

TELEGRAM

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY BRASII IA

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

Pol 6-2

ACTION
POL-2
CHRON
RF

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

Control: GUATEMALA 6251

Recd: AUG 31, 1968
11:10 AM

O P 290001Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5629
INFO RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 1130
RUESJO/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 1374
RUESAL/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1393
RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1212
RUESVA/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 922
RUESMO/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 567
RUMVC/AMEMBASSY MANILA 07
RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO 53
RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 71
STATE GRNC
BT
UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6251

9/3 SW

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S DEATH: SPEECH OF FORMIN ARENALES

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ADDRESS GIVEN BY FORMIN ARENALES
AT AIRPORT CEREMONY AUGUST 30 FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENTS OF BRANCHES OF STATE;
EXCELLENCIES CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS; MINISTERS OF STATE
AND HIGH FUNCTIONARIES OF GOVERNMENT; EXCELLENCY MRS ELIZABETH
CLAY WIDOW OF MEIN AND DISTINGUISHED FAMILY, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN:

THIS IS A SOLEMN MOMENT, DEEPLY IMBUED WITH SADNESS AND CON-
STERNATION. THE GRIEF THAT ALL OF US SHARE COMES NOT ONLY FROM
THE DISARRAY PROVOKEJF BY THIS UNEXPECTED TRAGEDY, BUT FROM
OUR FRIENDSHIP, OUR RESPECT AND OUR LOVE FOR AMBASSADOR JOHN
GORDON MEIN. OUR PRESENCE HERE AND AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES
WE HAVE JUST COME FROM, IS NOT SIMPLY PROTOOLARY; IT SPRINGS
AS WELL FROM SINCERE AFFECTION, EMOTION AND FROM SADNESS.
THE UNITED STATES HAS LOST AN EXTRAORDINARY AMBASSADOR, AND
GUATEMALA HAS LOST A LOYAL AND SONSCIENTIOUS FRIEND WHO ALWAYS
RESPECTED OUR SOVEREIGNTY, BUT (WHO AT THE SAME TIME) WAS
ALWAYS INTERESTED IN AND PREOCCUPIED WITH OUR DEMOCRATIC,
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THOSE WHO COMMITTED THIS HOR-
RENDOUS CRIME ARE FAR FROM KNOWING THE EXEMPLARY DEPARTMENT
AND RESPECTFUL CONDUCT OF THIS GREAT AMBASSADOR FROM THAT
GREAT, POWERFUL AND FRIENDLY NATION. THEN, TOO, THEY ARE
FAR FROM KNOWING THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC TRADITIONS. IN
FACT, AMBASSADOR MEIN CARED MORE FOR GUATEMALA THAN FOR THE
GOOD, FRIENDLY AND EXCELLENT REATIONS THAT SPONTANEOUSLY
HOLD BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND OURS.

Classification
UNCLASSIFIED

POST ACTION COPY

TELEGRAM

INCOMING

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

Control:

PAGE -2 GUATEMALA 6251

Recd:

THIS ATTITUDE OF AMBASSADOR MEIN DEMONSTRATED HIS GOOD-WILL AND HIS AFFECTION FOR GUATEMALA. HE NEVER PRESSED, NEVER EVEN SUGGESTED ANY POLITICAL POLUNY, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL, FOR GUATEMALA. HE NEVER CRITICIZED OUR SOVEREIGN DECISIONS, AND I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT IN HIS HEART HE SHARED OUR ANXIETIES, OUR SATISFACTIONS, OUR WORRIES AND OUR FRUSTRATIONS.

WE MOURN DEEPLY AND SINCERELY HIS PASSING FROM THIS WORLD. WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND, BUT MORE, AN INTELLIGENT AND COMPREHENDING INTERMEDIARY, AND EFFICIENT AND POWERFUL OFFICIAL. THE INFLEXIBLE DEMOCRATIC STANCE OF THE UNITED STATES WAS ALWAYS EASY FOR AMBASSADOR MEIN TO INTERPRET. A GREAT PART OF OUR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY IS DUE TO HIS FACILITY AND THIS ATTITUDE. A LARGE PART, ALSO, OF OUR INCIPIENT ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS DUE TO HIS CONSTRUCTIVE INTEREST. SORROWFULLY, HE ALSO SHARED WITH US OUR FRUSTRATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR AND IN THE FIELD OF PEACE AND CONNNRD IN THIS SO DIVIDED FAMILY OF GUATEMALANS.

IN AN EVIL MOMENT WE HAVE REPAYED HIM WITH SUCH INJUSTICE AND SUCH CRUELTY. THE METHODS THAT VIOLENCE HAS ADOPTED IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE ALWAYS IRRATIONAL, BUT SELDOM SO CRUEL, SO STERILE, SO UNJUST, AS THE DEATH THAT THIS SO LOVED AMBASSADOR MET.

GUATEMALA CANNOT RECTIFY THE TRAGEDY. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA IS STILL ENGAGED IN THE INVESTIGATION AND CANNOT YET COMPENSATE THE INJUSTICE. BUT THIS GOVERNMENT CAN, AT THE LEAST, MAKE PUBLIC ITS RECOGNITION, ITS DEEP GRATITUDE, ITS RESPECT AND ITS ADMIRATION FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY DIPLOMAT, FOR THIS GREAT FRIEND OF GUATEMALA AND OF SO MANY OF US PERSONALLY.

FOR THIS REASON, THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, LIC JULIO CESAR MENDEZ MONTEEGRO, JUST AS GRIEVED AS ALL OF US ARE, MET WITH HIS CABINET, MEETING AS THE COUNCIL OF THE ORDER OF THE QUETZAL, AND AGREED TO GRANT IT (THIS ORDER) POSTHUMOUSLY TO AMBASSADOR JOHN GORDON MEIN, CHARGING ME TO BESTOW IT, AND TO PRESENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE BELOVED FAMILY OF AMBASSADOR MEIN, OUR MOST PROFOUND CONDOLENCE, AND AT THE SAME TIME OUR POSTHUMOUS HOMAGE OF AFFECTION, OF

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

POST ACTION COPY

TELEGRAM

INCOMING

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

Control: GUATEMALA 6251

PAGE -83 GUATEMALA 6251

Recd: AUG 31, 1968
1110 AM

ADMIRATION, AND OF GRATITUDE. END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY RESPECTFULLY SUGGESTS THIS ELOQUENTLY MOVING, SINCERE AND BEAUTIFULLY PHRASED MESSAGE BE GIVEN WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY AS TRUE EXPRESSION OF GENUINE GRIEF, ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF GUATEMALAN PEOPLE FOR OUR AMBASSADOR.

KREBS
BT

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification