

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	Re: Central America (1 page)	12/03/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	From American Emabassy San Salvador to State Dept. re: El Salvdor (4 pages)	11/11/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 17173

FOLDER TITLE:

Central Americans (Older Background): TPS [Temporary Protected Status] -
Honduras/Nic[aragua] [1]

2017-1120-S

ry2221

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would 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 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(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]

U.S. Department of Justice
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Washington, DC 20536



Contact: Media Services
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 514-2648 Fax: (202) 514-1776

NEWS RELEASE

December 30, 1998

Honduras, Nicaragua Designated for Temporary Protected Status Following Devastation from Hurricane Mitch *Stay of Removals Extended for Guatemalans, Salvadorans*

WASHINGTON – As part of the Clinton Administration's ongoing efforts to assist countries affected by Hurricane Mitch, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner announced today the designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras and Nicaragua for a period of 18 months. During the designation period, eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans will not be subject to removal and will be eligible for permission to work in the United States.

Attorney General Janet Reno's designation covers an estimated 90,000 Hondurans and 60,000 Nicaraguans who have resided in the United States as of December 30, 1998. However, most of these Nicaraguans are eligible for adjustment of status under Section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). The TPS application period begins upon publication in the *Federal Register*, which is expected early next week, and continues for six months from that date.

"This decision builds on the Administration's commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of those countries that have been so devastated by Hurricane Mitch," Meissner said.

In addition, INS will extend for 60 days—through March 8, 1999—the stays of removal for Guatemalans and Salvadorans that was to expire January 7, 1999. The TPS and stays of removal decisions were made by the Attorney General after consultation with the Department of State and after consideration of additional information from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense, press accounts and non-governmental organizations. This information indicated that the extent of the death, displacement and damage in Honduras and Nicaragua created extraordinary temporary conditions that render a designation of TPS appropriate for these two countries.

Meissner also noted that many Guatemalans and Salvadorans currently in the United States will be eligible to gain lawful immigration status under Section 203 of NACARA.

(more)

Honduras, Nicaragua Designated for Temporary Protected Status

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In the President's signing statement to NACARA, he noted that the Administration would seek to overcome disparities created by the legislation. INS published a proposed rule on Section 203 November 24, 1998, and the public comment period for that proposed rule ends January 25, 1999. INS will evaluate the comments and issue an interim or final rule implementing the legislation.

All Hondurans and Nicaraguans eligible for TPS must submit both an Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821, and an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, along with evidence of nationality and residence in the United States as of December 30, 1998. These forms are available from the toll-free INS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, and from the INS Website, www.ins.usdoj.gov.

Form I-821 must include a \$50 filing fee, along with a \$25 fingerprinting fee. Applicants for employment authorization should submit a Form I-765 with the \$100 filing fee. Applicants who already have or do not wish to receive employment authorization still must submit a completed Form I-765, but without the accompanying fee. An applicant may request a waiver of TPS-related application filing fees—but not the fingerprinting fee—by submitting proper documentation of inability to pay.

Honduras and Nicaragua join Bosnia, Burundi, Kosovo Province in the state of Serbia-Montenegro, Liberia, Montserrat, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan as countries currently designated for TPS. The United States also granted TPS to Lebanon from March 1991 to March 1993; Kuwait, from March 1991 to March 1992; and Rwanda, from June 1994 to June 1995.

- INS -

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Hondurans, Nicaraguans

TPS Designation Will Last 18 Months

The designation of TPS for Honduras and Nicaragua, announced today by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner, was issued for the maximum 18 months and can be extended by the Attorney General if she determines that conditions warrant.

TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of designated countries. TPS beneficiaries are granted a stay of removal and work authorization for the designated TPS period and for any extensions of the designation. **TPS does not lead to, and cannot be used to obtain, permanent resident status.**

■ Who is eligible?

The designation covers Hondurans and Nicaraguans who have continuously resided in the United States as of December 30, 1998. The applicant must also be admissible as an immigrant, although some inadmissibilities may be waived, and must apply for TPS within the time specified by the Attorney General— six months from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.

People who have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States or people barred from asylum are not eligible for TPS.

■ What is the procedure to apply for TPS?

Applicants will need to file an Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821, along with the supporting evidence for TPS, and an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, for work authorization. The completed forms must then be mailed to the INS Service Center with jurisdiction over where the applicant lives. The INS Service Center will notify applicants when to get their fingerprints taken at their nearest INS Applicant Support Center (ASC). The costs associated with applying for TPS are \$50 to file for TPS, \$100 to file for a work authorization card, and \$25 to be fingerprinted, for a total cost of \$175. Applicants who already have or do not wish to receive employment authorization still must submit a completed Form I-765, but without the accompanying fee. Applicants may request a waiver of TPS-related application filing fees—but not the fingerprinting fee—by submitting proper documentation of inability to pay.

INS will establish a 1-800 hot line phone number for information and instructions on filing for TPS. In addition, the INS Forms Line, 1-800-870-3676, will have a listing for TPS forms that applicants can then order and have mailed to their residence. The forms can also be obtained from the INS Website, **www.ins.usdoj.gov**.

Applicants will not have to visit their local INS district office during the TPS process.

(more)

Fact Sheet on TPS for Hondurans, Nicaraguans

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■ **What happens to Hondurans and Nicaraguans currently in detention?**

In general, those in detention who are eligible for TPS will be released. However, many aliens—including those who have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States and those for whom an asylum bar would apply—are not eligible for TPS and will not be released from detention.

■ **Will Hondurans or Nicaraguans who arrive in the United States after December 30, 1998, be eligible for TPS?**

No. TPS is an emergency relief measure intended to assist those nationals of a given country who are already in the United States at the time of the designation. The cases of Hondurans and Nicaraguans who arrive after December 30, 1998, will be handled in accordance with U.S. immigration law.

■ **Will Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals protected by TPS be permitted to travel to their home countries during the TPS period?**

INS will base its decision on an advance parole application and decide on a case-by-case basis.

◻ INS ◻

U.S. Department of Justice
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Washington, DC 20536



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Media Services
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 514-2648 Fax: (202) 514-1776
Internet: www.ins.usdoj.gov

July 1, 1999

INS Grants 45 Additional Days to Hondurans and Nicaraguans To Apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

WASHINGTON –The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) today granted an additional 45 days for those Hondurans and Nicaraguans who are already eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to submit their applications. Given the difficulty that some prospective applicants have faced in obtaining necessary documentation from their home countries, INS will continue to accept applications until August 20, 1999. However, applicants should note that the TPS filing instructions do contain provisions for filing without nationality documents. INS must receive a completed application by close of business on August 20, 1999, in order to process it; thus, applications should be mailed well in advance of August 20. There will be no further extension of the registration deadline.

INS is granting applicants the 45 additional days to provide them more time to obtain evidence to demonstrate their eligibility for TPS. However, applicants do not need to wait to apply until they have obtained all of the evidence. The application, Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, contains instructions for applicants who cannot obtain identity and nationality documentation. Applicants who do not submit appropriate documentation establishing identity or nationality with their applications must, under the regulations, instead submit an affidavit showing proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain the documents, explaining why the consular process was unavailable, and affirming that they are nationals of Honduras or Nicaragua.

As part of the Clinton Administration's ongoing efforts to assist countries affected by Hurricane Mitch, on December 30, 1998, the INS announced the Attorney General's designation of TPS for Honduras and Nicaragua for a period of 18 months. This status will expire on July 5, 2000; today's action does not alter that date. During the designation period, eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans will not be subject to removal and will be eligible for permission to work in the United States. Only Hondurans and Nicaraguans who were in the U.S. by December 30, 1998 are eligible to apply.

All Hondurans and Nicaraguans eligible for TPS must submit both an Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821, and an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, along with evidence of nationality and

(more)

INS Grants 45 Additional Days to Hondurans and Nicaraguans**Page 2**

residence in the United States as of December 30, 1998. These forms are available from the toll-free INS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, and from the INS Website, www.ins.usdoj.gov. Once completed, they should be sent to the INS Service Center with jurisdiction over the state where the applicant resides. The INS Service Center locations and jurisdictions are listed on the forms.

Form I-821 must include a \$50 filing fee, along with a \$25 fingerprinting fee. Applicants for employment authorization should submit a Form I-765 with the \$100 filing fee. Applicants who already have or do not wish to receive employment authorization still must submit a completed Form I-765, but without the accompanying fee. An applicant may request a waiver of TPS-related application filing fees but not the fingerprinting fees by submitting proper documentation of inability to pay.

- INS -

Questions & Answers
Central American Immigration Relief
December 30, 1998

Q: What is today's announcement with regard to Central America?

A: Last November, in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in much of Central America, the Attorney General temporarily stayed the removal of nationals in the U.S. from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. This stay is set to expire on January 7, 1999.

After consultation with the Department of State, the Attorney General has decided to designate Honduras and Nicaragua for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for a period of 18 months. This action will permit nationals from Honduras and Nicaragua to remain in the U.S. and receive work authorization during this period. The Attorney General has also decided to extend the stay of removals of El Salvadorans and Guatemalans for 60 days.

Q: What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

A: The Attorney General has authority to designate a country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 6 to 18 months if (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the state that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of nationals of that state if they were returned; (2) the state has suffered an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, temporary disruption of living conditions and is therefore unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals; or (3) other extraordinary conditions in a state prevent nationals of that state from returning in safety. Persons who apply for and receive TPS are not subject to removal and are eligible for permission to work in the United States during the time period designated by the Attorney General.

After consultation with the Department of State, the Attorney General has decided to designate Honduras and Nicaragua for TPS for a period of eighteen months. At the end of this period, the designation can be renewed.

Q: What is the difference between TPS and the stays of removal currently in place?

A: The Attorney General can stay deportations for a short period of time as an exercise of her prosecutorial discretion. However, Congress has given the AG specific authority to grant TPS under specified circumstances for a period of six to eighteen months. The grant of TPS permits affected aliens to remain in the U.S. and receive work authorization during the designated time period.

Conditions in Honduras and Nicaragua fit squarely within the TPS authorization.

Q: Has TPS been used before as a result of an environmental disaster?

A: Yes, only once. In 1997, TPS was granted to nationals of Montserrat after most of the population was forced to evacuate the island as a result of volcanic activity.

Q: Why are nationals from El Salvador and Guatemala not receiving TPS?

A: The Attorney General, after consultation with the Department of State -- and after consideration of additional information from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense, press accounts and non-governmental organizations -- has concluded that the effect of Hurricane Mitch in these two countries does not warrant a TPS designation. More than 90 percent of the deaths and displacement caused by Mitch occurred in Honduras and Nicaragua. Many people continue to be displaced in Honduras and Nicaragua, while the vast majority of the displaced in El Salvador and Guatemala have returned to their homes. While the economic and infrastructure damage in El Salvador and Guatemala has been serious, it is not severe enough to warrant the AG's exercise of her TPS authority.

This decision in no way diminishes the United States' commitment to help the people of El Salvador and Guatemala rebuild their nations. The fact that these two countries will be able to receive returnees more quickly than the other two is an important indication that, in some areas within these countries, the emergency assistance phase is giving way to the rebuilding phase. We must continue to stand by our long-term commitment to Central America, including our large-scale support for assistance and rebuilding in the region.

Q: Why has the Attorney General decided to continue the stays of removal for Salvadorans and Guatemalans?

A: Though the conditions in El Salvador and Guatemala are not severe enough to warrant a TPS designation, the Attorney General -- on the recommendation of the State Department -- has decided to continue the stays of removal for another 60 days in order to: (1) preserve the *status quo* in these countries while the U.S. continues its reconstruction efforts; (2) help these countries achieve a greater level of stability before receiving a significant number of their nationals; and (3) support an orderly phase out of the stay already in place.

This stay will only apply to those who arrived in the U.S. before December 30, 1998 and will not apply to criminals.

Q: Is the Administration considering any other type of relief for Salvadorans and Guatemalans?

In the President's signing statement to the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), enacted in late 1997, he noted that the Administration would seek to overcome disparities created by the legislation through the implementation process. NACARA authorized virtually automatic permanent status for Nicaraguans and Cubans living in the United States, while providing Salvadorans and Guatemalans with only an opportunity to be considered under the more lenient (pre-1996 Act) rules for suspension of deportation (a form of immigration relief leading to permanent status).

The INS has recently proposed regulations implementing NACARA and will be receiving comments through the end of January. Consistent with regulatory requirements, no decisions can or will be made on the final form of the regulations until the comment period has ended. However, the Administration remains committed to exploring all possibilities to resolve the disparity created by the legislation.

Q: How many Hondurans and Nicaraguans will benefit from TPS?

A: While precise numbers are hard to determine, we estimate that there are approximately 90,000 Hondurans and 60,000 Nicaraguans in the United States who will be eligible for TPS. However, most of these Nicaraguans (those in the U.S. before December 31, 1995) are eligible to become permanent residents under NACARA, and thus will not likely apply for TPS.

Q: How many Salvadorans and Guatemalans will benefit from the stay of removal?

A: The stay affects the return of those persons who have final orders of removal. While it is difficult to project how many people might have been removed during the next 60 days in the absence of a stay, the INS estimates that they return several hundred people to both El Salvador and Guatemala each month.

Q: Is there any concern that TPS will attract a larger flow of illegal immigrants to the United States from Honduras and Nicaragua?

A: This TPS decision only applies to people who are in the United States as of December 30, 1998. Our embassies in Central America will be communicating to the people of Central America that those who enter the U.S. after December 30, 1998 -- either legally or illegally -- will not be given TPS protection. Moreover, we must recognize that improving conditions throughout the region is the best way to avoid large migrant flows in the long-term.

Q: Why is registration for TPS for Nicaragua and Honduras limited to six months when in the past it has been possible to register throughout the designation period?

A: In administering the TPS statute, the Attorney General must be alert to the risk of fraudulent applications. A limited registration period will help assure that applicants for TPS were in the U.S. as of the date of designation. At the same time, we believe that six months is an ample period of time for eligible persons to apply.

Q: What does the Administration intend to do with migrants from Honduras and Nicaragua who arrive in the U.S. after the TPS designation date?

A: Only those Hondurans and Nicaraguans in the United States as of December 30, 1998 are eligible for TPS. Any national who arrives in the U.S. after today will be subject to normal immigration procedures.

Q: What happens to Hondurans and Nicaraguans currently in detention?

A: In general, those in detention who are eligible for TPS will be released. However, many aliens -- including those who have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the U.S. -- are not eligible for TPS and, therefore, will not be released from detention.

Q: Will nationals of Honduras and Nicaragua protected by TPS be permitted to travel to their home countries during the TPS period?

A: This will be determined by the INS on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Is the Administration considering TPS for the Dominican Republic or Haiti?

A: No. While both countries did suffer damage from Hurricane Georges, the Attorney General -- after consultation with the Department of State and other agencies -- has concluded that the effects of Georges do not warrant the exercise of her authority to make a TPS designation for these countries.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1998

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached is a memo on the status of immigrants from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. It is styled as an information memo, but it could easily be read as seeking a decision from you. *I've spoken with Maria about it, and there's no need for you to make any decisions -- unless you object, your advisors are implementing a plan of action consistent with sentiments you've previously expressed.*

Please note however, that because Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals will receive different treatment than those from El Salvador and Guatemala, your advisors recommend delaying announcement of these relief actions until after your meeting tomorrow with the Central American Presidents.

Phil Caplan *Phil*

*Caplan
Echaveste
Berger
Reed
Podesta*

*Fr. WWD
Schwartz
Busby
Rice
Davies
Kerrick
Stauberg*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 9, 1998

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

MARIA ECHAVESTE
SAMUEL BERGER
BRUCE REED

SUBJECT: Immigration Response to Hurricane Mitch

In the wake of Hurricane Mitch, one of the key issues raised by both the Presidents of countries in Central America and many immigration advocacy groups is what to do about Central Americans who are without legal status in the United States. In early November, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) temporarily stayed removals of all nationals from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. At your request, the INS then extended that delay until January 7, 1999. The long-term economic devastation and social destruction left by Hurricane Mitch, however, requires a more systematic approach to the treatment of those individuals. This memorandum sets out a proposed course of action.

Temporary Protected Status

As you know, the Attorney General has authority to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 6 to 18 months to nationals of a country if she finds that there has been an environmental disaster in that country that renders it temporarily unable to handle the return of its nationals. Persons who qualify for TPS are not subject to removal and are eligible for permission to work in the United States during the time period designated by the Attorney General.

The Department of State has evaluated conditions in Central America and recommends that the Attorney General grant TPS to nationals from Honduras and Nicaragua. The Department of Justice (DOJ) agrees that TPS would be appropriate for nationals of these countries. We recommend that the Attorney General grant TPS to nationals from Honduras and Nicaragua for a period of one year. At the end of that one year period, the designation could be renewed.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

The Department of State does not recommend TPS for nationals from El Salvador and Guatemala. The Department has concluded that the effect of Hurricane Mitch in these two countries is insufficient to warrant a TPS designation. More than 90 percent of the deaths and displacement caused by Mitch occurred in Honduras and Nicaragua. Moreover, while the economic and infrastructure damage in El Salvador and Guatemala has been serious, it is not severe enough to meet the TPS standard.

Alternative Relief for El Salvador and Guatemala

Because Mitch had serious effects on El Salvador and Guatemala and because we are interested in providing a coordinated response to all four affected countries, we believe we must also address the circumstances of Salvadorans and Guatemalans in the United States.

As you recall, the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), enacted in late 1997, authorized virtually automatic permanent status for Nicaraguans and Cubans living in the United States since December 1995, while providing those Salvadorans and Guatemalans who applied for asylum prior to 1992 with only an opportunity to be considered under the more lenient (pre-1996 Act) rules for suspension of deportation (a form of immigration relief leading to permanent status). Hondurans were excluded altogether from this legislation. In your signing statement to the NACARA legislation, you noted that the Administration would seek to overcome disparities created by the legislation through the implementation process. In line with this statement, DOJ has recently proposed regulations that would greatly improve the chances for Salvadorans and Guatemalans seeking to obtain permanent status by affording them an additional non-adversarial hearing before an INS officer and codifying the legal standard applicable to their claims. The regulations, however, still do not provide the kind of guarantee of permanent status enjoyed by Nicaraguans and Cubans. And although DOJ has committed to ensuring that immigration officers take the effects of Mitch into account when adjudicating suspension claims under NACARA, even this special consideration will not guarantee that all Salvadorans and Guatemalans would meet the "extreme" hardship standard required for suspension of deportation.

During the last session of Congress, Rep. Gutierrez sponsored legislation that would have provided amnesty to Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans equivalent to that obtained by the Nicaraguans and Cubans in NACARA. We did not support that legislation because we have generally not favored grants of

amnesty. However, given (1) that similarly situated Haitians were granted amnesty in the last session, and (2) the changed circumstances brought on by Hurricane Mitch, we recommend that we now commit to working with Congress to pass legislation that provides amnesty for Salvadorans and Guatemalans covered by NACARA (i.e., the pre-1992 asylum seekers), as well as a small group of similarly situated Hondurans. Though legislation of this kind would not provide relief for all nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala living in the United States, it would help a significant number -- approximately 300,000 out of an estimated 500,000 -- and would be consistent with your commitment to achieving parity for all similarly situated individuals covered by NACARA. g

In addition to seeking parity through legislation, we also recommend that we seriously consider granting Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to those covered by the proposed legislation (which would also make them eligible for work authorization). g

We would need to identify significant U.S. foreign policy and national security interests to justify this extra-statutory measure based on your constitutional authority with respect to U.S. foreign relations. Use of DED authority would help allay the perception that Salvadorans and Guatemalans are receiving second-class treatment in our immigration policy response to Mitch, and would ensure that individuals are not subject to deportation while we seek permanent relief for them. As you recall, we granted DED to Haitians in December 1997.

Timing

Because we recommend a TPS designation for nationals of only two of the four Central American countries affected by Mitch, we strongly recommend delaying this announcement until after the visit by the four Central American presidents at the end of this week. We also recommend that when we do make the TPS announcement, we put it in the context of the broader immigration relief that we are prepared to provide to people from the region. This will help to alleviate the disappointment that El Salvador and Guatemala may feel at not being granted TPS. We also believe we should hold off on making any announcement until after we have had more of an opportunity to consult with the Hill. We have received indications that some members, including some key Republican members, may also be interested in pursuing legislative relief for Salvadorans and Guatemalans; a premature announcement of our intention to seek parity legislation might prejudice our chances of enacting the legislation. g

Irene Bueno

06/30/99 01:10:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Clara J. Shin/WHO/EOP@EOP, Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP, Scott Busby/NSC/EOP@EOP

Subject: TPS Application Period

Scott and I met with representatives of State (John Keane), DOJ (James Costello), INS (bo Cooper) and Buddy McKay 's office (Mark Schlackman). The consensus is to have a **"Grace Period for Registration Only"** for 30 or 45 days. Bo indicated that they may be willing to live with 45 days but he needed to double check with the Commissioner and will let me know asap. (Scott and I think a 45 day period makes more sense given the expected delay in getting the message out and INS process delays.) We explained that we needed to discuss with you and will get back to them on a final decision.

The justification for this grace period is the following:

- INS learned that the Honduran government had wrongly informed Hondurans that they could not apply for TPS unless they had all the required documents. However, according to INS, they could have applied and provided an affidavit if they did not have the documents requested. This grace period will allow those who were incorrectly informed.
- INS has not encountered fraud with this population. While the number of entries of illegal crossing by Hondurans have increased slightly since last year, there has been a mass migration from Honduras.

We all agreed that the message that INS must issue a very clear message that the grace period of the application period is extended and not the TPS period and applicants must be otherwise eligible (ie arrived in the US by 12/30/98).

If you are agree with this recommendation, INS will issue the following documents that will communicate this clear message asap - as early as tomorrow:

- Press Release in both English and Spanish
- Qs and As
- Publish a Federal Register Notice

Also, INS would do a roll-out as early as tomorrow to the:

- Hill
- Ambassadors in the US
- US Ambassadors in the region
- Groups

- *fun*

Please let us know if you agree with recommendation or if you have further questions.

Scott- let me know if you have anything to add.

Grace Period ^{for negotiation period only =} used to allow - ~~Handman incorrect info.~~
more politically acceptable.

State

Impact on State Parity Leg -
Need to be very clear

Rollout

① Group 8 intl.

② Foreign Reps in
~~past~~ US

③ Embassy

④ H.V.

⑤ Run

① Fed Reg - Notice

30 days - 8/4
45 days - 8/20

② Press Release

③ Q & A
- Parity

offer

Don't use the word for interim

State Dept - need 48 hrs ahead to brief

Conf Call 7/1 Maria, ^{when} USIA, INS, DOJ, State (Whistle).

DAG Vega - pulled ~~the~~

Drafted Press materials

INS

Press materials + Qs + A ^{Q & A}
Notice - to effect to ~~the~~ ^{exclusion}

Drafted - Sent to ~~the~~ ^{Reg}

★

Cathy St. Denis - will call me re: ^{Council}
2 hours - ~~Council~~
Ambassadors

Forward per release to do

Call marks.

TPS - 6/30/97

State
INS
Grace
period

What's the benefit + no negatives - State would reconsider

- Govt wants, have no adequately notified their const.
- ① Henderson govt told people that they needed all the documents which is not correct - they can ~~cut~~ file affidavit - misunderstanding
- Processing ~~not~~ delays - filed but no record.
 - Received 70 k Henderson primarily
 - ~~Fraud~~ → 100k estimate

Applications Requirements 2 steps

- (1) Application If can't get all info, file affidavit (in reg) under ~~for~~ application.
- (2) Interview to RII + M

Application needs to be received by 7/6

- ② Grace Period - lengthen period for about 1 month + heavy publication period. Consistent w/ shorter application period. Keep short period.

Henderson Govt - by G7 + supplemental - support entry back if not ~~of~~ qualified

- ③ Fraud / Illegal Entries

Legal
cases

of Henderson crossing all still low but ↑ ^{strong} for last year, no man movement

Political
concerns

Criticism - by Rep. Lamar Smith

Rep. Meek, Gray-Balant,

What's the normal application period?

How many expected to apply?

How many applied?

Is there fraud?

What is the fear if period extended?

How do you know that there would be flood of new illegal entries?

Only those who can prove they were in the US as of 12/30/98 can apply

To avoid this problem, perhaps a good communication strategy – statements in English and Spanish so that they cannot be misconstrued, etc.

How do you square not providing this extension with President's statements in Central America?

Based on my brief conversation with Bob. I think that there is some good reason to extend the application period . Bob explained that he thought this situation was different for these reasons. First, Honduran applications for TPS are being held up b/c the Honduran government is having problems getting the documents to the applicants that are required under TPS. INS estimates that there are 90K Hondurans in the US and INS has only received 70k applications so there are about 20K Hondurans who have not yet applied and may miss the deadline due to reasons that may be a result of problems obtaining the proper documents from the Honduran government. Bob explained that in other TPS situations the application time period has been similar to the length of the TPS time period granted. In this situation, only 6 months was granted for a TPS period of 18 months so 9 month application period would not be considered unreasonable. INS has not identified any areas of fraud in these cases and therefore does not expect to occur as an result of the extension of the application period. He did not think there would be a problem extending the time period for Nicaraguans.

Irene Bueno


06/25/99 11:12:15 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
bcc: Records Management@EOP
Subject: Re: Extension of TPS Application period 

Will do
Maria Echaveste


Maria Echaveste

06/25/99 11:04:42 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Re: Extension of TPS Application period 

sounds good--go find out what the real story is.
Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno


06/25/99 10:01:52 AM

Record Type: Record

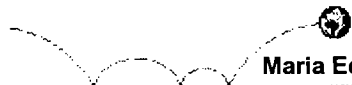
To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: eric p. schwartz/nsc/eop@eop, marjorie tarmey/who/eop@eop, leslie bernstein/who/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: Extension of TPS Application period 

Maria - My sense from speaking to Bob Bach is that INS would like to have an opportunity to present their views about extending the application period. Also, based on my conversations with INS, State Dept., folks from Buddy McKay's office, I am not convinced that I have the full information to make a recommendation whether or not it is appropriate to extend the TPS applicaiton period. We will report to you have after the meeting and include someone (Francisco and/or Mark) from McKay's office.

Eric - I will coordinate with Dora to schedule this meeting for Monday if possible.

Thanks.

Maria Echaveste

 **Maria Echaveste**

06/25/99 09:48:22 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Schwartz/NSC/EOP@EOP
cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP, Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: Extension of TPS 

I thought that since ins had reconsidered its views, did we really need to revisit this issue --who is pushing within the govt for this- and remember it's not about extending tps--it's about extending the six month application period---I guess the way to do this is you Irene meet with interested agencies and find out their positions, make sure you include someone from Buddy Mackay's office and report to me where the agencies are--if there's no consensus I'll have a mtg.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno


06/25/99 09:30:15 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Eric P. Schwartz/NSC/EOP@EOP, Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Re: Extension of TPS

Maria -

Eric Schwartz and I have discussed this issue and we recommend that the WH hold a meeting asap to clarify the agency's views and concerns about extending the application period for TPS applicants and to have a discussion about views and concerns. Please let us know if you have concerns about holding this meeting and if you would like to convene the meeting.

Thanks.

