

FOREIGN AFFAIRS ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
Lauinger Library
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C. 20057

September 28, 1992

The Honorable
Murat W. Williams
250 Pantops Mr. R.
Charlottesville, VA 22901

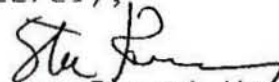
Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Here at last is the transcript of your interview for the Association for Diplomatic Studies. One copy has been given the Special Collections Room of the Lauinger Library here at Georgetown University where researchers and others can use it. We have given another copy to the library of the Foreign Service Institute.

We have interviewed some 530 former senior officials of the Department of State and of those 400 are finished and available for scholars. The program is a continuing one. We are beginning to attract researchers to this collection and it will give a more practical, view from the trenches, perspective to academic musings about the diplomatic process. Your interview is a valuable contribution to this new archive.

If you have any questions or suggestions about our program please give me a call or drop on by. Thank you for your help with our efforts.

Sincerely,



Charles Stuart Kennedy
Director

(202) 687-4104



ASSOCIATION FOR DIPLOMATIC STUDIES ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Association for Diplomatic Studies, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, was established in 1986 to enhance the training of foreign affairs personnel and to instill in the public a greater appreciation for our diplomatic history.

The Association's Foreign Affairs Oral History Program was established in 1988 and housed in the Lauinger Library of Georgetown University. The collection is comprised of oral histories taken from a number of projects, all concerning the experiences of those employed in diplomacy and consular affairs and their families.

The oral history collection includes interviews done under the auspices of the Foreign Service History Center of George Washington University, which was amalgamated into the Foreign Affairs Oral History Program, the Foreign Service Family Project, the Women Ambassadors' Project, the United States Information Agency Alumni Association Project, the Senior Officers' Project and others.

The majority of these interviews were conducted by retired Foreign Service personnel on a volunteer basis, directed by the Oral History Program. The interviews are unclassified, and unless so marked are open for use by researchers. Most interviews have been transcribed and then returned to the person interviewed for editing. The transcript deposited in the Lauinger Library's Special Collections Division is the edited version, and is not a word for word rendition of the cassette tape. Tapes are available for auditing, if desired.

As a practical matter, the editing generally represents little substantive change, with those interviewed usually correcting dates, names and other information that may have been missed during an interview.

The final transcripts were not professionally edited and any spelling or other mistakes can be blamed on the Oral History Program, not on the person interviewed.

[Footnote citation example: Ambassador John X. Jones, oral history interview, Georgetown University Library, 25 December 1988, p. 13.]

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Salvador?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Yes, I did. I made my call and the President said, "Ambassador I am glad that you are going to El Salvador. That is our number one problem." By "that," I think he meant Latin America or Central America. We talked a little about that and personal things--I had known him and his sister quite well when we were in England before the war and I was at Oxford University.

Q: Which sister?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Kathleen. I had only met Jack one day when I had gone to the embassy to meet his sister and she introduced me to him. Kathleen was killed in an airplane accident.

Q: She is the one who married the Lord...?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Hardington,[ph] I think was his name. Marcus Hardington. She would come up to the Oxford University for the dances with me one time. The Kennedys have been very nice to me but I had barely met the President.

When I said goodbye to Secretary Rusk, I had a very interesting conversation. He said, "I haven't got anything that I want to bother you with now, but we are going to want you to do what you can to help any of those people who are working for the integration of Central America--Central American institutions." I was struck by that and thought it was very important. Just a few years ago I had occasion to refer to it and when I did so I wrote to Mr. Rusk in Athens, Georgia, where he was retired, and said that I remembered that part of our conversation and didn't think there was any memorandum in the files about it and I wanted to be reassured that that was what he had said to

me. And he wrote back a nice letter saying that yes, it was what was on his mind then.

Q: In fact since I was involved in Central American affairs in 1959, 60, 61, that was the push for integration. Len Saccio and I pushed on the Central American Bank.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Oh, great. And the common market?

Q: Yes. Tom Mann was pushing for integration at that point and so was Mr. Dillon as well.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: I have always been glad that Mr. Rusk said that to me. I have referred to it a number of times since. I am only sorry that there is nothing much left of Central American integration except INCAE, the school for management education.

As far as Central American integration is concern, I feel great disappointment that other things failed. The common market has become very weak. When Mr. Kennedy came as President to Central America, I had an opportunity to introduce to him one of the leading Central American businessmen, statesman, Francisco Desola. When I introduced him, the President asked Desola what Central America needed more than anything else. Desola replied that what we really needed was a school like Harvard Business School where men could be trained as executives to compete in the world. Within three weeks of that conversation, the first professors from Harvard came to Central America to study the problem. In 1964, such a school had been established. George Lodge, I remember, came down from the Harvard Business School and spent a lot of time in Central America. Today that school which has campuses in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica, is the only real institution of Central America that has managed to survive.

But more than that it has become terribly important and has a big influence not only in the Central American and Caribbean area, but even beyond. I have seen recent figures something like 2,000 MBAs have been issued and many thousands of people have gone to the school's short courses on various subjects. Even in the unhappy days of Daniel Ortega, most of the Nicaraguan cabinet had graduated from INCAE. Almost every country has its alumni in important positions either in government or private affairs. When the Central American presidents wanted to meet together, the only place they had where they could get on common ground during recent troubles three or four years ago, was at the campus of INCAE in Costa Rica.

Well, that's the good side of things, the bad...

Q: Before we leave INCAE, do you have any knowledge why they located it in Nicaragua rather than in one of the other Central American countries?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Originally it was located in Nicaragua, I suppose because of its central position, I really don't know. At that time Somoza was still in power and he was eager to have it there.

Q: Probably we considered it the most stable country too.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Yes, that is possible.

Q: We ought to recall, Mr. Ambassador, that this wasn't the Somoza that later became the Somoza who was ousted.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: No, this was the old honcho.

[end of tape II]

[begin tape III, February 6, 1991]