

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	To Maria Echaveste from Lina Calderon re: Salvadoran Officials Attending Meeting 1-17-10 (partial, ID#, DOB) (1 page)	01/16/2001	b(6)
002. email	To Rochelle G. Thompson from WAVES re: appt. (partial) (1 page)	01/16/2001	b(7)(C), b(7)(E), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 25023

FOLDER TITLE:

El Salvador

2017-1120-S

ry2234

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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]

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]
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information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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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]

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.



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

HQ 150/8-3.22

Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

His Excellency Rene Antonio Leon
Ambassador of El Salvador
2308 California Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On behalf of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, I wish to express our sincere condolences for the loss of life and property resulting from the earthquake that occurred on January 13.

Due to the nature and extent of the devastation to your country and its people, we have decided to temporarily suspend the removal of Salvadoran nationals unlawfully present in the United States. This means that individuals scheduled to be removed via the regular Justice Passenger Alien Transportation System flights will not be removed for the immediate future. This temporary suspension will remain in effect until the United States determines, after appropriate consultation, that Salvadoran nationals are able to return. The U.S. Government will actively monitor the situation to determine when this can happen. Also, as stated in our meeting on January 17, the Immigration and Naturalization Service will continue to request travel documents from your Consulates in preparation for the removal of Salvadorans who lack proper authorization to remain in the United States.

I also request that we work together to inform Salvadoran nationals who may be eligible for immigration benefits in the United States and who have pending applications with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, that they must obtain the appropriate documents before they travel outside the United States. We want to prevent the possible loss of such benefits to individuals who travel to El Salvador without first obtaining advance parole for return to the United States.

His Excellency Rene Antonio Leon
Page 2

We at the Immigration and Naturalization Service look forward to working closely with you through this difficult period.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Wyrsh
Acting Commissioner



FAX

U.S. IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
111 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW
ULICO BUILDING - 3rd FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20536
PHONE: 202-305-2900
FAX: 202-353-8705

BANGKOK
BEIJING
GUANGZHOU
HO CHI MINH
HONG KONG
SEOUL
MANILA
SINGAPORE

MEXICO CITY
ARUBA

CIUDAD JUAREZ
GUATEMALA
GUAYAQUIL
HAVANA
KINGSTON
LIMA
MONTERREY
PANAMA CITY
PORT AU PRINCE
QUITO
SAN SALVADOR
SANTO DOMINGO
TEGUCIGALPA
TIJUANA

ROME
ACCRA
ATHENS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
FRANKFURT
ISLAMABAD
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
MADRID
MOSCOW
NAIROBI
NEW DELHI
SHANNON
VIENNA

FROM Marianne Kilgannon-Martz
Chief, Operations Branch

DATE January 19, 2001

TO *Scott Busby/DOS/PRM-647-3505*
Dorothy Shea/NSC - 456-9396
Tom Pickrel/DOS/WHA - 647-2597
Emma Euell/DOJ/INS Liaison - 46897
Bo Cooper/INS/GEN - 40455
Anthony Tangeman/D&R - 39435

RE Updated draft of the letter to
Ambassador Rene Leon for concurrence

PAGES 4 Including this cover page.

New

ALL:

Please review the latest draft and provide your clearance via fax (353-8705) on the route sheet as soon as possible. My phone number is 202-305-2754 if you have any questions.
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

For General Counsel:

Kelly Ryan, Kyle Lattimer, and David Archey have been involved in this letter. If you would please provide them a copy for concurrence. Thank you.

*With Scott Busby's
Changes.*

Dont want to not leave then the cold.

① DED - foreign play.

- have HEI/FA

- its were v. rly

50K

10K

- much narrow category

Admins

② Guidelines

③ ~~Strong Priority~~

- some ~~new~~ class 1997.

