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	FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del> UNCLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652 XXXXXX	12065: GDS 5/15/88 (NEGROPONTE, John D.)	OR-M CN: 4092
TAGS: SUBJECT:	MILI, PEPR, HO, NU MEETING BETWEEN HONDURAN AND NICARAGUAN MILITARY COMMANDERS	
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE	
INFO:	AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY	
	<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del> TEGUCIGALPA 4092	
AMB DCM POL-2 <del>XXXX</del> DAO MILGP	1. <del>CONFIDENTIAL</del> ENTIRE TEXT 2. After close to a month of <sup>hemming</sup> / <del>hemming</del> and hawing, GOH has responded to Nicaraguan insistence on a meeting of military commanders by offering to host such a session on Thursday, May 20 at the Honduran customs post of Fraternidad. GOH invitation to Nicaragua was transmitted May 14 through diplomatic channels. Invitation states that its delegation will be headed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Bueso Rosa and will include the head of the Honduran Navy and Police Force in addition to <del>XXXXXX</del> Commanders of	

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CLEARANCES:

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OPTIONAL FORM 153  
(Formerly FS-413)  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

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Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
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Date 6/1/98 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

battalions located on Honduran/Nicaraguan border.

3. It remains to be seen whether Nicaraguans accept invitation, although it is reasonable to assume that they will since this has been a point of insistence for them for almost two years. They may, however, express disappointment that Honduran delegation will be led by Colonel Bueso instead of his immediate superior, Commander in Chief General Alvarez. Indeed, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras, in ~~xxxxxxx~~ conversation with Ambassador morning May 15, expressed mild disappointment that Alvarez would not ~~be~~ be participating "because Alvarez and Ortega could have had a very frank conversation". Nonetheless, Nicaraguan Ambassador said he considered Honduran invitation a positive step and gave distinct impression that GON would accept invitation.

4. In conversation with Ambassador May 14, President Suazo revealed GOH decision to extend <sup>invitation</sup> ~~invitation~~ for meeting explaining that GOH felt it could not go on postponing such meeting indefinitely in face of Nicaraguan insistence. President Suazo nonetheless assured Ambassador that Hondurans would insist on their comprehensive plan for peace in the region rather than succumbing to Nicaragua's piece-meal approach.

5. As Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and as a close confidant of General Alvarez, Colonel Bueso would appear

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to be extremely well suited for a military dialogue with Nicaragua. Bueso is articulate and intelligent. He also has accumulated considerable negotiating experience even in the brief four-month period he has served as Chief of Staff. Department will recall that Bueso was principal Honduran interlocutor in our airfields access negotiations. He also handled the talks with the terrorists in the recent ANESA hijacking incident where he acquitted himself extremely well. It is also probably more than a coincidence that Bueso is from General Alvarez' hometown of Tela.

*JMN*  
NEGROPONTE

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