

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Guatemala - Earthquake (4)” of the National Security Adviser. NSC Latin American Affairs Staff: Files for Latin America at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(Correspondence Referral)

April 7, 1976

TO: RALPH E. MARTIN

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS *WJD*

JW
REFERENCE:

To: The Vice President Date: March 5, 1976

From: Robert Cruz

Subject: Requests sponsor to assist in rebuilding
Chinautla, Guatemala.

Comment: Reply suggests the Miami Hotel Association
discuss their idea for assisting Guatemalan reconstruc-
tion with the Partners of the Americas, a private organi-
zation with experience in setting up relationships
between private organizations in Latin America and
the U.S.

A draft reply is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is
attached at Tab B.

Attachments



SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Cruz:

This is in response to your letter of March 5 to Vice President Rockefeller requesting information on how the Miami Hotel Association might help a similar association in Guatemala. I understand you are interested in obtaining additional sponsors to help the Guatemalan Hotel Association in a program to rebuild the town of Chinautla which was destroyed by the recent earthquake.

After looking into this matter, I suggest that you contact the Partners of the Americas, a non-governmental organization whose purpose is to assist private groups in the U.S. establish relationships with private organizations in Latin America. During the coming weeks the Partners will be discussing with one of their member groups in Alabama reconstruction programs for Guatemala. At our request, the Department of State has contacted the Partners and they are interested in exploring with you possible ways of further assisting Chinautla. You can reach the person handling Guatemala, Mr. David Luria, by calling (202) 332-7332, or by writing to the following address:

National Partners of the Americas
2001 S Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009



Mr. Luria has been forwarded a copy of your correspondence.
I hope this information will be of assistance to you, and I thank
you for your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Cruz
President
Greater Miami Hotel and
Motor Hotel Association
10 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33132



Partners of R Alliance
Sponsorship program

Greater Miami Hotel and Motor Hotel Association, Inc.

Founded as the Greater Miami Hotel Association in 1917

10 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD - SUITE 301

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132

7605888

March 5, 1976

TAMRA SHEFFMAN

Executive Director

Mr. Nelson Rockefeller
Vice President of the
United States
White House
Washington, D.C.

OFFICERS

ROBERT CRUZ
Biscayne Terrace Hotel
resident

TER MOSS
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LIAM MOODY

NATHANSOHN

JOY PENNELLA

MINA

MORGE RUBIN

SHEPARD

KE STURGEON

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

As President of the Greater Miami Hotel and Motel Association, we are the brothers or sister Association of the Guatemala Hotel Association.

I am sure that you are completely aware of the tragedy that has recently occurred in Guatemala.

The Guatemala Hotel Association has an emergency Sub-Committee which has been appointed officially by the government and which its main project is to rebuilt the small town of Chinautla. This small town was devastated by the recent earthquake.

Our Association has been collecting funds and we are wondering if you can give us any idea in an official manner as to where we can obtain additional sponsors or funds for this project since I am aware of your interest in South and Central America.

I am writing to you with the hopes that you can direct me to specific organizations that might be interested in helping us with this project.

Thanking you in advance for any aid that you can offer us and I remain,

Most cordially,

Robert Cruz
ROBERT CRUZ
President

RC/na



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: STEPHEN LOW *SL*
SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to President Laugerud
of Guatemala

Attached for your signature at Tab 1 is a memo to the President forwarding a suggested reply to the President of Guatemala who wrote him on March 29 to extend formal thanks for the earthquake relief assistance which the United States provided to Guatemala. The letter was delivered to U. S. officials on April 29. It has been cleared with Doug Smith of Robert Hartmann's office.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

2690
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Letter to President Laugerud of Guatemala

Guatemalan President Kjell Laugerud sent you the letter at Tab B formally thanking you for all the assistance provided by the United States after the February 4 earthquake in Guatemala. The letter was delivered to Assistant Secretary of State William Rogers on April 29.

The letter at Tab A to President Laugerud acknowledges receipt of the letter and notes that the United States Government and people are pleased to have been able to be of assistance to Guatemala following the tragic devastation. The suggested letter has been cleared with Doug Smith of Robert Hartmann's office.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Laugerud at Tab A.