= No legal

- do we want to protect further

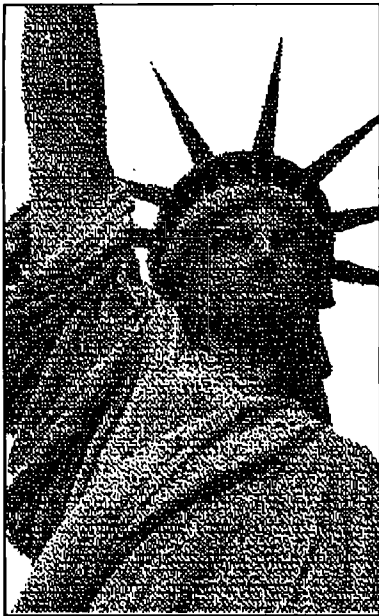
- ~~new~~ new

- only supported party - old

- behind in ~~regulation~~ regulations -

- behind in processing applications

- Class the same in N



HERE'S AN INTERESTING FAX...

... From the Office of Public
IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE

425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536



(202) 514-2648



(202) 514-1776

Date Thursday, January 18, 2001

Fax to Irene Bueno, White House

Fax Number 456-1907

From

Pages (Including C2

Comment

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
Internet: www.ins.usdoj.gov

NEWS RELEASE

January 18, 2001

INS Temporarily Suspends Removals of Salvadoran Nationals To El Salvador to Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts

Washington —The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced it has temporarily suspended the removal of Salvadoran nationals presently in the United States. This action was taken to assist the Salvadoran government in the recovery from the devastating earthquake that occurred over the weekend in El Salvador. The temporary suspension of removals will remain in effect until the United States, in consultation with the Salvadoran government, determines that El Salvador is able to accept its nationals once again.

We are aware that Salvadoran government has made a request to the United States government to consider Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadorans currently residing in the United States. That request is under review at the State Department, which will provide the Attorney General with an evaluation. The Attorney General will consult with INS and reach a final decision.

As of January 3, 2001, INS estimates that approximately 1,100 Salvadorans were in INS custody awaiting repatriation to El Salvador.

– INS –

STATEMENT

DRAFT

01/16/01

INS Temporarily Suspends Removals of Salvadoran Nationals to El Salvador in Order to Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) today announced it has suspended, temporarily, the removal of Salvadoran nationals in INS custody, pending removal. This action was taken to assist the Salvadoran government in the recovery from the devastating earthquake that occurred over the weekend in El Salvador. The suspension of removals will remain in effect until the United States determines that the Salvadoran government is able to accept its nationals once again.

As of January 3, 2001, INS estimates that approximately 1,100 Salvadorans were in INS custody awaiting removal to El Salvador. During Fiscal Year 2000, 4,384 Salvadorans were removed to El Salvador by INS, making it the country with the third highest number of removals from the United States.

-INS-

INS will announce
this sometime this
afternoon - 3pm

Rochelle Thompson



laparici@elsalvador.org

01/17/2001 09:57:32 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Rochelle G. Thompson/WHO/EOP

cc: lcaldero@elsalvador.org

Subject: Re: testing testing

Dear Rochelle:

Ambassador León would like to have the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Echaveste to discuss the National State of Emergency in El Salvador, specifically to consult her the possibility of requesting a temporary immigration status for certain Salvadorans.

Regards,

~~~~~

Luis Aparicio-Bermudez  
Embassy of El Salvador  
2308 California St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
Ph. (202) 265 9671 ext 226  
(202) 234 9431  
Fax (202) 9391034  
(202) 332 2225  
(202) 328 0563  
Email: laparicio@elsalvador.org

~~~~~

----- Forwarded by Luis Aparicio/Embassy of El Salvador on
01/17/2001 09:51 AM -----

POSTMASTER@sgeop02.eop.gov on 01/16/2001 07:52:31 PM

To: Luis Aparicio/Embassy of El Salvador@ElSalvador

cc:

Subject: Undeliverable message

Attending:
Luis Aparicio-Bermudez
Amb. Leon
Lina Calderon

URGENTE**EMBASSY OF EL SALVADOR**

POLITICAL AFFAIRS SECTION
2308 California Street, NW
Washington, DC, 20008
Tel (202) 234 9431 • Fax (202) 234-3834

URGENTE**FAX****Fax Ref. #** FLAB016.2001**Date:** January 15, 2001**To:** Mrs. Maria Echaveste
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House**From:** René A. León
Ambassador**Pages:** 1, including this
cover sheet**Re:** MEETING REQUEST

Dear Mrs. Echaveste:

I would like to have the opportunity to meet with you on Tuesday, January 16, 2001, to discuss the National State of Emergency in El Salvador.

Luis Aparicio-Bermúdez will call your assistant so that we can set a convenient time for this meeting. Thank you for your attention to this request, and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

1:30pm.

tomorrow - Tuesday.

~~III~~

Eric Schwartz
XG 9141
Peter Smith

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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COLLECTION:

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Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 25023

FOLDER TITLE:

El Salvador

2017-1120-S

ry2234

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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EMBASSY OF EL SALVADOR

POLITICAL AFFAIRS SECTION

2308 California Street, NW

Washington, DC, 20008

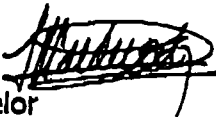
Tel (202) 265-9671, ext. 226 ♦ Fax (202) 234-3834

FAX

Fax Ref. # FLAB019.2001 **Date:** January 16, 2001

To: Mrs. Maria Echaveste
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House **Attn.:** Ms. Rochelle Thompson

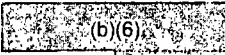
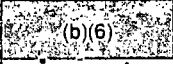
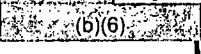
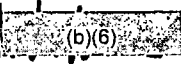
CC:

From: Lina Calderón  **Pages:** , including this cover sheet
Minister Counselor

Re: SALVADORAN OFFICIALS ATTENDING MEETING 1-17-01

Dear Mrs. Echaveste:

Please find attached the list of the officials of the Embassy that will attend the meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at 1:30 pm, at your office:

Ambassador René A. León, diplomatic ID   (b)(6)Minister Counselor Lina Calderón, diplomatic ID #   (b)(6)

They will arrive in a Lincoln Navigator, plates TL 001. Driver's name: Rigoberto Cañas.

Best regards,

[001]



REQUEST FOR PARKING

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT on West Executive Avenue

THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED AT LEAST 2 HOURS IN ADVANCE

or by 5:00 p.m. Friday for weekend parking.

OE0B 145, FAX 6-1655

Date Parking Needed:	1/17/01	Time:	ARRIVAL 1:30pm	DEPARTURE 2:00pm
Name of Driver:	Rigoberto Canas			
Names of Passengers:	Amb. René León			
	Minister Counselor Lina Calderon			
Reason Parking Needed:	mtg. w/ Maria Echaveste			
Make of Car:	Lincoln Navigator			
State and License #:	DC TL 001			
Requester's Name/Contact Person:	Rochelle Thompson			
Requester's Office:	Deputy Chief of Staff			
Phone Extension:	67143			

- ★ All information must be provided.
- ★ It is the requesting office's responsibility to contact WAVES to clear in the driver and all passengers in the car.
- ★ Management and Administration reserves the right to deny any request for appointment parking.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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Domestic Policy Council
Irene Bueno
OA/Box Number: 25023

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Rochelle Thompson



WAVES_CONF@mhub.eop.gov
01/16/2001 04:37:55 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Rochelle G. Thompson/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: WAVES Appt. U70220 Confirmation for THOMPSON, ROCHELLE

ADDRESSEES: ROCHELLE_G._THOMPSON@WHO.EOP.GOV
SUBJECT: WAVES Appt. U70220 Confirmation for THOMPSON, ROCHELLE
FROM: WAVES OPERATIONS CENTER - ACO: (b)(7)e; (b)(7)c
Date: 01-16-2001
Time: 16:34:54

[002]

This message serves as confirmation of an appointment for the visitors listed below.

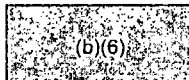
Appointment With: THOMPSON, ROCHELLE
Appointment Date: 1/17/01
Appointment Time: 1:30:00 PM
Appointment Room: WW
Appointment Building: WH
Appointment Requested by: THOMPSON ROCHELLE
Phone Number of Requestor: 67143

WAVES APPOINTMENT NUMBER: U70220

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please call the WAVES Center at 456-6742 and have the appointment number listed above available to the Access Control Officer answering your call.

