

# TELEGRAM

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FROM	AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356 <del>10500</del>	N/A	CN: 3456	7
TAGS:			
SUBJECT:	AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE'S SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD HONDURAS		
ACTION:	USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE		
USIS	INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC		
AMB/DCM	- AMEMBASSY MEXICO		
POL 2	- AMEMBASSY BELIZE		
<del>ECOM</del>	- AMEMBASSY GUATEMELA		
JAO	- AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR		
COM	- AMEMBASSY MANAGUA		
CONS	- AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE		
DAO	- AMEMBASSY PANAMA		
MILGP	- AMEMBASSY BOGOTA		
AID	- AMEMBASSY CARACAS		
PC	- AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO		
DEA	- AMEMBASSY KINGSTON		
IACS	- AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE		
CHRON	- AMEMBASSY LONDON		
	- AMEMBASSY PARIS		
	- AMEMBASSY BONN		
	- AMEMBASSY MADRID		
	- AMEMBASSY ROME		

*Key!*  
*need to send copy for info also to:*  
 US USON  
 CINCSO  
 CINCLANT  
 cable sent 4/2/83

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

1. HERewith TEXT OF SUBJECT SPEECH, DELIVERED 4/6/83, AT TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS.
2. DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE TEGUCIGALPA ROTARY CLUB:

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TELETYPE	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
IO: RJCallahan/ntg	4/8/83	289	PAO: CSARCOS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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

50153-101

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

2. FOR ME IT IS A PLEASURE TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING. MY TOPIC IS "UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS HONDURAS". MY THEME IS THAT HONDURAS STANDS OUT AS AN IMPORTANT MODEL OF DEMOCRACY AND TRANQUILITY IN A TROUBLED REGION. MY MESSAGE IS THAT WE FROM THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN IMPORTANT STAKE IN THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

4. I HAVE FREQUENTLY SAID, AND I WILL REPEAT THIS EVENING, THAT OUR POLICIES TOWARDS HONDURAS CONTAIN THREE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS:  
FIRST, SUPPORT FOR YOUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES;  
NEXT, CONCERN FOR YOUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING; AND  
LASTLY, AN INTEREST IN ASSISTING YOU TO DEFEND YOUR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. THIS EVENING I WELCOME THE <sup>OPPORTUNITY</sup> ~~OPPORTUNITY~~ TO EXPLORE EACH OF THESE ELEMENTS IN SOMEWHAT GREATER DETAIL.

6. FIRST WITH RESPECT TO YOUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY IS NOT BASED ON SOME SORT OF NAIVE IDEALISM. RATHER, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT TRUE DEMOCRACY IS THE BEST AND STRONGEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT. MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS PROVIDED. POLITICAL LEADERS ARE PUT TO THE TEST OF ELECTIONS. AND THE DANGERS OF SOME KIND OF MONOPOLY OF POLITICAL POWER ARE MINIMIZED. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THE PROCESSES OF DEMOCRATIC DEBATE CAN AT TIMES BE FRUSTRATING AND TIME CONSUMING, POLITICAL DECISIONS WHEN FINALLY TAKEN ARE

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NOT ARBITRARY AND ENJOY GREATER PUBLIC SUPPORT.

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 BINDING 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 ~~SECURITY~~ 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 ROUND OF ELECTIONS. HONDURAS HAS A VIGOROUS FREE PRESS. THERE IS A STRONG LABOR MOVEMENT IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS. AND GLARING SOCIAL INEQUITIES DO NOT EXIST ON THE SCALE APPARENTLY SEEN IN SOME OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESSURE TO RESTORE FULL

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CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS BEGAN ABOUT 1975 AND THAT THE INITIAL INSPIRATION MAY HAVE COME FROM CERTAIN PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS SUCH AS ANDI AND CGHEP. WHAT BETTER EXAMPLE COULD THERE BE OF THE IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN THE PLURALISTIC INSTITUTIONS AND THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY?

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 GOOD 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 OPT 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 DIGNIFIED SOCIAL CONDITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

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INGREDIENTS OF NATIONAL STRENGTH. INDEED, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD ARGUE THAT DEMOCRACY ITSELF WILL FIND SURVIVAL DIFFICULT IF IT IS NOT 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 THESE 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 THIRD 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 TWO HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS

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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. PENDING NOW 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 COMMENDED FOR HAVING RESTORED YOUR COUNTRY'S FINANCIAL CREDIBILITY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS HAS INVOLVED SOME SHORT TERM 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 CANDID IF, IN THIS PORTION OF MY SPEECH DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I DID NOT MENTION THE POTENTIAL 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 1850. 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 ~~PRODUCTIVITY~~ <sup>DISTRIBUTION</sup> 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. THERE HAVE, TO BE SURE,

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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 COMMUNIZATION 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 30 MILLION DOLLARS

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IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN 1982, WHICH WAS ABOUT THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT PROVIDED IN 1981. THESE CREDITS HAVE BEEN USED PRINCIPALLY ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 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 TECUCICALPA. 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 INTO 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 RESPONSABILITY 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.

ARCCS *[Signature]*

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APR 12 10 10 '83

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<p>E.O. <del>XXXX</del> TAGS: SUBJECT:  ACTION:</p>	<p>FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA</p>	<p>CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED</p>	
	<p>12356: N/A</p>		<p>CN: 3520</p>
	<p>AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE'S SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD HONDURAS</p>		
	<p>USMISSION USUN NY USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA</p>		
	<p>UNCLASSIFIED TEGUCIGALPA 3456</p>		
	<p>COMM CENTER: PLEASE REPEAT TEGUCIGALPA 3456, APRIL 11, TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.</p>		
<p>AMB DCM USIS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>JN</i> NEGROPONTE</p>		
<p>DRAFTED BY: AMB:KJLukso:kjl</p>	<p>DRAFTING DATE 4-12-83</p>	<p>TEL. EXT. 211</p>	<p>CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte</p>
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