FROM AMBASSADY TEGUCIGALPA

TAGS: HO, XK

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

FOR ARA/ENDERS

REF: STATE 95959

1. ______ ENTIRE TEXT

2. Since when, in open channel messages, do we refer to United States support for Honduran based exiles as Department does in para four refTel? Also, now that armed exiles are all inside Nicaragua, perhaps it might be useful for INR to circulate a piece pointing out that is precisely where they are and not rpt not in Honduras.

NEGROPONTE

DECLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grisell, Dir. (✓) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny (✓) Declassify
Date 6/1/92 Exemption
1. CONFIDENTIAL—ENTIRE TEXT
followed with
2. Hondurans have some apprehension evolution of Costa Rican
negotiating activities since last October's San Jose meeting.
They are concerned that bilateral talks with Nicaragua,
followed by contacts with members of Contadora group, could
foreshadow shift in Costa Rican position from true identity
of views with Honduras and El Salvador to something more
closely resembling aloof position of Contadora group.
Honduran concern was exacerbated by what they perceive to be divisions in Liberation Party on foreign policy issues and low profile of Costa Rican delegation at recent UNSC debate and the ongoing controversy there.

3. We gather from Frank McNeil's report that President Monge's basic position is still solid and that he fundamentally favors the regional approach elaborated at San Jose and in the development of the Five-plus-Five proposal. But, the bilateral talks with Nicaragua and Monge's trip to Panama may be serving to create the impression that the Central American democracies are somewhat in disarray on regional issues. We believe therefore that it would be out of line to suggest to Monge that, as he pursues these new contacts, he fully consult with Presidents Suazo and Magana along the way and reassure them of his fundamental identity of views with their approach. From our vantage point, it would also appear desirable for Monge to consider making some public gesture that shows solidarity with Honduras. The Tegucigalpa/San Jose axis is extremely important to the GOH, especially its civilian leadership. If we allow matters to stand as they are, we are fearful that Sandinistas may take some consolation that their negotiating strategy is having the desired effect of dividing Costa Rica off from those countries in the region with which it shares the closest identity of interests.

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