AM EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

FROM

E.O. 12356: DECL: ODAR
TAGS: XX, HO, MILI, PEPR, CS
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATE FOR OCTOBER 4 MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC STATES:
REGIONAL LIMITATIONS ON SIZE OF ARMED FORCES
ACTION: RSPR
INFO: AMBASSADOR SAN SALVADOR
AMBASSADOR MANAGUA
SECS THE WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 8617

STADIS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. Three cheers for Tom Enders' September 30 Chicago speech. Best one yet.

3. Just one point on which I would appreciate clarification and/or discussion. We used to include issue of size of armed forces as one of the key points affecting prospects for peace. Tom's speech refers to foreign advisors and weapons sophistication but not to size of armed forces in his definition of conditions for peace. No reference made to our earlier positions about "return to traditional size of armed forces" or language to some such effect.

4. Is this omission deliberate; or should we consider...
reintroducing question of size of armed forces at some early future opportunity? Dramatic growth of Sandinista armed forces and stated intention to expand them even further is perhaps single most intimidating feature of their military buildup. At least it is for the Hondurans.

5. Believe we should seriously consider including question of returning armed forces to their traditional size.

6. Foregoing drafted before receipt of ref tel but believe these comments apply to your deliberations in San Jose.