UNCLASSIFIED



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

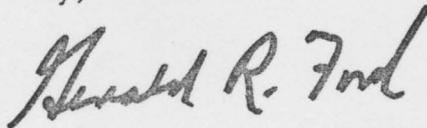
May 31, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

Assistant Secretary Rogers has given me your kind and gracious letter of March 29. I am pleased and gratified that the United States has been able to provide assistance to the people of Guatemala following the terrible tragedy that befell your country. In times of peril and suffering it is important that neighboring nations and peoples provide mutual assistance. In this regard, I have been particularly proud of the many generous offers of assistance which have been extended by private citizens and groups throughout the United States.

The people and government of Guatemala have responded to this unprecedented tragedy with admirable bravery and fortitude. You have our continuing support and best wishes for success in the momentous task of reconstruction.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia
President of the Republic of Guatemala
Guatemala City





Kjell Eugenio Laugerud García
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
a Su Excelencia
Gerald R. Ford
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América.

Grande y Buen Amigo:

Tengo el honor de expresar a Vuestra Excelencia, y por nuestro digno conducto al noble Pueblo y Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América, el profundo agradecimiento del Pueblo y Gobierno de Guatemala por la generosa y eficaz cooperación que nos han ofrecido, con motivo del terremoto que asoló nuestro territorio el cuatro de febrero pasado, trayendo destrucción y muerte a miles de familias guatemaltecas.

La solidaridad y la ayuda moral y material que la gran Nación Americana y nuestro Ilustre Gobierno brindaron a los guatemaltecos en momentos de intensa angustia y dolor para nuestro pueblo, no solamente trajeron consuelo y esperanza, sino le infundieron mayores alientos para afrontar la ardua tarea de reconstrucción que ya se ha emprendido.

Al reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia el imperecedero reconocimiento de la Nación Guatemalteca y del Gobierno que tengo el honor de presidir, aprovecho la oportunidad para expresar las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Soy de Vuestra Excelencia
Seal y Buen Amigo



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 56015
MSS/DT
Spanish

[Seal]

KJELL EUGENIO LAUGERUD GARCIA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

to

HIS EXCELLENCY
GERALD R. FORD
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AMERICA

Great and Good Friend:

I have the honor to express to Your Excellency, and through you, to the noble people and Government of the United States of America, the profound gratitude of the people and Government of Guatemala for the generous and effective cooperation granted us in the wake of the earthquake which devastated our territory on February 4, 1976, bringing destruction and death to thousands of Guatemalan families.

The moral and material assistance and solidarity which your great nation and your distinguished Government offered to the Guatemalans in moments of intense suffering and grief for our people brought not only consolation and hope, but also gave them greater courage to confront the arduous task of reconstruction which has already begun.



Reiterating to Your Excellency the undying gratitude of the Guatemalan nation and of the Government which I have the honor to head, I avail myself of the opportunity to convey the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

I am, Excellency,

Your Loyal and Good Friend,

[Signed] K. E. Laugerud

Done at the National Palace of Guatemala,

March 29, 1976



MEMORANDUM

3003

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 21, 1976

TO: JON HOWE

FROM: ^{fn} JEANNE W. DAVIS ^{WJD}

REFERENCE:

To: Vice President Date: May 17, 1976
From: James W. Schubauer
Subject: Guatemala Earthquake

Comment: The suggested reply outlines U. S. assistance to Guatemala and stresses that our assistance has been coordinated with Guatemalan-determined priorities and with the efforts of other donors. It further assures Mr. Schubauer that our response is a continuing one.

A draft is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is attached at Tab B.

Attachments



MEMORANDUM

3003

4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

(Correspondence Referral)

July 22, 1976

TO: JON HOWE
FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS

REFERENCE:

To: Vice President Date: May 17, 1976
From: James W. Schubauer
Subject: Guatemala Earthquake

Comment: The suggested reply outlines U.S. assistance to Guatemala and stresses that our assistance has been coordinated with Guatemalan-determined priorities and with the efforts of other donors. It notes that the long-term reconstruction effort will be heavily dependent upon participation of the Guatemalan people through projects such as the one he has designed. The letter assures Mr. Schubauer that our response is a continuing one.

