1. Confidential - Entire Text.

2. During course of return courtesy call, Nicaraguan counterpart in Tegucigalpa, Guillermo Suarez Rivas, professed on repeated occasions Nicaraguan sincerity in holding out olive branch to USG at this time. He was most confident of his government's desire to conclude non-aggression pacts and negotiate joint border patrols with Honduras. Level of conviction appeared to decline somewhat when, in reply to questions, he expressed "personal confidence" in his government's desire to meet
concerns of neighbors concerning one-sided arms race and subversion. Suarez was most eager that I convey his strong interest in immediate negotiation of border patrols and desire that Hondurans respond to Nicaraguan desire for talks at most senior possible military-to-military talks. Suarez also volunteered to me "confirmation" that Wheelock was going to Washington.

3. In what seemed to be an effort to establish himself as a valid interlocutor, Suarez said that any talks which might be held between him and myself would be reported directly to the "Commandantes" and not the Foreign Minister.

4. COMMENT: Suarez is always trying to engage me in lengthy exchanges about US/Nicaragua relations which I do my best to avoid on grounds that he and I are not in the proper channel for this. I personally dismiss most of what he says as propagandistic posturing but pass on foregoing in the event it fits in with any broader pattern which might be discernible to Washington or Managua.

NEGROPOENTE