AMBASSADOR NEGROPOIODE'S SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD HONDURAS

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INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC
AMBASSADOR MEXICO
AMBASSADOR BELIZE
AMBASSADOR GUATEMALA
AMBASSADOR SAN SALVADOR
AMBASSADOR MANAGUA
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AMBASSADOR PANAMA
AMBASSADOR BOCOTA
AMBASSADOR CARACAS
AMBASSADOR SANTO DOMINGO
AMBASSADOR KINGTON
AMBASSADOR FORT AU RINCE
AMBASSADOR LONDON
AMBASSADOR PARIS
AMBASSADOR BONN
AMBASSADOR MADRID
AMBASSADOR ROME

UNCLASSIFIED TEGUCIGALPA 3456

USIA FOR P/RC; P/PPL; VOA/BL; AR STATE FOR ARA/CEN

1. HERewith TEXT OF SUBJECT SPEECH, DELIVERED 4/6/33, AT TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS.

2. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE TEGUCIGALPA ROTARY CLUB:

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
IEP: ICPC is "UNITED STATES SOLICIT TOWARDS HEBREW". THERE IS
THAT KONDRAS STANDS OUT AS AN IMPORTANT MODEL OF DEMOCRACY AND
TRANQUILITY IN A ROYAL TO THE NATION. MY MESSAGE IS THAT WE FROM
THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF
YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

4. I HAVE NECESSITY SAID, AND I WILL REPEAT THIS EVENING,
THAT OUR POLICIES TOWARDS KONDRAS COLLEGE ESSENTIAL

5. THIS EVENING I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE EACH OF
THESE ELEMENTS IN SOMEONE, GREATER DETAIL.

6. FIRST, THE FACTS, OUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, OUR
PROPRIETY OF COLLiding ARE NOT BASED ON SOME SORT OF
IDEALISM. RATHER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT TRUE DEMOCRACY IS THE
RESULT OF TRUE DEMOCRATIC FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE VOTERS, AND THE DANGERS OF SOME KIND OF
HIGHER POLITICAL POWER ARE MINOR. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH
THE PROCESSES OF DEMOCRATIC DECISION CAN AT TIMES BE FRUSTRATING
AND THE CONSUMING, POLITICAL LEADERS WHO REALLY TAKE ARE

1. SUPPORT FOR YOUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES;
2. CONCERN FOR YOUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL WELFARE; AND
3. LAST, AN INTEREST IN ASSISTING YOU TO DEFEND YOUR SOVEREIGN
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Thus, we recognize the importance of these ingredients:
7. MANY OF THE CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS HAVE EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME AND IT WOULD BE BOTH FOOLISH AND INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH BEGAN HERE IN APRIL 1980 WAS SOMEHOW THE RESULT OF UNITED STATES INSPIRATION OR PRESSURE. IT IS, HOWEVER, TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PEOPLE STRONGLY FAVOR DEALING WITH REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS. OUR THREE MOST RISING ALLIANCES, THOSE WITH NATO, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND, ARE ALL WITH LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES. AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN KNOWN, PERHAPS TOO OFTEN IN RECENT HISTORY, TO WITHDRAW VITAL SUPPORT FROM AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER VERY IMPORTANT INTERESTS. SO WE CERTAINLY HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP DEPENDS ON RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE VOTED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, LOCAL POLITICAL CONDITIONS DO INDEED MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HAVING A DEMOCRACY SURE HELPS.

8. BUT, TO RETURN TO MY MAIN POINT, MANY OF THE CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRACY EXISTED WELL BEFORE YOUR LAST Assault OF ELECTIONS. HONDURAS HAS A VIGOROUS FREE PRESS. THERE IS A STRONG LABOR MOVEMENT IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS. AND GROSS SOCIAL INEQUALITIES DO NOT EXIST ON THE SCALE APPARENTLY KNOWN IN SOME OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESSURE TO RESTORE FULL

9. SO THIS HAS BEEN A STRICTLY HONDURAN PROCESS. OUR ROLE HAS BEEN ONE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND QUIET SUPPORT. BUT YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN COME AND GROWING COMPANY. THE UNITED STATES AND HONDURAS ARE NOT ALONE IN THEIR ADVOCACY. COSTA RICA HAS BEEN A MODEL DEMOCRACY FOR ALMOST FORTY YEARS. EL SALVADOR IS STRUGGLING TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POLITICAL PROCESS AGAINST CONSIDERABLE OBSTACLES. ELSEWHERE IN THE HEMISPHERE, COUNTRIES SUCH AS ECUADOR, PERU AND BOLIVIA RECENTLY RETURNED TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AFTER YEARS OF MILITARY RULE. BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA ARE IN POLITICAL TRANSITION AWAY FROM AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT. WHAT SEEMS CERTAIN IS THAT, GIVEN A FREE CHOICE, PEOPLE IN MANY COUNTRIES WILL REJECT THE EXTREMES AND UPT FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY. I THINK ALL OF US ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE IN HONDURAS AND THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE UPON THE CONDITIONS WHICH MAKE DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY POSSIBLE.

10. LET ME TURN NOW TO OUR CONCERN FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF HONDURAS. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMBINED WITH EQUITABLE AND JUSTIFIED SOCIAL CONDITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL.
INGREDIENTS OF NATIONAL STRENGTH. INDEED, THERE ARE THOSE WHO
WOULD ARGUE THAT DEMOCRACY ITSELF WILL FIND SURVIVAL DIFFICULT
IF IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A PATTERN OF MODERATE, BUT
SUSTAINED, ECONOMIC GROWTH. THEREFORE, JUST AS WE HAVE AN
INTEREST IN A PEACEFULLY GOVERNED AND DEMOCRATIC HONDURAS, SO
ALSO DO WE HAVE A STAKE IN YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

11. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE CONTRIBUTE IN THE ECONOMIC AREA IN TWO
PRINCIPAL WAYS. FIRST, THROUGH OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND
THE INTER-AMERICAN BANK. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT
WE ACCOUNT FOR ROUGHLY ONE-QUARTER OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THOSE INSTITUTIONS. AND HONDURAS HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT
BENEFICIARY OF LOANS FOR IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FROM
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. AS EXAMPLES, I WOULD MENTION THE
EL CAJON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND THE LOWER AGUAN DEVELOPMENT
PLAN.

12. NEXT, IN HONDURAS WE HAVE A STRONG BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM. INDEED, OUR BILATERAL AID ORGANIZATION - AID - HAS ITS
THREE LARGEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE IN
HONDURAS. IN FISCAL 1982 AID DISBURSEMENTS IN HONDURAS
TOTALLED ALMOST 90 MILLION DOLLARS WITH THE EMPHASIS ON
PROVIDING HELP TO THE RURAL SECTOR.

13. ANOTHER IMPORTANT PART OF OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IS THE
PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. WITH MORE THAN 120 BOLIVIAN VOLUNTEERS
SERVING IN HONDURAS, THIS IS THE SECOND LARGEST PEACE CORPS CONTINGENT WE HAVE IN LATIN AMERICA. AN ESTIMATED TWO THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED IN HONDURAS SINCE THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED BY PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, PROVIDING A NUCLEUS OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE LIVED AND WORKED IN THIS COUNTRY IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.

14. BUT IF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT, IT CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT. HONDURAS NEEDS JOBS TO SATISFY THE JOB DEMANDS OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PERSONS WHO ENTER THE LABOR MARKET EVERY YEAR AND IT MUST HAVE EXPANDED MARKETS FOR ITS PRODUCTS. IT IS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE TRADE PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STIMULATING NEW INVESTMENT IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS HONDURAS. PPEARING HOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS IS OUR PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR A TWELVE-YEAR, ONE-WAY DUTY FREE TRADE ZONE WHICH, WHEN PASSED, SHOULD BE AN INCENTIVE TO NEW MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS THIS LEGISLATION TO BE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL PASS THIS YEAR.

15. NOR CAN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR SOUND ECONOMIC POLICIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR HAVING RESTORED YOUR COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS HAS INVOLVED SOME SHOCKING SACRIFICES BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE

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THAT YOUR ECONOMY HAS BEEN PUT ON A MUCH HEALTHIER FOOTING.

YOU ARE, AS A RESULT, NOW IN A BETTER POSITION TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMIC RECOVERY WHICH IS NOW
BEGINNING.

16. I WOULD BE LESS THAN CARING IF, IN THIS PORTION OF MY
SPEECH DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I DID NOT MENTION THE
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF HONDURAS' CONTINUED HIGH POPULATION
GROWTH RATE. ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY CONTRACTED BY AID, IF
HONDURAS' POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW AT THE PRESENT RATE OF
3.6 PERCENT PER YEAR, YOUR COUNTRY WILL HAVE 21 MILLION
INHABITANTS BY THE YEAR 2025, ONE GENERATION FROM NOW. FOR
PURPOSES OF COMPARISON, I WOULD MENTION THAT THIS FIGURE
REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME POPULATION AS THE ENTIRE
UNITED STATES HAD IN 1856. SO I SUGGEST YOU THINK OF THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TREND FOR YOUR COUNTRY. WHAT KIND OF
SOCIAL PRESSURES WILL THIS CREATE? WHAT EFFECT WILL IT HAVE ON
LAND DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTIVITY? WILL PER CAPITA ECONOMIC
GROWTH BE A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY?