A draft is attached at Tab A. The incoming letter is attached at Tab B.

Attachments



SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Schubauer:

The Vice President has asked me to respond to your letter of May 17 regarding the United States disaster-relief assistance to Guatemala following the devastating earthquake last February. I regret the long delay in responding to your thoughtful letter with which you included a copy of the Master Plan for the reconstruction of Tecpan, which you developed for the Salvation Army.

As you know, the United States Government responded rapidly to provide assistance to Guatemala. The assistance in the immediate relief phase consisted primarily of medical facilities, drugs and medicines, water purification equipment, tents and materials for buildings including 500,000 metal roofing sheets, poles and tool kits. At the request of President Ford, the Congress gave priority attention to and approved legislation authorizing \$25 million for the relief and recovery effort in Guatemala. Over \$20 million has already been expended.

In all instances the United States has coordinated its assistance with the priorities determined by the Guatemalan Government and in consultation with other organizations assisting in the reconstruction effort. A United States Army Engineer Battalion, funded by the Agency for International Development, succeeded in reopening in April Guatemala's principal highway connecting the capital city



to the Caribbean. This was one of the Guatemalan Government's highest priority requests. Additional road clearing and maintenance equipment has been funded by the Agency for International Development to help the Guatemalan Department of Highways open and repair other important roads damaged by the earthquake. United States assistance also aided municipalities in their efforts to clear rubble and begin the reconstruction effort. Our assistance to communities also focused upon the repair of water systems and provision of materials for school construction.

United States assistance has concentrated on the rural communities destroyed by the earthquake. In addition to the other assistance, approximately \$18.4 million in food commodities has been made available to Guatemala to help meet the needs of the most severely affected individuals, primarily in rural areas. Other donors and private agencies, such as the Salvation Army, have also been providing assistance in the rural areas and their efforts are taken into account in the programming of the United States assistance. In the case of Tecpan, the principal United States input to the relief effort has been the donation of PL480 Title II foods distributed through CARE. In addition to private voluntary agencies, the Government of Mexico and the Guatemalan Government have been working in that area and have provided very substantial amounts



of housing materials as well as food, clothing, and technical services. The result of the combined efforts of the various organizations involved has been that the immediate relief requirements of the community have been largely met. As you point out in your proposal, however, the reconstruction effort in Tecpan as throughout Guatemala will be a long-term one, heavily dependent upon participation of the Guatemalan people through projects such as the one you have designed. Private and international organizations will play an important role in this effort.

I want to assure you that the United States commitment to the recovery and reconstruction effort is a continuing one and that, together with other governments and organizations, we are continuing to support Guatemala's recovery effort.

Your interest and desire to make a meaningful contribution to this effort is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. James W. Schubauer
President
Schumacher and Forelle, Inc.
560 Northern Boulevard
Great Neck, New York 11021





May 17, 1976

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Vice President of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

Recent newspaper articles indicate the concern of our government, and you in particular, have to the earthquake in Italy. It was noted that you are giving your personal attention to this and that "Congress is acting quickly to provide \$25,000,000 for the Italian disaster."

Of course one cannot disagree with the obvious need in Italy and the quick responses of our government, and you personally, to this situation. However, I cannot find it possible to be silent on the question of priorities in view of our firm's recent voluntary involvement in the Guatemalan earthquake; and, therefore, our "firsthand" knowledge of the degree of severity of the Guatemalan situation compared with the Italian situation (e.g., 24,000 deaths versus 1,000 deaths, etc.).

As you might know, The Salvation Army has given a major effort to the Guatemalan earthquake disaster through direct involvement in the Village of Tecpan, Guatemala. Tecpan, originally a village of 24,000 residents, mostly Indians, was the most severely damaged village in Guatemala; of the 24,000 total residents 3,000 were killed, 7,000 were injured and every adobe home was destroyed. The Salvation Army, without any direct reimbursement from the United States Government, has practically singlehandedly provided the emergency relief to Tecpan from early February, 1976 to the present.