Irene

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP on 06/25/99 09:20 AM -----

 **Maria Echaveste**

06/24/99 11:21:29 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Schwartz/NSC/EOP@EOP, Kenneth H. MacKay Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP, Francisco J. Sanchez/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Extension of GPS 

forgot to say that Bob Bach is not being completely accurate here--we have given extensions of TPS, several in fact as the time period expired and we did it most recently with haitians and liberians, however, I believe this was the first time we had a six month application period for tps that did not coincide with all of the 18month tps period--do we really want to extend it? I could be convinced, but let me hear the arguments.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno



 **06/24/99 10:30:22 AM**

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Schwartz/NSC/EOP@EOP

cc: Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Extension of GPS 

I just spoke to Bob Bach who informed me that INS is supportive of an 3 month extension for TPS applications from Hondurans and asked if we would reconsider our position. He indicated that (1) this type of request is normal and INS has granted extension in the past (eg Haitians); (2) he does not think this would invite new people to come to the US b/c only those residing in the US can apply. The AG is meeting with the Honduran Ambassador today to discuss this matter.

I think that Bob's makes good argument. Initially, I was concerned that many new people may see this as invitation to come to the US but as long as it is very clear that this is only available for those who already in the US and we have done this in other circumstances, that it is only fair to provide the extension to apply for Hondurans as well.

Please advise. Thanks.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno



 **06/21/99 04:46:39 PM**

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: gerard m. gallucci/nsc/eop@eop, clara j. shin/who/eop@eop, scott busby/nsc/eop@eop

bcc: Records Management@EOP

Subject: Re: Extension of GPS 

Maria -

I think this INS press release (see below) clarifies Romer's concerns about July 1999 date. While the period of TPS for Nicaraguans and Hondurans is for 18 months, the TPS applications must be received by July 6, 1999. Please let me know if you would like more info.

Irene

June 9, 1999

**INS Issues Reminder for Hondurans and Nicaraguans Eligible for
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**

WASHINGTON – The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) issued today a reminder to Hondurans and Nicaraguans eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) that the closing date for filing an application is July 6, 1999. TPS applications received by July 6, 1999 will be accepted by INS.

As part of the Clinton Administration's ongoing efforts to assist countries affected by Hurricane Mitch, on December 30, 1998, INS announced the Attorney General's designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras and Nicaragua for a period of 18 months. During the designation period, eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans will not be subject to removal and will be eligible for permission to work in the United States. Hondurans and Nicaraguans who were not in the United States by December 30, 1998 are not eligible and should not apply.

All Hondurans and Nicaraguans eligible for TPS must submit both an Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821, and an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, along with evidence of nationality and residence in the United States as of December 30, 1998. These forms are available from the toll-free INS Forms line, 1-800-870-3676, and from the INS Web site, www.ins.usdoj.gov. Once completed, they should be sent to the INS Service Center with jurisdiction over the state where the applicant resides. The INS Service Center locations and jurisdictions are listed on the forms.

Form I-821 must include a \$50 filing fee, along with a \$25 fingerprinting fee. Applicants for employment authorization should submit a Form I-765 with the \$100 filing fee. Applicants who already have or do not wish to receive employment authorization still must submit a completed Form I-765, but without the accompanying fee. An applicant may request a waiver of TPS-related application filing fees—but not the fingerprinting fee—by submitting proper documentation of inability to pay.

– INS –

Maria Echaveste


Maria Echaveste

06/21/99 04:17:55 PM

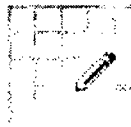
Record Type: Record

To: Gerard M. Gallucci/NSC/EOP@EOP

cc: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Clara J. Shin/WHO/EOP@EOP, Scott Busby/NSC/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: Extension of GPS 

Gerard--I believe you meant TPS and as I recall we granted TPS in December for 18 months, so what are they talking about it expiring July 5, 1999? Scott, am I remembering this correctly? Please clarify.

Gerard M. Gallucci



Gerard M. Gallucci
06/21/99 04:02:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Eric P. Schwartz/NSC/EOP@EOP, Joshua Gotbaum/OMB/EOP@EOP
Subject: Extension of GPS

Maria: The Nicaraguans and Hondurans have asked to extend GPS for another six months beyond July 5. I understand that Scott Busby passed to State last week your lack of support for that option. INS apparently does not want to do either. But Pete Romero is asking for us to reconsider. I said I would check with you on WH position.

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INS

United States Immigration & Naturalization Service

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington, DC 20536



Contact: Media Services
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 514-2648 Fax: (202) 514-1776

NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 1999

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– INS –



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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. report	Re: Central America (1 page)	12/03/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 17173

FOLDER TITLE:

Central Americans (Older Background): TPS [Temporary Protected Status] -
Honduras/Nicaragua] [1]

2017-1120-S
ry2221

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would 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 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(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]

**U.S. Department of State
Office of Language Services
Translating Division**

LS No. 1190176
JF/ALK
Spanish

William Clinton
President of the United States of America

Mr. President:

On behalf of our peoples and governments, we have the honor to express to you our heartfelt thanks for the invaluable support you lent us in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, which caused so much destruction and devastation in our region.

As a result of this hurricane, thousands of human lives were lost and a large portion of our road and bridge infrastructure was destroyed, in addition to our productive base. This makes it extremely difficult for us to cope with this enormous problem using our own means. It could also stymie the efforts we have been making to strengthen our democracies and weaken the efforts we have directed towards revitalizing our economies.

With that in mind, we appeal to your continued cooperation with respect to granting a general amnesty to the undocumented aliens from our region in your country, thereby forestalling their deportation and thus significantly alleviating our problem under these difficult circumstances.

We also request your support for continuous and expanded access by our products to the U.S. market, including the opening of negotiations leading to the signing of a Free Trade Agreement and extending the Caribbean Basin Initiative as promptly as possible under terms comparable to those of the NAFTA. This will provide a direct stimulus to our economies and will help create jobs, for Central America is your country's third largest trading partner in Latin America.

We reiterate to you our gratitude and our special appreciation, and avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of our high consideration and esteem.

[Signature]

Miguel Angel Rodríguez Echeverría
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

[Signature]

Armando Calderón Sol
President of the Republic of El Salvador

[Signature]

Carlos R. Flores F.
President of the Republic of Honduras

[Signature]

Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

[Signature]

Eduardo Stein Barillas
Minister of Foreign Relations
Representing the President of the
Republic of Guatemala

Busby, Scott W.

From: WHSR
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 1998 1:37 PM
To: Armstrong, Fulton T.; Babbitt, James F.; Busby, Scott W.; Dobbins, James F.; Gallucci, Gerard M.; Guarnieri, Valerie N.; Hammonds, D. Holly; Lee, Malcolm R.; Miller, Laurel E.; Naplan, Steven J.; Orfini, Michael H.; Schwartz, Eric P.; Wippman, David
Subject: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HURRICANE MITCH IN EL

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
DTG: 281823Z NOV 98
MSGTO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8399
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0044
RUEATRS/DEPTTREAS WASHDC
ORIG: AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
PREC: ROUTINE
SSN: 4631
TOR: 981128132500 M3578619

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 SAN SALVADOR 004631

DEPT PASS TO USTR AND AID
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SAN JOSE FOR OFDA

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, ETRD, AEMR, ECON, ES
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HURRICANE MITCH IN EL
SALVADOR

REF: STATE 217897

1. SUMMARY. UNLIKE THE SCOURING HONDURAS RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF HURRICANE MITCH, EL SALVADOR HAS EMERGED WITH MEASURABLE BUT NOT CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE. ASSESSING THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN A CHALLENGE. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME CROP DAMAGE WILL RESULT FROM EXCESSIVE HUMIDITY AND BLOCKED ACCESS TO MARKETS; SUCH PROBLEMS ARE NOT APPARENT FROM OVERFLIGHTS. MANY OF THE AFFECTED REGIONS WERE LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS WHICH DO EXPERIENCE PERIODIC FLOODING. AND GIVEN THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS A FEW MONTHS AWAY, ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED SALVADORANS RISKS BECOMING LINKED WITH POLITICAL POSITIONING BY THE PARTIES AND INFLUENCE GROUPS SEEKING TO ENHANCE THEIR PUBLIC IMAGES.

2. THE MOST SERIOUS IMPACTS OF MITCH WERE FAIRLY LOCALIZED, WITH MOST DAMAGE OCCURRING IN THE PORTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF SAN VICENTE, USULUTAN, SAN MIGUEL AND LA UNION LOCATED BELOW THE LITORAL HIGHWAY. THE HARDEST HIT AREA WAS THE LOWER LEMPA. THIS AREA IS HOME TO MANY DEMOBILIZED FMLN COMBATANTS, AND HAS BEEN THE SITE OF PEACE ACCORDS ACTIVITIES AIMED AT REINTEGRATION OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY THE WAR. THE LOWER LEMPA'S POPULATION IS POOR, AND HAS BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S. THE FLOODING ITSELF REFLECTS DECADES OF INATTENTION TO PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN DREDGING, DIKES, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION THAT MUST CALL THE LOWER LEMPA HOME IN THIS LAND-SCARCE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

THE MACROECONOMIC IMPACT OF MITCH

3. THE PRINCIPAL BLOW TO THE SALVADORAN ECONOMY CAUSED BY MITCH IS THE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO CROPS (ABOUT 10-20 PERCENT OF THE EXPECTED HARVEST OF BASIC GRAINS AND PRINCIPAL EXPORT CROPS ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE). OTHER DAMAGE WILL STEM FROM THE LOSS OF IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE (PRINCIPALLY THE LOSS OF BRIDGES CROSSING THE LEMPA RIVER) AND THE DISRUPTION OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA. EL SALVADOR IS AN IMPORTANT EXPORTER OF MANUFACTURES AND OTHER PRODUCTS WITHIN CENTRAL AMERICA; IT IS NOT CLEAR IF SUCH MARKETS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT OF MITCH ON EL SALVADOR'S TRADING PARTNERS.

