

CONFIDENTIAL

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El Salvador

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GRS 198  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FOO 181200Z MAR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE TEGUCIGALPA  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 72 OF 18 MARCH

mt

EL SALVADOR: OBSERVERS

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ITN THAT THEY WISH TO SEND THEIR REPORTER JON SNOW CURRENTLY IN EL SALVADOR TO FILM THE ARRIVAL OF OUR OBSERVERS. WE DO NOT INTEND TO DIVULGE THEIR TRAVEL PLANS BUT YOU SHOULD BRIEF THE OBSERVERS THAT THEY WILL BE THE FOCUS OF PRESS ATTENTION FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARRIVE. WE HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THEM TO TRY TO AVOID MAKING STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. THE LINE THEY SHOULD TAKE IS THAT THEY ARE IN EL SALVADOR TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS AND ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE A REPORT IN WHICH THEIR FINDINGS WILL BE MADE KNOWN.
2. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM PARAGRAPH 4 OF OUR TELNO 228 OF 17 MARCH TO MEXICO CITY, MINISTERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PRESENCE OF LT COL CHEVASSE SHOULD NOT ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT IT MIGHT CAUSE. (ALTHOUGH IT WILL CLEARLY BE DIFFICULT). WE SUGGEST HE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND WHEN THE PRESS IS PRESENT. FOR THIS REASON IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF HE WERE NOT AT THE AIRPORT WHEN THE OBSERVERS ARRIVE (AS PROPOSED IN YOUR TELNO 72) BUT WE MUST LEAVE THIS TO YOU AND HIM TO JUDGE.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

EL SALVADOR STANDARD

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NAD  
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