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REF: S 16-15 [SJO] 7103 (IN 15370)

1. AMBASSADOR ASKS THAT FOLLOWING BE DISCUSSED WITH APPROPRIATE DEPT OFFICERS INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MANN.

2. IN DISCUSSING REFERENCE ARMS ORDER WITH PRESIDENT ORLICH ON 3 NOVEMBER, AMBASSADOR LEARNED THAT ARMS ARE BEING PURCHASED BY AMBANG-1. (SEE ROGER CHANNEL MSG) ALTHOUGH ^{DI}[HUMAP-9] HAS INDICATED TO ARMY MISSION SOURCE THAT SHIPMENT WILL ENTER COSTA RICA THE PRESIDENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT ARMS WILL NOT COME HERE. NEITHER PRESIDENT NOR ^{DI}[HUMAP-9] HAVE INDICATED ULTIMATE DESIGNATION THESE ARMS.

3. PRESIDENT FURTHER REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT BOTH AMBANG-1 AND AXBIDDY-1 HAD TOLD HIM "CONFIDENTIALLY" THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND THEM BUT RPT BUT THEY HAD PROMISED THEIR U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACTS NOT TO REVEAL THIS. BASED ON THIS DISCLOSURE PRESIDENT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH AMBANG-1 TO HELP U.S. AND THUS IN THIS INSTANCE (AS IN PREVIOUS CASE WITH AXBIDDY-1) ASSIGNED ^{DI}[HUMAP-9] TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS.

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PRESIDENT HOWEVER, DESIRES ASSURANCE THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WANTS AMBANG-I TO HAVE THIS SHIPMENT AND THAT THIS SHIPMENT AND COSTA RICA'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPORTANT U.S. OBJECTIVE. IN OTHER WORDS PRESIDENT ORLICH HAS INDICATED HE WILLING TO STICK HIS NECK OUT AND THAT OF HIS COUNTRY IF US GOVT. THINKS THIS REALLY WORTHWHILE.

4. UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING REASONS EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST SHIPMENT OF ARMS WITH U.S. MARKINGS TO COSTA RICA. WE FEEL THAT SHIPMENT CAN'T BE KEPT SECRET AND COULD CREATE A REAL PROBLEM FOR PRESENT GOVERNMENT (REVERSE OF VENEZUELA CASTRO CACHE). EMBASSY ALSO CONCERNED THAT A-44 ARRIVED WITH NO CONTROLS.

5. UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO RUN RISK DISCLOSURE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVED IN THIS SHIPMENT TO AMBANG-I AND THAT USE OF THESE ARMS MEET WITH OUR APPROVAL AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS LICENSE NOT BE ISSUED.

6. AMBASSADOR DESIRES INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER ANSWER PRESIDENT ORLICH QUERY AND ALSO IF AND HOW DEPT AIRGRAM A-44 IS TO BE ANSWERED.

7. FOR DIR: [COS] IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH ABOVE POSITION. SHOULD IT BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE THAT AMBANG-I HAVE ARMS DESCRIBED SUGGEST HE BE ADVISED SECURE THEM FROM THIRD COUNTRY. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND HEADQUARTERS CAN PROVIDE FOR [STATION] INFO.

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