4. THERE IS EARLY EVIDENCE AS WELL THAT SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACING NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES COULD CROSS THE BORDER. CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT TRANSMISSION OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (CHOLERA AND LEPTOSPIROSIS) FROM GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS, TAXING AN ALREADY OVEREXTENDED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM. THERE ARE ALSO CONCERNS THAT MIGRANT LABOR FROM OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRIES WILL SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN EL SALVADOR, COMPETING WITH POOR SALVADORANS FOR DAY LABOR IN AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE

5. DATA COLLECTED THROUGH OVERFLIGHT AND SATELLITE INFORMATION, SURVEYS BY PRODUCER GROUPS AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ARE GIVING CONFLICTING INFORMATION. THE MINISTRY IS PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE A DETAILED SURVEY OF MITCH DAMAGE TO CROPS IN DECEMBER, WHOSE RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY JANUARY. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT ABOUT 10 - 20 PERCENT OF BASIC GRAINS WERE LOST, AND A LESSER PROPORTION OF EL SALVADOR'S CHIEF EXPORT CROPS, COFFEE AND SUGAR. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE VALUES CROP LOSSES AT USDOLS 89 MILLION, WHILE THE PRIVATE SECTOR USES A HIGHER FIGURE.

6. FOR BASIC GRAINS, THE LA NINA PHENOMENON HAD PRODUCED A BUMPER CROP, SO A FIGURE 10 - 20 PERCENT BELOW THAT AMOUNT IS EQUIVALENT TO A MEDIOCRE, BUT NOT CATASTROPHIC, HARVEST. THE REPORTED DAMAGE WAS GREATER FOR BEANS (ABOUT 24 PERCENT, SOME REPORTS ARE FOR MORE), AND LESS (JUST BELOW TEN PERCENT) FOR CORN, RICE AND SORGHUM. FOR COFFEE, EL NINO HAD

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 SAN SALVADOR 004631

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E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, ETRD, AEMR, ECON, ES
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HURRICANE MITCH IN EL
SALVADOR

REF: STATE 217897

ALREADY REDUCED EXPECTED OUTPUT, SO THE ADDITIONAL MITCH DAMAGE (WHICH SEEMS TO BE MINOR) COMES ON TOP OF AN ALREADY BAD YEAR. SUGAR IS MORE OF A QUESTION MARK. WHILE MUCH SUGAR SEEMED TO SURVIVE THE HEAVY RAINS, PRODUCERS ARE REPORTING ROOT DAMAGE. THERE

IS ALSO THE PROBLEM OF A LACK OF EASY BRIDGE ACCESS ACROSS THE LEMPA, WHICH SEPARATES THE CULTIVATION AREAS FROM THE REFINERY.

7. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL LOSSES OVER FUTURE WEEKS DUE TO THE DETERIORATION OF RURAL ROADS WHICH COULD INCREASE THE COST OF TRANSPORTING CROPS TO MARKET.

8. ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, MANY OTHER CROPS (FOR EXAMPLE, COCONUTS, CASHEWS, VEGETABLES) HAD LITTLE OR NO DAMAGE FROM MITCH. THEY ARE CROPS THAT OFFER DAY LABOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE AFFECTED AREAS. THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY ALSO HAD LITTLE ADVERSE IMPACT. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, 53 FISHING BOATS WERE LOST, OUT OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 6000.

9. IN SUM, WHILE MITCH DID HARM AGRICULTURE, THERE IS NO APPARENT THREAT OF FOOD SHORTAGES. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF THE POPULATION THAT LOST EVERYTHING, THE SIZE OF NEEDED FEEDING PROGRAMS IS QUITE SMALL. ONE ESTIMATE (OFDA) IS THAT AT MOST, 2,000 FAMILIES WILL REQUIRE FEEDING. GIVEN THE LARGE VOLUMES OF FOOD AID UNDERSTOOD TO BE HEADING TOWARD THE REGION TO FEED MITCH VICTIMS, THERE IS A RISK THAT EL SALVADOR'S MANY SMALL FARMERS COULD SEE THEIR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES HARMED BY DONATED FOOD. THE MAYORS, MANY NGOS AND PRODUCER GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO LOCAL MARKETS IF TOO MUCH DONATED FOOD COMES INTO EL SALVADOR FOR FEEDING OR FOOD-FOR-WORK TYPE COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS.

INFRASTRUCTURE

10. IN THE WEEK FOLLOWING MITCH, EL SALVADOR HAD LITTLE OR NO ROAD ACCESS TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA DUE TO MUDSLIDES AND OTHER ROAD PROBLEMS, AND DAMAGE TO BRIDGES. PRICES OF FRESH PRODUCE, SOME MEATS, AND OTHER IMPORTED FOODS UPON WHICH SALVADORAN CONSUMERS DEPEND ROSE FROM 50 TO 300 PERCENT. PRICES AND PRODUCT SUPPLY HAVE NOW STABILIZED, HOWEVER, WITH THE REOPENING OF LAND TRANSPORT ROUTES TO ALL THREE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THE EL AMATILLO CROSSING INTO HONDURAS (THE CROSSING LEADING TO TEGUCIGALPA) IS NOT FULLY PASSABLE FOR CARGO, AND THE BRIDGE WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED SOON FOR REPAIRS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. AN OFFICIAL OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT COMPANY ESTIMATED THAT AN ALTERNATIVE LAND ROUTE THROUGH HONDURAS TO SAN SALVADOR WILL ADD 540 KILOMETERS TO THE TRIP AND ABOUT \$600 DOLLARS IN FREIGHT CHARGES PER CONTAINER. THE FEASIBILITY OF FERRY SERVICE FROM THE PORT OF CUTUCO TO CORINTO, NICARAGUA IS BEING EXAMINED AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

11. THE PRINCIPAL REMAINING PRODUCTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS INCLUDE (1) THE REPLACEMENT OF THE THREE BRIDGES ACROSS THE LEMPA THAT WERE SWEEPED AWAY (A TOTAL OF 17 BRIDGES WERE DAMAGED BY FLOODING); (2) THE CLEAN-UP AND REPAIR OF RURAL ROADS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY -- A TOTAL OF TWENTY PERCENT OF THE ROAD NETWORK SUSTAINED DAMAGE, AND (3) THE CLEAN-UP AND REPAIR OF A HOST OF PUBLIC SECTOR FACILITIES AFFECTED BY THE STORM INCLUDING SCHOOLS, HEALTH CLINICS AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS. SOME WERE DAMAGED DIRECTLY BY THE STORM OR FLOODING, WHILE OTHERS WERE USED AS REFUGEE AND DISTRIBUTION CENTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REPORT THAT 565 SCHOOLS (INCLUDING THEIR

SUPPORTIN INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS POWER LINES, WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS AND ACCESS ROADS) SUSTAINED AMAGE OR WERE DESTROYED.

12. ANOTHER CATEGORY OF INFRASTRUCTURE -- WATER AND SANITATION -- ALSO SUSTAINED SERIOUS DAMAGE. THE CHIEF HALTH PROBLEM IN THE AFFECTED LOWER LEMPA AREA IS LACK OF POTABLE WATER AND SANITATION. MANY UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 SAN SALVADOR 004631

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E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, ETRD, AEMR, ECON, ES
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HURRICANE MITCH IN EL SALVADOR

REF: STATE 217897

OF THE WELLS AND LATRINES WERE FLOODED, AND WELL WATER HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED. THE OFDA REPRESENTATIVE IN HIS SURVEY OF AFFECTED AREAS NOTED THE NEAR ABSENCE OF POTABLE WATER, AND THE SCARCITY OF TRUCKED IN WATER. HE OBSERVED THAT HOUSEHOLDS SEEM TO BE CONSUMING THE WATER FROM CONTAMINATED WELLS. AS REGARDS HEALTH, THERE ARE REPORTS OF DAMAGE TO CLINICS, AND CONCERN ABOUT THE LIKELY INCREASE IN MALARIA AND DENGUE CASES IN FLOODED AREAS.

13. PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE MOST PART DID NOT SUSTAIN DAMAGE FROM MITCH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME LOCALIZED DAMAGE TO POWER LINES IN SAN MIGUEL.

DISRUPTION TO REGIONAL TRADE

14. HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA ARE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS FOR EL SALVADOR (TOGETHER, THEY ABSORB 90 PERCENT OF EL SALVADOR'S TOTAL EXPORTS). THE PROJECTED GDP LOSSES FORECAST FOR THESE TWO COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO AFFECT SALVADORAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND POSSIBLY AGRICULTURE. THERE IS ONE LARGE CAVEAT, HOWEVER. THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT TO BE FINANCED BY DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIS) IN THE TWO NEIGHBORS COULD EXPAND DEMAND FOR SALVADORAN PRODUCTS. THERE MAY EVEN BE SOME ADDITIONAL TRADE OPPORTUNITIES (E.G., MAQUILA) IF SUPPLIERS WHO WERE BUYING FROM THE MORE AFFECTED COUNTRIES NOW NEED A NEW SOURCE OF SUPPLY IN THE REGION. HENCE, IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO BE CERTAIN IF TRADE DISRUPTION WILL BE SIGNIFICANT OR NOT.