TOTAL NUMBER OF NAMES SUBMITTED FOR ENTRY : 2
TOTAL NUMBER OF NAMES OF CLEARED FOR ENTRY: 2

CALDERON, LINA
LEON, RENE





LUIS APARICIO-BERMÚDEZ
COUNSELOR

EMBASSY OF EL SALVADOR
2308 CALIFORNIA ST., NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

TEL (202) 265-9671/72, EXT. 226
FAX (202) 939-1034
laparicio@elsalvador.org

**fax transmission**

Immigration and Naturalization Service
Headquarters, 425 I Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20536

PRIORITY LEVEL:

URGENT IMMEDIATE / ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:

UNCLASSIFIED / L.O.U. / CONFIDENTIAL / SECRET / TOP SECRET

TRANSMISSION DATA:

DATE:

1-17-01

NO. PAGES:

(Excluding this cover sheet)(5)

TO:

RCVG FAX NO:

202 - 456 - 2530VOICE NO: 202 - 456 - 6558

ADDRESSEE:

IRENE BUENOWHITE HOUSE

FROM:

OPEN FAX NO:

202-305-3398
202-616-2726

OPEN VOICE NO:

202 - 305 - 1731

SECURE FAX NO: 202-305-8070

SECURE VOICE NO: 202-305-8070

SENDER:

DAN CADMAN

National Security Unit, Enforcement Branch
Office of Field Operations, INS Headquarters
425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536

COMMENTS/SUBJECT MATTER:

Re-transmission of El Salvador talking pts,
per your request. Also, latest version of our
PIO's draft release and copy of ltr from
El Salvador's foreign minister to Sec State asking
for TPS.

(Rev 8/3/98)

January 17, 2001

TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: Meeting with El Salvador's Ambassador to the United States

PURPOSE: The Embassy requested the meeting to discuss the recent earthquake in El Salvador, its effect on the population and the expatriate communities in the United States.

ATTENDEES: Ambassador Rene Antonio Leon
Minister for Consular Affairs Lina Calderon
Legal Counselor Jose Vegas
Consular Affairs Officer Luis Aparicio Bermudez
Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh
Executive Associate Commissioner Michael A. Pearson
Deputy Executive Associate Commissioner Anthony Tangeman
Deputy Director Yvette LaGonterie

ISSUES:

- (1) The possibility of granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Salvadorans unlawfully present in the United States
- (2) Suspension of removals of Salvadorans from the United States

Background:

- On January 13, an earthquake of magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck off the Salvadoran coastline, 65 miles southwest of San Miguel, causing massive landslides. Usulután suffered the most extensive damage; San Miguel, La Paz, and La Libertad were also significantly affected. There are over 682 reported deaths so far, thousands more people are missing. Official numbers indicate 2,536 people are injured and approximately 16,000 homes have been destroyed and 45,694 damaged. These figures are likely to increase as more complete assessments are done. Approximately 40%-50% of the population is without potable water. More than 660 aftershocks (some causing new landslides) have been recorded since January 13. The earthquake

was also felt in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and even as far as Mexico City. All roads and commercial airports are currently open. The international airport has reopened to allow commercial flights to arrive with priority given to international assistance and personnel.

- Of the employees at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, only one individual was reported to have died as a result of a heart attack.
- The Ambassador has cancelled all country clearances, including clearances for JPATS and escorts. The Consular Section has cancelled all their NIV Services and has concentrated their efforts on locating and providing services to U.S. citizens in El Salvador. The INS office has cancelled its operations with the exception of emergency cases directly related to U.S. citizens. The Drug Enforcement Agency Office in El Salvador has also cancelled its operations.

ISSUES:

- (1) The possibility of granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Salvadorans unlawfully present in the United States

Background:

- The Attorney General has the authority to designate TPS status, and has done so in instances of natural disaster - after the volcano eruption in Montserrat and Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua.
- The process of assessing whether or not such a grant should be made has already begun. However, a formal request from the Government of El Salvador is required by statute. Such a request has not been formally made.

Talking Points:

- In order to request Temporary Protected States, the Government of El Salvador must submit a formal letter to the Department of State. Has such a request been made?

- After receiving the State Department's recommendations, INS then formulates its recommendation to the Attorney General, whose decision it is ultimately to grant TPS.

(2) Suspension of removals of Salvadorans from the United States

Background:

- The Ambassador has stated that no country clearances shall be granted at this time for JPATS. El Salvador's Foreign Ministry has requested a letter indicating that removals of Salvadoran nationals from the United States have been stopped.
- As of January 3, there are approximately 1,100 Salvadorans in INS custody awaiting removal. In fiscal year 2000, 4,384 Salvadorans were removed.
- Individuals with pending applications for immigration benefits must request advance parole before leaving the country. Individuals who leave the United States without the proper documentation may not be allowed to return. At this time, the Embassy is not able to process requests for transportation letters.

Talking Points:

- We have temporarily suspended removals of Salvadorans from the United States. I hope we can work with you to determine when such removals may safely resume.
- I would also request that we work together to inform Salvadoran nationals in the United States who may be eligible for immigration benefits, that they obtain the appropriate documents before they travel. We want to prevent the possible loss of such benefits.

DRAFT

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
Internet: www.ins.usdoj.gov

NEWS RELEASE

January 17, 2001

INS Temporarily Suspends Removals of Salvadoran Nationals To El Salvador to Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) today announced it has temporarily suspended the removal of Salvadoran nationals and pending removal. This action was taken to assist the Salvadoran government in the recovery from the devastating earthquake that occurred over the weekend in El Salvador. The suspension of removals will remain in effect until the Salvadoran government is able to accept their nationals once again.

As of January 3, 2001, INS estimates that approximately 1,100 Salvadorans were in INS custody awaiting repatriation to El Salvador.

- INS -



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

DGPE. DA. No. _____

San Salvador, 16 de enero de 2001

Señora Secretaria de Estado:

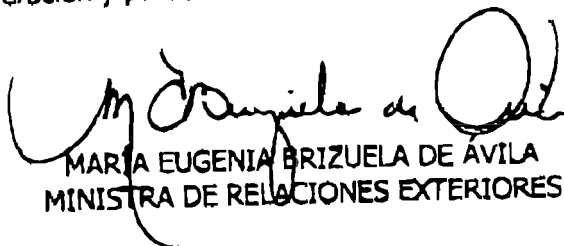
Me es grato dirigirme a Su Excelencia en ocasión de agradecer al pueblo y Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, las muestras de solidaridad y apoyo brindadas al pueblo y Gobierno de El Salvador ante el lamentable desastre natural ocurrido el pasado sábado 13 de enero, el cual ha causado centenares de víctimas mortales, heridos, población damnificada y daños considerables a la infraestructura nacional.

Ante esta crítica situación, el Gobierno de El Salvador decretó ese mismo día, el Estado de Emergencia Nacional y Calamidad Pública en todo el territorio nacional y actualmente estamos orientando todos los esfuerzos y recursos disponibles para el rescate de víctimas y solventar las necesidades inmediatas de la población.

El Gobierno de El Salvador asimismo, agradece al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América por su decisión de suspender temporal de las deportaciones de salvadoreños, dado que el país no se encuentra en condiciones de absorber y atender a estas personas. Esta medida de carácter inmediato, reflejo de la sensibilidad de esa nación amiga, coadyuvará a evitar una agudización de la crisis que en este momento se enfrenta.

Igualmente, previendo las necesidades y condiciones que inevitablemente surgirán al conducir esta etapa de emergencia, y tomando en consideración las excelentes relaciones de amistad y solidaridad del pueblo y Gobierno estadounidense, tengo a bien solicitar por su digno medio al Ilustrado Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, la posibilidad de decretar un Estatus de Protección Temporal para aquellos salvadoreños que se encuentran en los Estados Unidos de América.