17. LET ME NOW MOVE TO THE THIRD INGREDIENT OF OUR POLICY
TOWARDS HONDURAS WHICH IS ASSISTANCE IN THE DEFENSE OF YOUR
SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

18. TRADITIONALLY, CENTRAL AMERICA HAS NOT BEEN A REGION OF
GREAT MILITARY TENSION OR CONFLICT. I BELEVE, TO BE SURE,
been local conflicts; but it is fair to say that most of the time these have been short-lived. Thus the pattern of mobilization and defense expenditures in Honduras, as elsewhere in the region, has been quite modest. Approximately one-half of one percent of your population is mobilized. Less than eight percent of your national budget is devoted to military expenditures. Most of your armed forces' military equipment was acquired just after the 1969 war with El Salvador. And until recently, our military assistance programs were on a correspondingly modest scale.

19. Regrettably, the situation facing Central America since 1979 has been somewhat different. A Marxist-Leninist regime has taken power in Nicaragua with the avowed intention of mobilizing almost ten percent of its population and pursuing a policy of "revolution without frontiers". As a direct result, the level of violence in El Salvador has skyrocketed. The rebels there pay lip-service to democracy and claim they are mere local reformers; but we know that in fact they have been united, trained and armed by Nicaragua and Cuba with Soviet support. Their goal is nothing short of total power and domination of yet another state on the Isthmus.

20. Under these difficult circumstances, we believe we have had no choice but to help Honduras strengthen its defensive capabilities. And to these ends we provided $0 million dollars
IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN 1982, WHICH WAS ABOUT THREE TIMES THE
AMOUNT PROVIDED IN 1981. THESE CREDITS HAVE BEEN USED
PRINCIPALLY
TOWARDS TO IMPROVE THE LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY AND TRAINING OF
YOUR ARMED FORCES. DESPITE THIS SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN
MILITARY AID, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT IT REMAINS SUBSTANTIALLY
LOWER THAN OUR BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH WAS THREE
TIMES AS GREAT IN 1982.

21. MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR CONCERN
FOR YOUR DEFENSE.

22. ANOTHER IS JOINT EXERCISES WHICH HELP OUR RESPECTIVE ARMED
FORCES PRACTICE COORDINATED OPERATIONS IN PEACE TIME
CONDITIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO SUCH JOINT-FIELD EXERCISES IN
THE PAST YEAR WHICH HAVE PROVIDED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND
INFORMATION TO OUR RESPECTIVE HIGH COMMANDS.

23. FINALLY, BECAUSE OF A PATTERN OF GROWING UNITED STATES
MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION, A POWERFUL
RADAR IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING INSTALLED BY THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE AT A LOCATION NEAR TEGUCIGALPA. WHILE THE PRINCIPAL
PURPOSE OF THE RADAR WILL BE TO MONITOR U.S. AIR TRAFFIC, THE
CONTROLLERS WILL ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM HONDURAN
AUTHORITIES OF ANY UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE CROSSED
HONDURAN AIRSPACE.

24. IN MY PRESENTATION THIS EVENING I HAVE FOCUSED ON THE
THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF OUR POLICY TOWARDS HONDURAS. EACH;

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ELEMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND ONE CANNOT BE PURSUED TO THE
EXCLUSION OF THE OTHER. IN FACT, THEY ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE.

25. IF I HAD TO SUMMARIZE THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR POLICIES, I
WOULD SAY THAT THEY ARE TO HELP PROMOTE A STRONG AND HEALTHY
HONDURAS. YOU, AS HONDURANS, HAVE OF COURSE THE PRINCIPAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN ACHIEVING THESE GOALS. WE CAN ONLY PLAY A
SECONDARY AND SUPPORTIVE ROLE. BUT WITHIN THESE LIMITS, I WANT
TO ASSURE YOU TONIGHT THAT YOU HAVE THE STRONG BACKING OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. AND THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE
IN TEGUCIGALPA IS DEDICATED TO ASSISTING HONDURAS PROMOTE AND
DEFEND ITS DEMOCRACY IN EVERY WAY WE APPROPRIATELY CAN.

26. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[Signature]
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