GROWTH, INFLATION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

15. THERE ARE NO FIRM ESTIMATES OF THE IMPACT OF MITCH ON GDP. THE GOES IS PROJECTING A LOSS OF ONE-HALF PERCENT OF GDP THIS YEAR (3.5 PERCENT REAL GROWTH RATHER THAN 4.0 PERCENT, FOR A 1998 GDP OF USDOLS 11.9 BILLION), A FIGURE THAT THE IMF MISSION NOW IN COUNTRY HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED. BECAUSE THE MAIN BLOW TO GDP IS IN LOSS OF THIS YEAR'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, THERE WILL BE LITTLE NEGATIVE IMPACT FROM MITCH ON 1999 GDP. ANY LOSSES IN THIS YEAR'S INCOME DUE TO MITCH WOULD RESULT IN LOST FISCAL REVENUES NEXT YEAR, AT A TIME WHEN GOES WOULD NEED TO BE EXPENDING MORE FOR RECONSTRUCTION

EFFORTS. HENCE, MITCH CAN BE EXPECTED TO CLOUD EL SALVADOR'S FISCAL PANORAMA FOR NEXT YEAR. DESPITE THE ABOVE, THE GOES SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN MAINTAIN LOW INFLATION (3.5 TO 4.0 PERCENT) AND A STABLE EXCHANGE RATE IN 1999.

16. STILL, IN HIS RECENT VISIT TO EL SALVADOR, IMF CHIEF MICHEL CAMDESSUS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOES FOLLOW A PATH OF FISCAL AUSTERITY IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE. AS THE COUNTRY HAD SIGNIFICANT WORK TO DO IN THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SECTORS EVEN WITHOUT MITCH, THE POST-MITCH NEEDS WILL BE EVEN HIGHER, HE OBSERVED, THUS FURTHER PRESSURING THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

17. AS REGARDS THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, THE IMPACT OF MITCH IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE SLIGHTLY NEGATIVE. LOST EXPORTS OF SUGAR AND COFFEE ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF PRE-MITCH ESTIMATES, WHILE OTHER EXPORTS WERE HARDLY AFFECTED. ANY WIDENING OF THE TRADE DEFICIT MAY BE COMPENSATED BY ADDITIONAL GRANTS FROM DONORS AND BY REMITTANCES. REMITTANCES MAY GROW AS SALVADORANS ABROAD SEND ADDITIONAL HELP TO FAMILY MEMBERS. AND AS NOTED ABOVE, THE DISRUPTION OF PRODUCTION AND THE SIZE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT IN NEIGHBORING HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA MAY ACTUALLY OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR SALVADORAN PRODUCERS.

18. ALSO ON THE MORE POSITIVE SIDE, DUE TO THE GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION OF THE STORM'S DAMAGE, MOST OF EL SALVADOR'S ECONOMY HAS SEEN LITTLE OR NO NEGATIVE IMPACT FROM MITCH. THE PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC DAMAGE WAS CONCENTRATED ON A SMALL AREA AND POPULATION (LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY), UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 SAN SALVADOR 004631

DEPT PASS TO USTR AND AID
FOR C, ARA/CEN, AND ARA/EPSC
CENTAM WORKING GROUP C/O OP CENTER
SAN JOSE FOR OFDA

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, ETRD, AEMR, ECON, ES
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HURRICANE MITCH IN EL SALVADOR

REF: STATE 217897

WITH THE RESULT THAT CHANNELS OF SUPPORT TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS, GOVERNMENT AND NGO BUREAUCRACIES, AND ALTERNATIVE INCOME OPPORTUNITIES ARE PRESENT IN COUNTRY TO HELP AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS RECOVER. ALSO, THE EASTERN PART OF EL SALVADOR, THE AREA OF PRINCIPAL DAMAGE, COINCIDES WITH A HIGHER PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING REMITTANCES.

19. THE GOES REPORTS THAT IT IS FINANCING THE EMERGENCY PHASE OF ITS RECOVERY EFFORT WITH REALLOCATION OF FUNDS WITHIN ITS BUDGET AND WITH GRANTS FROM DONORS. THE LONGER TERM (FIVE TO TEN YEARS) RECONSTRUCTION AND DISASTER PREVENTION PLAN, A SET OF PRIORITY PUBLIC INVESTMENTS WHOSE ESTIMATED COST IS USDOLS 1.359 BILLION, WILL BE FUNDED BY REORDERING PRIORITIES WITHIN EXISTING IFI LENDING IN EL SALVADOR AND BY SEEKING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AT THE UPCOMING CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

IMPACTS IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

20. THE LOWER LEMPA HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUBJECT TO FLOODING, ALTHOUGH NOT ON THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE BROUGHT BY MITCH. THE AREA HAS BEEN POOR, SO STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE ECONOMIC LOSSES AS VALUED BY THE ASSETS OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION MAY NOT LOOK SUBSTANTIAL. THE NUMBERS DO NOT TELL THE FULL STORY, HOWEVER. THE HURRICANE HAS EXPOSED BOTH SALVADORAN POLICYMAKERS AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC SECTOR NEGLECT IN THE LOWER LEMPA. BECAUSE THE GOES HAS RESISTED UNDERTAKING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT THAT WOULD KEEP THE AREA FROM FLOODING SO FREQUENTLY, THE LOWER LEMPA WAS A TRAGEDY WAITING TO HAPPEN. THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE USE OF THE AREA FOR RESETTLEMENT OF EX-COMBATANTS AND OTHER WAR-DISPLACED POPULATIONS. AS THE MOST RECENTLY ARRIVED RESIDENTS, THIS GROUP HAD LESS SECURE HOUSING, WORSE LAND AND LESS EXPERIENCE WITH FLOODING. AS A RESULT, THEY BORE MORE OF THE COST OF MITCH THAN OTHER RESIDENTS.

21. THE PEOPLE OF THE LOWER LEMPA REGION HAVE LONG STRUGGLED WITH CHRONIC FLOODING. THE POSITIVE FACE OF MITCH IS THAT IT HAS BROUGHT THE PLIGHT OF COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING FLOODING INTO THE LIVING ROOMS OF MIDDLE- AND UPPER-CLASS SALVADORANS THROUGH TELEVISION AND PRINT MEDIA. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE GOES IS NOW MOBILIZING TO TAKE PERMANENT ACTION TO PROTECT THE LOWER LEMPA AREA FROM FREQUENT FLOODING. MANY SUCH PROJECTS WHOSE DESIGNS OR FINANCING PLANS HAVE LANGUISHED FOR YEARS ARE NOW BEING UPDATED WITH A RENEWED PUSH FOR FUNDING. SALVADORANS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE WELCOME DONOR RESPONSE TO MITCH WILL PERMIT A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO COASTAL FLOODING BEFORE THE NEXT SEVERE HURRICANE STRIKES.

COMMENT

22. EL SALVADOR WAS LARGELY SPARED FROM HURRICANE MITCH'S DESTRUCTION. AT THE MACROECONOMIC LEVEL, GDP GROWTH WILL BE NICKED THIS YEAR, AND THE GOES WILL FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE TO PRESERVE FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN FACE OF THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES NEEDED TO REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ATTEND TO FLOOD VICTIMS. BECAUSE DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURE WAS MODERATE AND TRANSPORT CHANNELS ARE LARGELY REOPENED, THERE WILL BE NO FOOD SHORTAGES. BEYOND TEMPORARY HELP FOR THE 2000 AFFECTED FAMILIES, FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS COULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

23. AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THE LOWER LEMPA AND OTHER COASTAL ZONES WERE SEVERELY AFFECTED. THE GOES MUST NOT ONLY REPAIR THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE BUT ALSO MAKE LONG OVERDUE INVESTMENTS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF CHRONIC FLOODING. WE URGE THAT THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP EXERCISE BE USED AS A FORUM TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF DAWSON

INS Continues Stays of Removal For El Salvador and Guatemala Through March 8, 1999

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will continue the stays of removal on certain nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala through March 8, 1999, as part of the Administration's continuing efforts to assist Central American countries affected by Hurricane Mitch.

In late October, shortly after Hurricane Mitch struck Central America, INS stayed the removal of Guatemalan and Honduran nationals and then extended the action to El Salvador and Nicaragua. The stays were set to expire January 7, 1999.

INS Commissioner Doris Meissner announced on December 30, 1998, that Attorney General Janet Reno would designate Honduras and Nicaragua for Temporary Protected Status due to the level of death, damage and displacement in those two countries. At the same time, Meissner also announced the Attorney General's decision to continue the stays for Guatemala and El Salvador for another 60 days—through March 8, 1999. She noted that the vast majority of the displaced people in El Salvador and Guatemala have returned to their homes already.

The Attorney General decided to extend the stays in order to:

- Preserve the status quo in these countries while the United States continues to assist in reconstruction efforts;
- Support a phaseout of the stay already in place; and
- Help these countries achieve a greater level of stability before receiving a significant number of their nationals.

This stay takes effect January 8, 1999, the day after the current stay expires, and will not apply to criminal aliens or any individuals who arrive in the United States after December 30, 1998. INS will work with both El Salvador and Guatemala on the orderly return of aliens not protected by the stay.

