorne Motley, Assistant Secretary of State
for Inter-American Affairs
Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II, U.S. Permanent
Representative to the Organization of American States
Dr. Constantine C. Menges, National Security Council

IV. PRESS PLAN:

None.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

2:28 p.m. - Faith Whittlesey arrives at ROOM #450-OEOB

2:30 p.m. - Faith Whittlesey opens meeting

2:35 p.m. - Faith Whittlesey introduces Ambassador Motley

3:20 p.m. - Faith Whittlesey introduces Ambassador Middendorf

3:45 p.m. - Faith Whittlesey introduces Dr. Menges

VI. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Introduction for speakers
3. Talking points

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 21, 1983

WHITE HOUSE OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL AMERICA

FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY,
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
CHAIRMAN

A G E N D A

- I. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF GROUPS BRIEFED BY THE WHITE HOUSE OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL AMERICA
- II. "CENTRAL AMERICA: ITS ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES"

SPEAKER: Ambassador Langhorne Motley,
Assistant Secretary of State
for Inter-American Affairs
- III. "REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES"

SPEAKER: Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II,
U.S. Permanent Representative to the
Organization of American States
- IV. "CENTRAL AMERICAN UP-DATE"

SPEAKER: Dr. Constantine C. Menges,
Special Assistant to the President
and Senior Director of Latin American
Affairs, National Security Council

NOTE: The next meeting of the White House Outreach Working Group on Central America will be Wednesday, JANUARY 4, 1984, at 10:00 a.m. in Room #450-OEOB. The Speaker will be: General John W. Vessey, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact, Mrs. Joyce Thomann (456-2657)
Office of Public Liaison

TALKING POINTS

- On behalf of President and Mrs. Reagan, I want to welcome you to the White House Complex and the thirty-first in our series of briefings on Central America.

- As you come into our meetings each Wednesday, among the items you have found on the table has been our Registration Form (HOLD ITEM UP). If you have not filled out one of these forms, I urge you to do so today and either mail it back to us in care of the Office of Public Liaison, Suite #191, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20500, or at the end of today's meeting return your completed form to either Joyce Thomann or Morton Blackwell of my staff.

- As we have been doing for a number of months, we are again sending everyone who has completed one of our registration forms a mailing which will give advance notification of our meetings -- dates, times, and location -- our speakers and their topics. In addition, with this mailing, we are sending everyone a copy of Ambassador Negroponte's remarks of December 7th and a copy of the recently issued joint State-Defense Department publication, "Grenada: A Preliminary Report."

- When you receive notice of our meetings, I hope you will share the information with individuals whom you

believe would benefit from attending. You can call my Assistant, Morton Blackwell's office -- the telephone number is always at the bottom of each week's Agenda -- and ask that the name of the individual whom you recommend be added to the clearance list for a specific meeting. Be sure to urge them to complete one of our Registration Forms so their name will be placed on our permanent clearance list. If we don't have a completed Registration Form, the name will be dropped from the clearance list and the individual will experience delays and inconvenience when attempting to attend the next Outreach Working Group meeting.

- Now, let me remind you that this will be our last Outreach Meeting for 1983. We will next meet on Wednesday, January 4th at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) in this briefing room. Our first speaker for the new year will be General John W. Vessey, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

- As we come to the close of 1983, I want to thank each of you for your support and for your interest in the Administration's Central American policies. I am sure that the months and weeks ahead are going to be filled in almost equal measure with opportunity and difficulty. But I am sure that by working together for our common goal -- a strong, secure America -- we can make the most of our opportunities and overcome our difficulties.

- Before I introduce Ambassador Motley, I want to wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a new year that will be filled with God's blessings on all of us.

INTRODUCTION

AMBASSADOR LANGHORNE MOTLEY

- Ambassador Langhorne Motley has served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs since June of this year. It is Ambassador Motley's task to oversee the formulation and implementation of U.S. policy as it affects countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

- Prior to his present appointment, Ambassador Motley served as Ambassador to Brazil from 1981 to 1983. Upon his departure from Brazil, he was awarded the Grand Cross of the National Order of the Southern Cross for his contributions to strengthening United States and Brazilian relationships.

- Ambassador Motley was born in Brazil and resided there throughout his high school years. He graduated from the Citadel in South Carolina with a degree in Political Science.

- Upon his graduation from the Citadel, Mr. Motley was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. During the course of his military career, Mr. Motley spent three years with the Royal Air Force and later served with the U.S. Southern Command in Panama.

- Ambassador Motley left the Air Force in 1970 to enter business as a real estate developer in Anchorage, Alaska. He founded Crescent Realty, which later merged with Area Incorporated Realtors, and is now Alaska's largest real estate firm. From 1975 to 1977, Ambassador Motley served as head of Alaska's Department of Commerce and Economic Development. In 1977, he assumed leadership of Citizens for the Management of Alaska Lands, Inc., and coordinated efforts to assure a balanced use of Alaskan lands.

- As you can tell, Ambassador Motely has had a very interesting career, and it is with great pleasure that I welcome Ambassador Tony Motley to our podium.

INTRODUCTION

AMBASSADOR J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, II

- Ambassador J. William Middendorf was sworn in as Ambassador to the Organization of American States on July 1, 1981. Over the past fourteen years, he has served his country as Ambassador to the Netherlands and as Secretary of the Navy.
- He has received the highest decorations from Egypt, Brazil, the Defense Department, State Department and the Department of the Navy.
- Ambassador Middendorf is the author of numerous articles and is a frequent lecturer on international and economic issues.
- Ambassador Middendorf was born in nearby Baltimore, Maryland. He holds a BS in Naval Science from Holy Cross University, a BA from Harvard University and an MBA from the New York University School of Business Administration.
- In addition to his better known activities, Ambassador Middendorf is an accomplished composer, having composed 1 Opera; 7 Symphonies and over 70 Marches, one of which was the National Independence Day March, the official March for the Bicentennial Celebration and the theme song for President Reagan's Inauguration.

- It is with great pleasure that I welcome to our podium, Ambassador J. William Middendorf who will give us a report on the latest deliberations of the Organization of American States.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY

THROUGH: Jack Courtemanche

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*

SUBJECT: Proposed Mailing/Notification of January Meetings

Attached for your approval and signature is a memorandum notifying the members and guests of the White House Outreach Working Group of the meetings for January.

In addition, we are sending everyone a copy of Ambassador Negroponete's recent speech and the new joint DoD-State Department paper on Grenada.

If you would sign the memorandum using black ink/ballpoint and return it to Joyce, we will have it printed and distributed by Wednesday of this week thus giving everyone ample notification of the change in time for General Vessey's briefing.

MCB:jet

Enclosures a/s

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: THE MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE WHITE HOUSE
OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL AMERICA

FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey,
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Enclosed is a copy of Ambassador John D. Negroponte's remarks to our White House Outreach Working Group meeting of December 7th. As well as a copy of the December 16th joint Department of Defense-State Department publication, "Grenada, A Preliminary Report."

We are very fortunate that we will have as our first speaker for the new year, General John Vessey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In order to accommodate General Vessey's schedule, we are going to CHANGE THE TIME of our regular outreach meeting for one meeting only to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 4, 1984. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR.

Following is a listing of our White House Outreach Working Group speakers for the month of January, 1984:

January 4 - 10:00 a.m.**, Room #450-OEOB **NOTE CHANGE IN TIME

SPEAKER: General John W. Vessey, Jr.,
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
TOPIC: "Central America, Its Importance to the
United States"

January 11, - 2:30 p.m., Room #450-OEOB

SPEAKER: Mr. William C. Doherty, Jr.,
Executive Director
American Institute for Free Labor Movement
TOPIC: "The Status Of and Prospects For the Labor
Movement in Central America"

January 18, - 2:30 p.m., Room #450-OEOB

SPEAKER: Mr. Arnaud De Borchgrave,
Author: The Spike, Monimbo
TOPIC: "The Role of Cuba in International Terrorism
and Subversion"

January 25, - 2:30 p.m., Room #450-OEOB

SPEAKER: Senator Jeremiah Denton

TOPIC: "Report on My Trip to Central America"

SPEAKER: Senor Wycliffe Diego,

Member, Council of Elders, MISURAS Indian
Organization

"Human Rights as Practiced by the Sandinistas"

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

LET'S STOP STEREOTYPING CENTRAL AMERICA

Remarks by the Honorable John D. Negroponte,
United States Ambassador to Honduras

WHITE HOUSE OUTREACH WORKING GROUP ON
CENTRAL AMERICA

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I want to thank you for inviting me to speak before you this afternoon. For me, the fact that a group of ladies and gentlemen so busy as yourselves would take the time to hear a speech by the American Ambassador to Honduras is testimony of the growing recognition that Central America's problems directly affect the well-being and security of our own people.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL AMERICA:

I think this audience is a little reminder of the importance of Central America and the Caribbean basin to United States interests. Honduras or El Salvador is nearer to Texas, for example, than Texas is to Massachusetts.

Two-thirds of all our foreign trade and petroleum pass through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. And in a European crisis, at least half of our supplies for NATO would go through these areas by sea.

Because of its importance, the Caribbean basin has become a magnet for adventurism. There is the case of Grenada which, before the recent joint-rescue operation by the United States and Caribbean forces, was on the verge of becoming another launching pad for Soviet-backed Cuban expansionism in the region. There is the case of Nicaragua which since 1979 has imposed a new dictatorship and, with Cuban backing, has built a military establishment larger than the other four Central American countries combined. And there is the case of El Salvador which in 1979 was the first of Nicaragua's immediate neighbors to feel the impact of Havana and Managua's decision to use Nicaraguan territory to unify, train and supply guerrilla movements in neighboring countries. Clearly support for insurgency in El Salvador is for Managua and Havana just the first step towards achievement of a policy of radicalizing the entire Central American isthmus.

UNITED STATES DEFENSE OF THE AREA:

In response to Havana and Managua's policy of using force to spread their totalitarian system, the United States has increased its aid to affected countries. We have pursued a three-part policy of supporting democracy, aiding economic and social development and improving the security of Central America's threatened nations.

Democratic Honduras is one such country benefiting from increased United States attention and help and, as your Ambassador there, I would like to address the situation in that nation in greater detail.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN STEREOTYPE:

At the outset, I would like to point out that, with the exception of Costa Rica, our friends in Central America are up against a stereotype. The conventional wisdom is that their regimes are repressive and militaristic; that political violence is the culmination of years of social and economic injustice, including mistreatment by U.S.-based economic interests; and that the foreign policies of these countries are servile to our dictates.

As we go along, it will be interesting to see how Honduran reality compares with this "banana republic" image.

HONDURAN DEMOCRACY:

Honduras is a liberal democracy. There is freedom of expression and assembly. There is a labor movement considered a model in the region. After a decade of benevolent military rule, Honduras held elections for a constitutional assembly in 1980 and again for a Congress and a President in 1981. Both elections were widely hailed as fair and free with more than 80% of the registered electorate participating. Honduras' elected civilian President, an unpretentious country doctor called Roberto Suazo Cordova, assumed office in 1982.

Contrary to perceptions prevailing in some quarters, the military in Honduras supports the constitutional process. Given the recent history of direct military involvement in internal politics, it is too early to say that this fortunate development represents an irrevocable commitment, but the signs are encouraging. The Honduran military "guaranteed" both elections, promising to remain strictly neutral towards the candidates. The validity of this pledge was borne out by the results of the presidential elections, in which the party traditionally aligned with the military was defeated.

Other positive developments in the area of civilian/military relationships include the facts that 13 out of 14 of Honduras' cabinet level positions are occupied by civilians and that Dr. Suazo has managed to keep military spending at less than 10% of the national budget. Finally, the Honduran military sees its own interest in promoting the country's democratic image and concentrating efforts on improvement of professional capabilities in the wake of regional tensions.

If there is a soft spot in Honduras' otherwise positive political record, it is in its judicial procedures. There have been arbitrary arrests and credible allegations of some disappearances. The press, however, is completely free to publish what it wishes about such cases and usually does, contributing to satisfactory resolutions in many instances. And the Honduran Congress recently passed a new criminal code which has already contributed to a reduction in human rights abuses. I should stress here that there is no indication that the occasional human rights violations which do occur are part of Honduran government policy. To the contrary, disciplinary action has been taken against law enforcement officials known to have abused their authority.

THE SOCIAL SETTING

The social picture in Honduras also contains promising elements. There are no racial troubles in the country's relatively homogenous society. And one does not find discrepancies of wealth on a scale reputed to occur elsewhere in Central America. Land reform has been a reality in Honduras for more than 20 years and has been fully accepted by the country's one-time large landholders.

Perhaps the most serious social problem in Honduras is the high illiteracy rate of approximately 45% which the government is seeking to reduce through a crash literacy campaign.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

While the social and political situations in Honduras are generally positive, the economic situation is considerably bleaker. Regional instability, low commodity prices and reduced availability of foreign credit have all contributed to the deterioration. Unemployment is roughly estimated at 25 to 30% of the work force and there has been no significant new foreign investment in the last five years. Real economic growth in 1982 was estimated at one percent (1%), a figure which must be viewed in conjunction with an annual population growth rate of 3.7%.

But this is not to say that Honduras is incapable of strong and sustained growth. From 1960 to 1979, Honduras' real annual growth rate was 4.4%, .5 percent higher than the U.S. average, and the index of industrial activity in Honduras rose from 19% of total production to 26% in the same period. Honduras has a willing labor force and an adequate commercial infrastructure. Honduras welcomes foreign investment and is easily accessible to U.S. markets. Honduran businessmen and government officials lament the fact that despite the existence of political stability, social peace and a favorable investment climate, it seems difficult to overcome investor apprehension about the overall regional situation. Nonetheless, both the public and private sectors are engaged in a determined effort to point out that the situation in Honduras is distinct and that sweeping generalizations about Central America, in addition to being dangerous, can also be very unfair.

