

TELEGRAM

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FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

CN: 3686

E.O. 12958
TAGS:
SUBJECT:
ACTION:
INFO:

12356: DECL: OADR
PREL, XK, HO
CONTAGOBIA INITIATIVE: HONDURAS ACCEPTS INVITATION TO
APRIL 20-21 MEETING IN PANAMA
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
~~AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE~~
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

Regato

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 3686

EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

MEXICO ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS IN SECRETARY'S PARTY

AMB
DCM
POL

1. ~~SECRET~~ ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: Honduras plans to attend Wednesday-Thursday meeting between Central American Foreign Ministers and Contadora Group. GOH intends to stick to regional approach. They ask our renewed assistance in ensuring that Salvador and Costa Rica remain firm in their support for Honduran regional thesis. Hondurans would also like to see Dominicans

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete:hjl	DRAFTING DATE 4-17-83	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponete
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CLEARANCES:

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CLASSIFICATION

50153-101

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

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/1/98 Exemption _____

represented at meeting. Ambassador has urged Doctor Suazo to call Presidents of Costa, Rica, Salvador and Venezuela personally to ensure that Honduras is not in any way isolated or embarrassed at forthcoming Panama meeting. END SUMMARY.

3. Foreign Minister Paz Barnica called Ambassador afternoon April 16 to advise that Contadora Group had extended invitation late ~~previous~~ ^{previous} evening to all Central American Foreign Ministers to participate in "consultations" in Panama on Wednesday-Thursday, April 20-21. Paz Barnica said that GOH had accepted invitation and he would be leading his country's delegation. Paz reiterated request for our assistance in influencing El Salvador and Costa Rica to remain firm in their support for the regional thesis. Paz also asked if there was any way in which we could help secure Dominican Republic attendance at the meeting. Ambassador informed Paz that we were already doing our best to stress importance of comprehensive and regional approach but that we would again convey his concern.

4. In morning meeting April 17 with Minister of Presidency Carlos Flores, Flores told Ambassador that GOH would adhere firmly to its regional approach. They were prepared for pressure to go into bilaterals but would insist that such issues as the military balance, foreign advisors, control of arms traffic, international verification and

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[refugees could only be dealt with in regional context.]

Principal GOH objective in meeting would be to secure creation of a continuing regional forum for negotiation of these issues. Flores stressed continuing aspect, because otherwise Nicaraguans and Mexicans could argue that one regional meeting had already been held and then they would merely lapse back into their insistence on bilateral formula.

5. Flores related with some relish and in considerable detail the content and tenor of Doctor Suazo's April 12 meeting with the Contadora Four. Much of the discussion, Flores said, had focussed on the issue of double standards. Why the fuss about fifty American advisors in Honduras when there are two-thousand Cuban military advisors in Nicaragua? Why the fuss about the anti-Sandinistas and such silence about Nicaragua's support for subversion in El Salvador? And so forth. In this connection Flores thought that pressing for internal negotiations between the FDN and the Sandinistas would be an especially good ploy on the part of the ~~democratic~~ democracies.

6. As conversation ended, Doctor Suazo joined briefly. He seemed firm in his commitment to the regional approach. He did, however, mention the prospect of Honduras' gradual isolation on this point. In this connection

[Ambassador suggested to Suazo that he might wish to

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MRN

consider personal phone calls to Presidents Monge,
Magana and Herrera Campins prior to the Panama meeting.

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