U INS U

20:27 DEC 30, 1998 TO: SCOTT BUSBY

FR: JUDY MARK

National Immigration Forum

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 30, 1998

Contact: Judy Mark
(202) 544-0004, ext. 14

Temporary Status is a Welcome Step, But Administration Still Needs to Do More Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants Also Crucial to Region's Recovery

The following are the views of the National Immigration Forum, one of the nation's leading pro-immigrant organizations, in response to today's announcement by the Clinton Administration that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will be granted to Hondurans and Nicaraguans in the United States for a period of 18 months.

We are pleased that Hondurans and Nicaraguans living in the United States have been granted the opportunity to live and work in the United States for the next 18 months. This will enable immigrants already here to live without fear of deportation, to work legally and earn more wages, and to send more money to family members back home. However, we are disappointed that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has not been extended to similarly-situated Salvadorans and Guatemalans, and call on the Administration to help these nationalities by taking additional steps over the next two to three months.

It is becoming clear that the Clinton Administration recognizes that U.S. immigration policy is a critical component – along with development assistance, debt relief, and liberalized trade – of efforts to rebuild a region ravaged by this hemisphere's worst natural disaster this century. The Administration is wise to do so because one of the critical lifelines for the region is the staggering amount of money Central American immigrants in the U.S. send back to family members in the region. On a regional basis, remittances are estimated at \$3 billion a year, a total ten times the amount of emergency funds provided to the region by the U.S. government after Hurricane Mitch.

Given the regional devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch, it is essential that the Administration find ways to help Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants in the United States to live and work here with more security so they can increase the flow of remittances to their homelands. An immediate opportunity presents itself at the end of January when the Clinton Administration decides the fate of some 300,000 Salvadoran and Guatemalan war refugees who have been living in legal limbo for more than eight years. The Administration should do what a 1997 law allows and ensure that most secure permanent status in the U.S.

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA
1621 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20009**

December 30, 1999

**The Honorable
Janet Reno
Attorney General
Washington, D.C.**

My dear Madam Attorney General:

Many thanks for your decision, to be announced this morning, to grant temporary protected status (TPS) for 18 months to Nicaraguans who entered this country illegally prior to December 30, 1998.

Your action is a welcome, humanitarian move consistent with the generous spirit of the American people and a wonderful gesture during this holiday period to thousands of my compatriots. It means that instead of facing the threat of deportation to a country left devastated by Mitch and unable to absorb them, these Nicaraguans will be able to contribute to the reconstruction effort by holding legal jobs in this country and sending remittances back home.

By your bold action, Madam Attorney General, you have made these Nicaraguans part of the solution to the problems caused by Mitch, rather than a part of the problem.

The United States has responded superbly to the crisis caused by Mitch, the worst natural disaster ever to hit our Hemisphere. It has taken the lead in helping the Central American countries get back on their feet by providing the region \$300 million in emergency assistance. Moreover, in the case of Nicaragua, it has granted much needed debt relief and the prospects of robust future assistance for reconstruction on generous terms. The First Lady and Mrs. Gore have visited us and we expect to be able to welcome President Clinton to Nicaragua in mid-February.

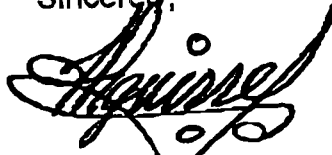
Today, you have complemented this magnificent display of solidarity by your decision to grant TPS status to Nicaraguans and to provide relief to other Central Americans. I thank you, once again, for this decision and ask you to pass my thanks along to Commissioner Meissner and her staff at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They can count on this Embassy and the Nicaraguan

-2-

network of consulates in the United States to cooperate in the implementation of this program.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aguine-Sacasa", written in a cursive style.

Francisco X. Aguine-Sacasa
Ambassador of Nicaragua

Cc: Commissioner Doris Meissner, INS

**Extension of Stay of Deportation
El Salvador and Guatemala**

Parity in treatment of Guatemala and El Salvador is essential to avoid causing any difficulties in our positive bilateral relations with both countries.

El Salvador

El Salvador emerged from the hurricane with significant but not catastrophic damage. The hurricane displaced 67,000 people and damaged or destroyed an estimated 10,000 housing units. Crop losses of staple Salvadoran foods - beans, rice, and grains were estimated to be about 126,000 tons, 15 percent of Salvador's total output. An estimated 76,000 ton gap exists between consumption (on the one hand) and production plus normal commercial imports (on the other) of these foods. However, many other crops (such as coconuts, cashews, and vegetables) suffered little or no damage. Water and sanitation infra-structure suffered serious damage, exacerbating health risks. Although displaced persons largely have returned home and regular economic activity has largely resumed, considerable rebuilding and infrastructure projects are still ongoing, including the replacement of three major bridges across El Salvador's principal river. Consequently, the U.S. military task force will be in country at least until February 15. Moreover, a presidential campaign is underway leading to the March 7 elections. Extending the stay of deportation effectively removes this as an electoral issue and will forestall the possibility of anyone accusing the USG of trying to use the migration issue to manipulate the election's outcome.

Some projections indicate that economic growth could drop by one percent and inflation could increase by one percent next year as a result of the hurricane.

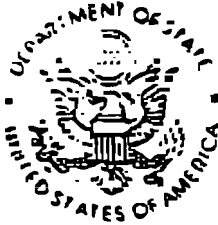
Guatemala

The hurricane displaced an estimated 113,000 Guatemalans and damaged or destroyed approximately 19,000 homes and 68 bridges. While the initial phase of disaster relief is over, reconstruction of the economy will take years. The GOG's reconstruction plan is just getting underway, and promised international reconstruction assistance has not yet arrived. Recovery of some agricultural sectors will take months or in the case of bananas - years. A 66,000 ton shortfall of staple foodstuffs over the next year is estimated.

U.S. military forces currently working on reconstruction are scheduled to depart February 1, but engineering units will return at least from March through May and may remain until September.

Guatemala's Vice President stated on November 25 that 30,000 Guatemalans had lost their jobs, mainly in the agriculture sector that accounts for half of Guatemala's total jobs. The Government has developed temporary job creation programs but their coverage has many gaps. Some 7,000 to 13,000 banana workers are likely to be without jobs as long as banana plantations are rehabilitated and come back into production, a process that could last 18 to 24 months.

Most displaced persons have returned to their homes but many find their communities devastated and are relying on public assistance. As of December 18, an estimated 2,500 individuals were still displaced.



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Office of Central American Affairs
ARA/CEN Room 4915 MS
TEL: (202) 647-3543
FAX: (202) 647-2597

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: 12/22/98

TO: Chuck Allen

FAX NO. 456-9110

FROM: Chris Webster

DESCRIPTION OF
DOCUMENT:

Revised Statement for ET Salvador + Guatemala

FOR:

Clearance Information

Per request

Comment Action

REMARKS:

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 3

IF THIS TRANSMISSION WAS NOT RECEIVED IN ITS ENTIRETY, PLEASE NOTIFY US
IMMEDIATELY AT (202) 647-3543

FOR UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ONLY

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

FAX TRANSMITTAL
COVER SHEET*Revised*

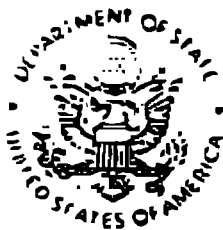
DATE: <i>12/22/98</i>			
TO: <i>Julie Fernandez</i>		FROM: <i>Chuck Allen</i>	
PHONE NO.:		PHONE NO.: <i>202/456-9111</i>	
FAX NO.: <i>65581</i>		FAX NO.: <i>202/456-9110</i>	
COMMENTS: <i>State's input on El Salvador and Guatemala, as discussed. — Chuck</i>			
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): <i>4</i>			

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

**FAX TRANSMITTAL
COVER SHEET**

DATE: <i>12/22/98</i>			
TO: <i>Julie Fernandez</i>		FROM: <i>Chuck Allen</i>	
PHONE NO.:		PHONE NO.: <i>202/456-9111</i>	
FAX NO.: <i>65581</i>		FAX NO.: <i>202/456-9110</i>	
COMMENTS: <i>State's input on El Salvador and Guatemala, as discussed. — Chuck</i>			
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): <i>3</i>			



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Office of Central American Affairs
ARA/CEN Room 4915 MS
TEL: (202) 647-3543
FAX: (202) 647-2597

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: December 21, 1998

TO: Chuck Allen

FAX NO. 458-9110

FROM: Chris Webster

DESCRIPTION OF
DOCUMENT:

Ratified for Extension of Stay ^{of Report} Request

FOR: Clearance Information Per request Comment Action

REMARKS:

As promised

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 2

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FOR UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ONLY

**Extension of Stay of Deportation
El Salvador and Guatemala**

Parity in treatment of Guatemala and El Salvador is essential to avoid causing any difficulties in our positive bilateral relations with both countries.

El Salvador

Although displaced persons largely have returned home, considerable rebuilding and infrastructure projects are still ongoing. Consequently, the U.S. military task force will be in country at least until February 15. Moreover, a presidential campaign is underway leading to the March 7 elections. Extending the stay of deportation effectively removes this as an electoral issue and will forestall the possibility of anyone accusing the USG of trying to use the migration issue to manipulate the election's outcome.

Some projections indicate that economic growth could drop by one percent and inflation increase by one percent.

Guatemala

While the initial phase of disaster relief is over, reconstruction of the economy will take years. The GOG's reconstruction plan is just getting underway, and promised international reconstruction assistance has not yet arrived. Recovery of some agricultural sectors will take months or in the case of bananas - years.