As a result of our firm's long association as Property Consultants to The Salvation Army on their properties and many of their projects, we volunteered to provide initial technical guidance to The Salvation Army efforts in Guatemala. I had never been to Guatemala before, knew very little about the people, and thus had no "cause" to "push." I personally have spent time in Guatemala and in Tecpan together with some of our staff assisting The Salvation Army in this terrible need of the Guatemalan people.



Continued . . .

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller

May 17, 1976

Page Two

I have witnessed the incredible devastation and the desperate needs of these people. I have met with Guatemalan businessmen in Guatemala City and find them groping and needing direction.

Knowing of your intense empathy for the people of Latin America and having read about your concern and interest in the Indian people there, I am sure you can appreciate the impact these people had on me personally on my visits to Guatemala and the opportunity I had while living within their camp in the aftermath of their earthquake. Therefore, I find it indeed difficult to imagine that the attention apparently being given to the current Italian earthquake could be as disproportionate in its attention, as compared with the need in Guatemala, as the publicity indicates. I continue to search through the news media for any mention of Guatemala, but in vain.

Enclosed is the "Action Program: Tecpan, Guatemala Master Plan" which our firm prepared. We have done this with absolutely no reimbursement of any cost, expenses, etc. whatsoever from any source. We paid for it ourselves. Further, in our continued involvement with The Salvation Army in an advisory capacity to them on this matter, it appears that the United States Government is completely unresponsive to the urgency of getting something done in Guatemala. It appears that the bureaucratic red tape will result, for example, in the current planning for the rehabilitation and restoration of Tecpan being terminated shortly because no supporting funds whatsoever are available and, in fact, USAID funds are not really "available" to purchase building materials, technical assistance, etc. With the rainy season upon them, we have "let the people down." We reacted honorably to the initial impact, but it appears we didn't "follow through."

The Guatemalan needs are for helping the poor and the Indians. As you probably know, virtually 100% of the destruction was to the Indian adobe homes. Therefore, these people are without a living place and are staying in makeshift tin huts, tents made out of blankets, etc. In Tecpan new permanent dwellings for the entire village of about 21,000 surviving residents could likely be provided for less than \$10,000,000. If the United States is considering giving \$25,000,000 to the Italian earthquake cause in which 1,000 people were killed, is it then prepared to give \$25,000,000 times 24 (proportionate to the number of people killed in Guatemala) to the Guatemalan earthquake cause?



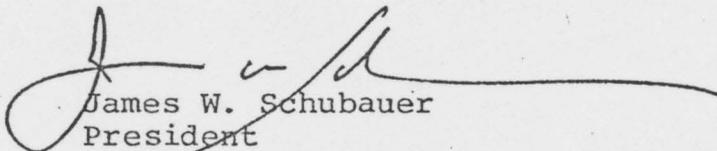
Continued

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
 May 17, 1976
 Page Three

I am generally not a letter writer on these kinds of issues. However, I am concerned with the apparent priorities and delays in actual aid to the Guatemalans. I recognize that Guatemala does not have the international stature of Italy. However, Guatemala is a short distance from our country. Its Indian people, the people who had almost nothing before the earthquake, are in desperate need of assistance. I personally have been making speeches to churches and charitable groups in an effort to assist them in raising funds. I am sure you appreciate the concern. However, what is our government doing of a positive nature to quickly help restore to these people the little they had but lost?

This letter is written without the knowledge or authority of The Salvation Army. They are not complainers ... they are doers. It is written by a concerned citizen who thinks our government has "missed the point" on the follow-up after its initial attention. I would appreciate hearing from you and for your good offices to arrange to "walk through" with me what help is being given and getting to the people, - not studies, not promises, but HELP - so that this effort we made immediately after the earthquake was not the end of our concern for Guatemala. They need building materials and technical assistance NOW months before Italy needed them, and a lot more than Italy. Are we simply reacting to initial shock and then "forgetting"? Where are our priorities? I'm for helping Italy . . . but I'm also for continuing to help Guatemala . . . "help" being positive follow-up action and aid, not just initial concern without follow-up.

Very truly yours,


 James W. Schubauer
 President

pec

Enclosure

cc: Honorable James L. Buckley
 (w/enclosure)

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
 (w/enclosure)

