CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 179774

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 179774 SENT ACTION SAN SALVADOR DATED 30 JUL 75

QUOTE:

SUBJECT: GOES REQUEST FOR ARTIFICIAL RAIN-MAKING INFORMATION

REF: A) EL SALVADOR 2928; B) STATE AIRGRAM A-7984 (1972)

1. CURRENT POLICY REGARDING WEATHER MODIFICATION IS THAT THE USG WILL NOT ENCOURAGE REQUESTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE INVOLVING A HIGH RISK OF DAMAGE OR WHERE THE EFFECTS CANNOT BE FORESEEN WITH REASONABLE ASSURANCE. ANY SUCH USG ASSISTANCE WILL BE ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES WHERE SCIENTIFIC OR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OUTWEIGH THE RISKS INVOLVED (SEE REFERENCE B).

2. IN VIEW OF HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR SITUATION AND RECENT BROAD PRESS COVERAGE OF ALLEGATION THAT U.S. WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES CAUSED HURRICANE FIFI, DEPARTMENT CONFIDENTIAL

BELIEVES THAT RISKS IN THIS CASE FAR OUTWEIGH POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO USG. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO PRESENT GOES REQUEST TO UNDER SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

3. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES GOES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ENTERING INTO A COMMERCIAL CONTRACT TO DETERMINE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF WEATHER MODIFICATION, A LIST OF COMMERCIAL WEATHER MODIFICATION CONTRACTORS CAN BE POUCHED TO POST FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOES. HOWEVER, LIST COULD BE OFFERED ONLY AS ITEM OF BUSINESS INFORMATION, AND IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT EMBASSY MAKE CLEAR TO GOES THAT USG NEITHER RECOMMENDS NOR ENDORSES ANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL VENDORS NAMED ON THE LIST. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE