

Message Text

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R 242114Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135373

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E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MASS, RP
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINE ROCKET RESEARCH PROGRAM

REFS: A. DA312230Z MAY 74, B. MANILA 1359

1. WE ARE BECOMING CONCERNED THAT YOUR REQUEST FOR NIKE-HERCULES "CADAVERS" AND TECHNICAL MANUALS MAY BE SLIPPING SLOWLY INTO A MORE COMPREHENSIVE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE MISSILE PROJECT. WE THINK THEREFORE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LOOK AT THE OVERALL QUESTION OF AID TO THE PHILIPPINE MISSILE PROGRAM NOW RATHER THAN LATER.

2. FROM REF A AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DOD HERE, IT IS APPARENT THAT ARMY HAS DETERMINED THAT NIKE-HERCULES IS NOT PRESENTLY SURPLUS EQUIPMENT, AND THAT IT IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX SYSTEM NOT REALLY APPROPRIATE TO PHILIPPINE NEEDS. SOME ELEMENTS OF DOD SEEM, HOWEVER, TO

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BE THINKING IN TERMS OF FINDING SOME TYPE OF MISSILE WHICH

WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AS A SUBSTITUTE BUT IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR IF SUCH AN ALTERNATE MISSILE WOULD BE "EXCESS" OR MAP FUNDED.

3. WE SAW NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN GIVING MELCHOR "EXCESS" NIKES AS TINKER TOYS. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US WE ARE NOW MOVING INTO A NEW BALL PARK AND THAT WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE WE MUST CONSIDER WHETHER WE SHOULD SUPPLY MEANINGFUL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE MISSILE PROGRAM, POSSIBLY AT HIGH COST TO FUTURE MAP PROGRAMS.

4. AS STATED REF A, DEPT OF ARMY WILLING TO SEND A TEAM TO MANILA TO EXPLORE WHAT PHILIPPINE NEEDS ARE FOR ITS MISSILE RESEARCH PROGRAM AND WHAT THE US MIGHT DO TO HELP. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT WELL RAISE PHILIPPINE EXPECTATIONS ON THE TYPE OF AID WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPLY.

5. OUR FEELING IS THAT ANY MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE MISSILE PROGRAM WOULD BE OVERLY EXPENSIVE, WASTEFUL OF PHILIPPINE RESOURCES AND UNHELPFUL TO THE PHILIPPINES OR TO THE USA.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

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