While on the subject of economic and business conditions, let me mention that there is a long history of U.S. citizens doing business in Honduras. Early investments in mining and bananas have been supplemented over the years by scores of endeavors ranging from the cultivation of shrimp to the extraction of essential oils. Today, five Fortune-500 companies are among the 125 U.S. businesses, subsidiaries and affiliates with operations in Honduras. The book value of U.S. investment in Honduras exceeds \$200 million. The two largest U.S. investments in Honduras are by major food producers engaged principally in the growing, packing and export of bananas. Both companies have also been pioneers in the diversification of Honduran agriculture, introducing the cultivation of such items as pineapples, African palm and cantaloupe melons. Thus, in addition to together being the country's single largest and best paying employer, the fruit companies are a key factor in the modernization of the agricultural sector.

WHY NOT REVOLUTION?

If more than 25% of Honduras' labor force is idle; if there is 45% illiteracy; and if per capita income is less than \$600 a year, it might be asked if conditions are not ripe for violent revolution. Yet few Hondurans seem to be tempted by violent solutions. As a matter of common sense and through their own recent experience, the large majority see political stability and export-led growth as the long-term answers to their problems. They cannot see the logic of the Salvadoran rebels destroying their country's economy in the name of liberation.

It is true that, under growing Cuban influence and direction, the Honduran Communist Party has been radicalized and preparations are being made for the systematic promotion

of revolutionary violence. But thus far, not many Hondurans have signed up for the revolutionary cause. Perhaps most telling is the fact that the few acts of terrorist violence which have taken place within Honduras have almost invariably been traced to foreign instigation. Without external support, advice and encouragement, the emergence of a significant Honduran terrorist or guerrilla movement appears most unlikely.

NICARAGUA: THE LONG-TERM THREAT

This brings me to the erroneous idea that Honduras somehow serves as an instrument of U.S. policy in Central America. This notion confuses servility with mutuality of interest.

Honduras is a small country surrounded by trouble. Our two governments share a common view of developments in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Honduras fears Managua's massive military build-up and the presence of thousands of Cuban military advisors. Counting reserves and militia, Nicaragua already has more than 100,000 men under arms and a stated intention of mobilizing a total of 250,000 -- almost 10% of its population. Contrast these figures with Honduras which has no militia or active reserve and whose regular armed forces number 15,000 -- less than one-half of one percent of its population.

Honduras is also concerned by developments in El Salvador which it sees as the first victim of Nicaragua's policy of "revolution without frontiers." Most Hondurans are convinced that if El Salvador falls into communist hands Honduras will be the next target. It does not take much imagination to conceive the difficulties that Honduras would have in defending its democratic way of life if two of the three countries along its porous borders were in hostile hands.

So Honduras fear both the long-term implications of Nicaragua's conventional military build-up and the short-term threat of increased terrorism and subversion if things go the wrong way in El Salvador.

NATURAL AFFINITY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES

Under these circumstances, it should come as no surprise that Honduras and the United States have drawn closer during the last four years. It has looked to us especially for the economic and military assistance needed to carry the country through this period of regional crisis. The economic aid is required to offset the loss in positive economic growth rates caused by regional instability. And our military training and assistance is needed to help offset -- at least in part -- the serious disequilibrium caused by Nicaragua's build-up.

Our response to these urgent needs has been generous. In fiscal year 1983, the United States provided Honduras some \$100 million in economic assistance, mostly in development projects and balance of payments support. In the military area we provided \$37 million in training and equipment during the same time period. But as helpful as these sums might be, they regrettably still fall way short of actual needs. In recent studies prepared by the Honduran government and presented to the National Bipartisan Commission for Central America headed by Dr. Henry Kissinger, a convincing case has been made for about two-and-one half times the current levels of U.S. economic and military assistance. So, as you can well imagine, Hondurans look forward with considerable interest to the findings of our Bipartisan Commission due sometime early next year.

Honduras looks to the United States, as a neighbor and as the strongest democracy in the world, to assist in the defense of freedom in Central America. If we cannot do it there, so close to our own shores, I am sure you will agree with me that our friends around the world will rightfully wonder if we are capable of doing it anywhere else.

So when you read or hear that stereotype about Honduras or some other place in Central America, I urge you to pause and reflect for a moment. Is the writer or speaker describing the situation as it really is or is he engaged in a subtle process of discouraging us from living up to our responsibilities? Is the situation being analyzed in light of the realistic alternatives or are the facts being presented in a way designed to lull us into thinking that Central America isn't worth saving in the first place.