

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Letter 1/1/82By WMS NARA Date 9/24/88

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: August 14, 44

TO : CCA - Mr. Cabot:

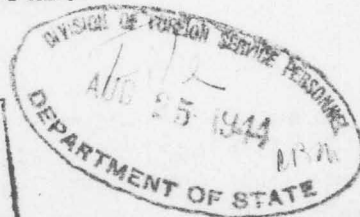
FROM : CCA - Mr. Cochran:

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA -- CONDITIONS IN GUANACASTE

Watrous has recently visited Guanacaste and submits a very interesting report. The inhabitants of that Province consider themselves virtually abandoned by the Central Government and are cynical of election promises. They even founded a separate political party which was ineffective. There is distinct hostility to the Calderon Guardias and their recent administration, but a tolerant attitude toward Picado, in spite of resentment at manipulation in the recent presidential election. There is little enthusiasm for the Vanguardia even among the rank and file and no support for Leon Cortes. The opposition newspapers however are much more popular than those supporting the Administration. The feeling of friendship towards the United States was outstanding in spite of recollections of gross behavior, extravagance and incompetence of the persons engaged in the construction of the Pioneer Highway.

The economy of the province rests primarily upon cattle and agriculture. The former in particular is on a semi-feudal

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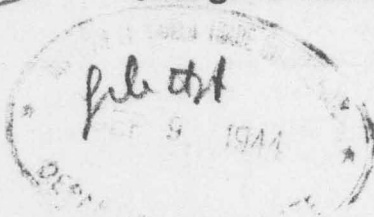
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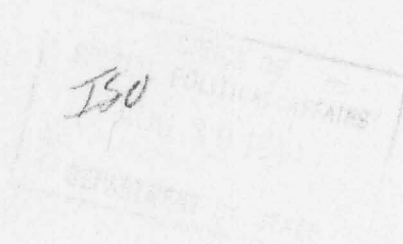
Edward G. Trueblood
Edward G. Trueblood,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.



Enclosure: Memorandum

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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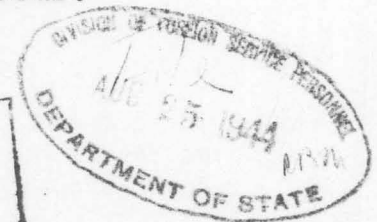
FROM :

SUBJECT :

basis. The Province suffers from lack of means of transportation, being limited to air or ox-cart. The Pan American Highway will be a great benefit as the inhabitants now have to import their fresh vegetables from San José by air. Health conditions are very bad, with malaria and intestinal diseases rampant and farmers are frequently able to work only four hours a day.

(Despatch no. 1687 from San José, July 25, 1944)

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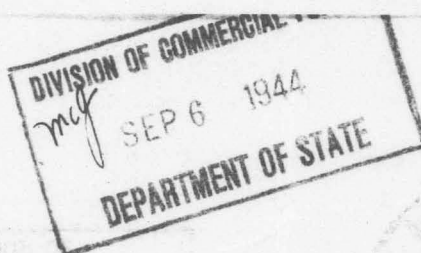


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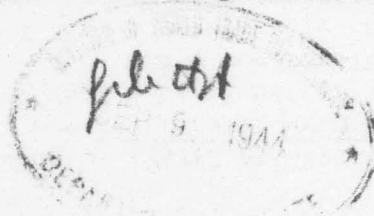
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