12356: DNG: CO: 9/8/02
PEPR, PINR, XX, CS, HO

SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF DEMOCRATIC STATES

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO: AMBASSASY BELIZE IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMBASSASY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 7679

EXDIS DECAPIED

REF: SAN JOSE 6003

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT

2. During course of call on Honduran Foreign Minister
Paz Barnica afternoon September 8, he informed me that
Volio and he had spoken previous day and discussed
following schedule:

   -- Bilateral meeting between Honduras and Costa Rica
   Foreign Ministers September 12 or 13 in San Jose;

   -- Beginning of October meeting between Salvador,
Honduras and Costa Rica to finalize and sign revised CADC documents;

-- Broader meeting at some subsequent date.

3. I asked Paz Barnica what happened to the September 20 date for a regional meeting that Frank McNeil had discussed with Volio over the weekend. Paz Barnica explained that this date not convenient for him because of a long-planned European trip from 18 to 27 September. I commented that at this rate broader regional meeting would never take place and we would once again repeat long, drawn out experience of last Spring. I asked Paz Barnica point-blank if others could attend a September 20 or 21 regional meeting in San Jose, would he be prepared to change his plans. Paz Barnica replied affirmatively stating that he considered the broader regional meeting to be the priority event. If things came to worse he could send his Vice Foreign Minister.

4. In light of foregoing I strongly recommend that Frank McNeil convey to Volio the thought that he should not allow Paz Barnica's tentative travel plans to intervene with any progress he might have achieved towards arranging a September 20/21 meeting.

NEGROPONTE