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U.S. Military Provides Helicopter Transport In Guatemala

by Deborah Tyroler

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On April 1 in Guatemala City, US Embassy spokesperson John Treacy told AP that for three days beginning March 26, two US military helicopters delivered food, medical supplies and doctors to Guatemalans living in an isolated mountain area. The Guatemalan military, he said, requested the helicopters to carry supplies to more than 1,500 people in an area in El Quiche province 160 miles north of the capital. Treacy said the US agreed to send the Honduran-based helicopters because there are no roads to the area and the Guatemalan army did not have the helicopters to move the needed supplies. Thousands of people remain in isolated areas of El Quiche where they fled in the early 1980s to avoid intense fighting between security forces and rebels, and capture by the military in its "counterinsurgency operations." According to the Guatemalan armed forces, guerrillas continue to operate in the mountainous areas of El Quiche. (Basic data from AP, 04/01/89)

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