Agradeciendo anticipadamente la comprensión y apoyo del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, hago propicia la ocasión para reiterar a Su Excelencia las seguridades de mi más alta consideración y particular estima.



MARIA EUGENIA BRIZUELA DE ÁVILA
MINISTRA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

Excelentísima Señora
Madeleine Albright
Secretaria de Estado
de los Estados Unidos de América
Washington, D.C.

**fax transmission**

Immigration and Naturalization Service
Headquarters, 425 I Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20536

PRIORITY LEVEL:

URGENT / IMMEDIATE / ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:

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Irene BuenoWhite House**FROM:**

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202-616-2726OPEN VOICE NO: 202 - 305 - 1731

SECURE FAX NO: 202-305-8070

SECURE VOICE NO: 202-305-8070

SENDER:

Dan Cadman
National Security Unit, Enforcement Branch
Office of Field Operations, INS Headquarters
425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536

COMMENTS/SUBJECT MATTER:

- ① Following are talking points re Salvador
- ② Have relayed your suggestion to strike last sentence, which mirrors Dorothy Shea's relay of NSC's take on release language.

January 17, 2001

TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: Meeting with El Salvador's Ambassador to the United States

PURPOSE: The Embassy requested the meeting to discuss the recent earthquake in El Salvador, its effect on the population and the expatriate communities in the United States.

ATTENDEES: Ambassador Rene Antonio Leon
Minister for Consular Affairs Lina Calderon
Legal Counselor Jose Vegas
Consular Affairs Officer Luis Aparicio Bermudez
Commissioner Mary Ann Wyrsh
Executive Associate Commissioner Michael A. Pearson
Deputy Executive Associate Commissioner Anthony Tangeman
Deputy Director Yvette LaGonterie

ISSUES:

- (1) The possibility of granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Salvadorans unlawfully present in the United States
- (2) Suspension of removals of Salvadorans from the United States

Background:

- On January 13, an earthquake of magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck off the Salvadoran coastline, 65 miles southwest of San Miguel, causing massive landslides. Usulután suffered the most extensive damage; San Miguel, La Paz, and La Libertad were also significantly affected. There are over 682 reported deaths so far, thousands more people are missing. Official numbers indicate 2,536 people are injured and approximately 16,000 homes have been destroyed and 45,694 damaged. These figures are likely to increase as more complete assessments are done. Approximately 40%-50% of the population is without potable water. More than 660 aftershocks (some causing new landslides) have been recorded since January 13. The earthquake

was also felt in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and even as far as Mexico City. All roads and commercial airports are currently open. The international airport has reopened to allow commercial flights to arrive with priority given to international assistance and personnel.

- Of the employees at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, only one individual was reported to have died as a result of a heart attack.
- The Ambassador has cancelled all country clearances, including clearances for JPATS and escorts. The Consular Section has cancelled all their NIV Services and has concentrated their efforts on locating and providing services to U.S. citizens in El Salvador. The INS office has cancelled its operations with the exception of emergency cases directly related to U.S. citizens. The Drug Enforcement Agency Office in El Salvador has also cancelled its operations.

ISSUES:

- (1) The possibility of granting Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Salvadorans unlawfully present in the United States

Background:

- The Attorney General has the authority to designate TPS status, and has done so in instances of natural disaster - after the volcano eruption in Montserrat and Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua.
- The process of assessing whether or not such a grant should be made has already begun. However, a formal request from the Government of El Salvador is required by statute. Such a request has not been formally made.

Talking Points:

- In order to request Temporary Protected States, the Government of El Salvador must submit a formal letter to the Department of State. Has such a request been made?

- After receiving the State Department's recommendations, INS then formulates its recommendation to the Attorney General, whose decision it is ultimately to grant TPS.

