

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

MR 94-79, #4 NSC Div. 3/18/96

By let NARA, Date 5/22/96

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Daniel P. Parker, Administrator, Agency for
International Development
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, February 16, 1976
11:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: Guatemala Earthquake Relief

[The press came in for a standup briefing.]

Parker: The rainy season begins in May and we really need to get things done by then.

[The press leaves. Pictures are brought in. Parker described the aerial photos of the damaged areas.]

Parker: Our U-2 is going to be invaluable to locate damage and especially to find where the landslides have made dams which will subsequently break.

The President: What are you recommending?

Parker: The Guatemalans want to take care of themselves. They are in pretty good economic shape. If they can get their economy back to work, they can take care of most of it. There are some things they can't do, though. The greatest need is housing. I probably will recommend a package of \$100-150 per family for corrugated tins, nails, etc. which will help. It depends on what others do.

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~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFIED BY: [unclear]

No one knows whether the quakes are over, so many people won't sleep in their homes.

We want to focus on helping the poor with building material.

The President: How much are you thinking of?

Parker: Maybe 50,000 families. A total of about \$7.5 million, and it should be a grant.

The other thing is to open the highways before the rains. The other main cost component of our expenses is the operating expense. The AID and Embassy people are working very hard.

The President: Were there any Americans killed?

Parker: No one was killed. One Mormon Missionary had spine damage when the roof fell. It is a beautiful country. It's called the land of eternal spring.

The President: How frequently do they have earthquakes?

Parker: The capital has been moved at least twice over the centuries for that reason.

The President: Would you need a supplemental?

Parker: Yes. We would probably ask for a supplemental and take it out of the Security Assistance.

The President: I don't know about that. I think I would do it as a separate bill. The Security Assistance is in trouble. I would consult with the Committees, but my gut feeling is to go for one-shot legislation.

Parker: The Committees have indicated a wish to attach it to the economic assistance bill.

The President: Sure, but I would be careful. Get some Congressmen behind it who can push.

Parker: I will have a chance today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When you designated me as Special Coordinator for



Disaster Relief, we began to reorganize -- to handle disasters better. We have greatly improved our capability to do what is required in a timely fashion. We have brought know-how in very quickly this time -- not simply pouring in commodities.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 1.5

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MR 94-79, #4; NSC 444 7/18/96
By let NARA, Date 5/22/96

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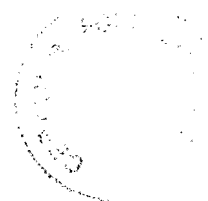
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P/Dan Parker

2-16-76 11:40-12:15



Press on for roundup briefing

P The early season begins in May and we really need to get things done by then
(Press leaves - pictures brought in)

P (Described aerial photos of damaged areas)

Our V-2 is going to be invaluable to locate damage & esp. to find where landslides have made dams which will subsequently break.

P What are your views.

P The Guats. want to take care of themselves

They are in pretty good even shape. If they can get a economy back to work they can take care of most of it. There are some things they can't do tho.

The greatest need is housing. I feel will recommend a package of 100-150/ ~~for~~ family for emergency tent, units, etc which will help - depends on what others do.

No one knows whether a propane stove, so many people can't sleep in their huts.

We want to press on helping a force w/ building material

P How much you thinking of

P Maybe 50,000 families. Total of about 2.5 mil, & it should be grant. The other thing is to open a highway before a rains. The other main cost component for our expense is operating expense. The civil & embassy people are working very hard.

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AUTHORITY per ml 94-79, # 4

BY WJL NLF, DATE 6/16/04

P Any more killed?

P No one killed. One woman in sewing had spinal-lamage when roof fell
It is a beautiful country - called - land of eternal
spring.

P How frequently do they have earthquakes

P The capital has been moved at least twice
over a century for that reason

P would you need a supplemental

P Yes. We would need a supplemental + take it
on a security basis.

P I don't know about that. I think I would do it
as separate bill. The security basis is in trouble.
I would consult w/c coms, but my gut feeling
is to go for one shot legislation.

P The coms have indicated a wish to attach it
to sec. basis bill.

P Sure, but I would be careful. Get some Congressmen
behind it who can push.

P I would have a chance today before SFRC.

When you begin. we are see expenditures for
disaster, we began to categorize & handle
disasters better. We have greatly improved our
cap. to do what is required in timely fashion.

We have brought home - how in very quickly
this time - not simply pouring in cash