U.S. military forces currently working on reconstruction are scheduled to depart February 1, but engineering units will return at least from March through May and may remain until September.

Mitch-related unemployment in the agricultural sector - which accounts for half of Guatemalan jobs - runs to the tens of thousands (10-15,000 in the banana sector alone).

Most displaced persons have returned to their homes but many find their communities devastated and are relying on public assistance. As of December 18, an estimated 2,500 individuals were still displaced.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. cable	From American Emabassy San Salvador to State Dept. re: El Salvdor (4 pages)	11/11/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 17173

FOLDER TITLE:

Central Americans (Older Background): TPS [Temporary Protected Status] -
Honduras/Nic[aragua] [1]

2017-1120-S
ry2221

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
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2201(3).

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would 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 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(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]

HONDURAS

PREC: IMMEDIATE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED SSN: 4446 DOCID: M3549780

OAAUZYUW RUEHTGA4446 3140111-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 100111Z NOV 98
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

FM: AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0056

INFO: RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1110
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0898
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0205
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0104

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 004446

FOR ARA AND ARA/CEN FROM CREAGAN

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12598: N/A
TAGS: PREF HO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE **IPS** DESIGNATION

REF: STATE 207736

1. THIS CABLE CONTAINS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.
2. AS OUR REPORTING OVER THE PAST 10 DAYS MAKES CLEAR, HURRICANE MITCH WAS A NATURAL DISASTER FOR **HONDURAS** OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS. THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC COSTS HAVE BEEN ENORMOUS. THE DEATH TOLL STANDS AT 6,500 AND WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE EXACT COUNT. PERHAPS 600,000 PERSONS ARE DISPLACED OR HOMELESS. MORE THAN 100 BRIDGES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OR DESTROYED; THE ROAD AND WATER SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN HEAVILY DAMAGED. POTABLE WATER, FUEL AND FOOD ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. DISEASE IS BEGINNING TO SPREAD. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS POURING IN, BUT BASIC RELIEF EFFORTS WILL LIKELY NEED TO CONTINUE FOR 3 TO 6 MONTHS; TRUE RECONSTRUCTION WILL TAKE YEARS.
3. THE FORCED RETURN OF HONDURANS FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL ONLY ADD TO THESE WOES--THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE STILL IN PLACE CANNOT BEAR ANY MORE WEIGHT. GIVEN THESE CONDITIONS, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT **HONDURAS** IS "UNABLE TO HANDLE ADEQUATELY THE RETURN OF ITS NATIONALS."
4. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GRANTING OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (**IPS**) FOR HONDURANS COULD SERVE AS A STRONG ILLEGAL

IMMIGRATION PULL FACTOR FOR HONDURANS AS THEY SCRAMBLE TO THE U.S. AND ATTEMPT TO FRAUDULENTLY BACK DATE THEIR ARRIVAL. WE WOULD NEED A STRONG INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AND I WOULD DEMAND GOH SUPPORT IN DISABUSING PEOPLE OF THE NOTION THAT THEY CAN TAKE FUTURE ADVANTAGE OF **IPS**. I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT WE WILL ENCOUNTER A SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM IF OUR VISA REFUSAL RATE RISES IN THE COMING WEEKS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CALAMITY AND EFFORTS OF HONDURANS TO GET AWAY IN SEARCH OF WORK. HOPEFULLY, THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE MANAGEABLE IN THE SHORT TERM.

5. ON BALANCE, I RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT **IPS** FOR **HONDURAS** FOR 180 DAYS. AT THAT TIME, WE CAN THEN MAKE ANOTHER EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.
CREAGAN

DIST:

SIT: ARMSTRONG BABBITT BUSBY DOBBINS GALLUCCI GUARNIERI NAPLAN ORFINI PICCONE
SCHWARTZ VONLIPSEY WIPPMAN SIT: NSC

NICARAGUA

Busby, Scott W.

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 1998 11:25 AM
To: Armstrong, Fulton T.; Babbitt, James F.; Busby, Scott W.; Dobbins, James F.; Gallucci, Gerard M.; Guarnieri, Valerie N.; Naplan, Steven J.; Orfini, Michael H.; Piccone, Theodore J.; Schwartz, Eric P.; Wippman, David
Subject: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR NICARAGUANS

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
DTG: 101531Z NOV 98
MSGTO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0354
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
PREC: PRIORITY
SSN: 3193
TOR: 981110110733 M3550943

UNCLAS MANAGUA 003193

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREF, PREL, PGOV, CVIS, NU

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR NICARAGUANS

REF: STATE 207736

1. REFTEL REQUESTS POST'S VIEW ON WHETHER NICARAGUA WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ADEQUATELY THE RETURN OF ITS NATIONALS; THIS QUESTION IS POSED IN THE CONTEXT OF A DECISION ON ACCORDING THEM TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) AS A RESULT OF A NATURAL DISASTER. HURRICANE MITCH LEFT A TOLL IN NICARAGUA THAT INCLUDES MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND DEAD OR MISSING, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DISPLACED, AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS DAMAGE. AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED. IT PROVIDES A PRIMARY SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY. WHOLE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT. THERE ARE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE RISK OF EPIDEMICS BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS, THE INCREASE IN MOSQUITO POPULATIONS FOLLOWING THE FLOODS, AND THE UNAVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE IN MANY AREAS.

2. MUCH OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SYSTEM IS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED, DIMINISHING THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY AND MAKING RELOCATION EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. THIRTY BRIDGES WERE SWEEP AWAY, INCLUDING TWO ON THE VITAL COMMERCIAL ARTERY THE PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY, AND FORTY OTHERS DAMAGED. THE USG IS PROVIDING AIRLIFT OF FOOD AND BASIC NECESSITIES TO DOZENS OF COMMUNITIES NOW CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. UNEMPLOYMENT IN A COUNTRY ALREADY RANKED AS LATIN AMERICA'S SECOND POOREST IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE. MANY SCHOOLS AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING WERE DESTROYED IN THE FLOODS. VICE PRESIDENT BOLANOS, WHO HEADS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, SAID THE EFFECTS OF THIS DISASTER ARE WORSE THAN THOSE OF THE DEVASTATING 1972 EARTHQUAKE.

3. NICARAGUAN SOCIETY CANNOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE DAMAGED AND DISTRAUGHT CITIZENS NOW RECOVERING FROM THE HURRICANE. IT IS INCAPABLE OF ABSORBING NICARAGUANS RESIDING IN THE U.S. WHO MIGHT BE SENT HOME. ALTHOUGH THE NACARA LAW REMOVED THE THREAT OF FORCED RETURN FOR MANY NICARAGUANS NOW IN THE U.S., FOR THOSE NOT COVERED BY NACARA, TPS WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE. POST URGES A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FAVORING TPS FOR NICARAGUANS IN THE U.S.

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GUATEMALA

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ACTION PRM-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ADS-00	NSAE-00	FMP-00	DSCC-00
	SAS-00	/015W					

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O 102334Z NOV 98
 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4078
 INFO ARA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 004577

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12985: N.A.

TAGS: PREF, CVIS, EAID, AEMR, PREL, GT

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR GUATEMALANS

REF: (a) STATE 207736 (b) GUATEMALA 4543 (c) GUATEMALA 4542
 (d) GUATEMALA 4526 (d) GUATEMALA 4525 and previous

1. Ref A requests the Embassy's factual determination as to whether Guatemala is able, in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, to adequately handle the return of its own citizens from the United States. As Embassy reporting over the last ten days should make clear (ref b and previous), the answer is "no."
2. The confirmed death toll is 256 with 120 others listed as missing. One hundred fifty thousand people have been evacuated to safer locations, and up to 750,000 remain at risk. Sixty-eight bridges were destroyed and 72 roads damaged. The latest estimate by the National Commission for Disaster Mitigation (CONRED) of damage to infrastructure is \$550 million. Moreover, the bulk of Guatemala's banana, melon and tomato production was destroyed. The traditional exports of coffee and sugar were also hard hit. Loss in the banana sector alone is estimated at \$200 million. Guatemala is primarily an agricultural economy; these losses will result in major new unemployment.
3. In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, the suffering here is of major proportions. The Guatemalans estimate that the Puerto Barrios/Zacapa/Alta Verapaz area received the equivalent of 80 percent of its annual rainfall in just a few days. Much of the south coast area is still under water.
4. Flooding and landslides have cut off normal transport and supply. Guatemalans returning from the United States would in some cases be literally unable to continue on to their homes, even after reaching Guatemala City or a land border. Even without the return of Guatemalans from the United States, food and medicine are already in short supply in many parts of Guatemala. Cholera and other infectious diseases are spreading throughout the country.
5. The U.S. has already significantly increased the level of its humanitarian response to the disaster in Guatemala. In this light, denying TPS status to Guatemalans in the United States on the eve of the First Lady's visit to Guatemala would be especially inappropriate and would set back the struggling relief effort here. Guatemala has thus far been unable to fully address the material and social needs of its hundreds of thousands of disaster victims. At

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456-9140
 Fax to
 Scott Busby
 at

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this time it is incapable of absorbing Guatemalans residing in the U.S. who might be sent home.

6. Therefore, the Embassy urges the Department of State to recommend TPS status for Guatemalans already in the United States, for an initial period of 180 days.

Planty

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