(2) Suspension of removals of Salvadorans from the United States

Background:

- The Ambassador has stated that no country clearances shall be granted at this time for JPATS. El Salvador's Foreign Ministry has requested a letter indicating that removals of Salvadoran nationals from the United States have been stopped.
- As of January 3, there are approximately 1,100 Salvadorans in INS custody awaiting removal. In fiscal year 2000, 4,384 Salvadorans were removed.
- Individuals with pending applications for immigration benefits must request advance parole before leaving the country. Individuals who leave the United States without the proper documentation may not be allowed to return. At this time, the Embassy is not able to process requests for transportation letters.

Talking Points:

- We have temporarily suspended removals of Salvadorans from the United States. I hope we can work with you to determine when such removals may safely resume.
- I would also request that we work together to inform Salvadoran nationals in the United States who may be eligible for immigration benefits, that they obtain the appropriate documents before they travel. We want to prevent the possible loss of such benefits.



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

DGPE. DA. No. _____

San Salvador, 16 de enero de 2001

Señora Secretaria de Estado:

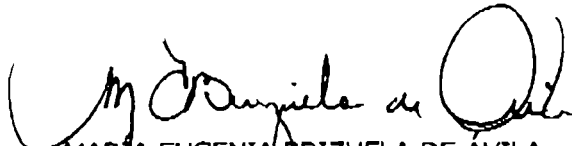
Me es grato dirigirme a Su Excelencia en ocasión de agradecer al pueblo y Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, las muestras de solidaridad y apoyo brindadas al pueblo y Gobierno de El Salvador ante el lamentable desastre natural ocurrido el pasado sábado 13 de enero, el cual ha causado centenares de víctimas mortales, heridos, población damnificada y daños considerables a la infraestructura nacional.

Ante esta crítica situación, el Gobierno de El Salvador decretó ese mismo día, el Estado de Emergencia Nacional y Calamidad Pública en todo el territorio nacional y actualmente estamos orientando todos los esfuerzos y recursos disponibles para el rescate de víctimas y solventar las necesidades inmediatas de la población.

El Gobierno de El Salvador asimismo, agradece al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América por su decisión de suspender temporal de las deportaciones de salvadoreños, dado que el país no se encuentra en condiciones de absorber y atender a estas personas. Esta medida de carácter inmediato, reflejo de la sensibilidad de esa nación amiga, coadyuvará a evitar una agudización de la crisis que en este momento se enfrenta.

Igualmente, previendo las necesidades y condiciones que inevitablemente surgirán al concluir esta etapa de emergencia, y tomando en consideración las excelentes relaciones de amistad y solidaridad del pueblo y Gobierno estadounidense, tengo a bien solicitar por su digno medio al Ilustrado Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, la posibilidad de decretar un Estatus de Protección Temporal para aquellos salvadoreños que se encuentran en los Estados Unidos de América.

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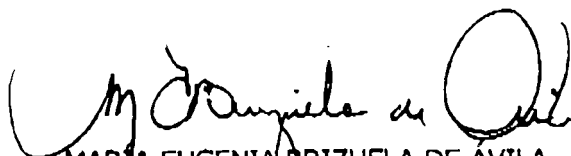
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National Security Unit, Enforcement Branch
Office of Field Operations, INS Headquarters
425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536

*Vicki or Linda
514-1200*

COMMENTS/SUBJECT MATTER:

Per telcon with Dorothy Shea and Peter Smith -
following is copy of draft INS release on temp
suspension of removal of Salvadorian nationals for
review / clearance. Thanks in advance.

U.S. Department of Justice
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

STATEMENT**DRAFT**01/16/01

INS Temporarily Suspends Removals of Salvadoran Nationals to El Salvador in Order to Aid Earthquake Relief Efforts

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) today announced it has suspended, temporarily, the removal of Salvadoran nationals in INS custody, pending removal. This action was taken to assist the Salvadoran government in the recovery from the devastating earthquake that occurred over the weekend in El Salvador. The suspension of removals will remain in effect until the United States determines that the Salvadoran government is able to accept its nationals once again.

As of January 3, 2001, INS estimates that approximately 1,100 Salvadorans were in INS custody awaiting removal to El Salvador. During Fiscal Year 2000, 4,384 Salvadorans were removed to El Salvador by INS, making it the country with the third highest number of removals from the United States.

—INS—