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Class A350
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DE RUEETG #1383/01 256 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 122141Z SEP 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TC RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 5532
INFO RUEHLL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: PROG 9/12/84
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
~~DEPT: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE~~
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL2

TEGUCIGALPA 11383

~~EXDTS~~ DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, HO, GT, XK, HO
SUBJECT: ~~CENTRAL AMERICAN PREPARATION FOR MEETING~~
~~WITH EEC: DISCORD WITHIN THE CORE FOUR~~

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AT PANAMA MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7 THERE WAS SERIOUS ARGUMENT AMONGST CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AS TO WHICH ONE WOULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THEM AT THE INAUGURATION OF SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING WITH EEC FOREIGN MINISTERS. PAZ BARNICA WAS SUPPORTED AS SPOKESMAN BY HIS SALVADORAN AND COSTA RICAN COLLEAGUES. ANDRADE WAS SUPPORTED BY D'ESCOTO. AFTER SOME BITTER EXCHANGES, PAZ BARNICA, GUTIERREZ, AND TENORIO ACQUIESCED IN ANDRADE SERVING AS SPOKESMAN; BUT INCIDENT WILL NO DOUBT LEAVE UNPLEASANT TASTE HERE. PAZ BARNICA RELATED INCIDENT TO AMBASSADOR IN SOME DETAIL BECAUSE HE, PRESIDENT SUAZO, AND FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISORS WONDERED WHETHER ANDRADE IS FAITHFULLY REPRESENTING POINT OF VIEW OF HIS PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

3. AT SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, PAZ BARNICA DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL MEETING WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ALONE IN PANAMA ON SEPTEMBER 7. THEIR PURPOSE IN MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING SEPTEMBER 28 SESSION WITH EEC. THERE WERE THREE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. FIRST, THE QUESTION OF GETTING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS TOGETHER TO DO SOME PREPARATORY WORK; NEXT, THE PREPARATION OF A POLITICAL STATEMENT BASED ON THE CONTADORA 21 POINTS; AND, LAST, THE SELECTION OF A FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WOULD SPEAK AT THE INAUGURATION SESSION ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE.

4. PAZ SAID THAT THE FIRST TWO SUBJECTS WERE HANDLED QUICKLY AND SMOOTHLY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE MINISTERS GOT SERIOUSLY BOGGED DOWN ON THE THIRD ONE. ACCORDING TO PAZ, THERE WOULD BE FOUR SPEAKERS AT THE INAUGURATION: FIRST PRESIDENT MONGE, SECOND, A CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, THIRD, A EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND FOURTH, A LATIN AMERICAN (PRESUMABLY CONTADORA) FOREIGN MINISTER. PAZ SAID THAT ON THE WAY DOWN TO PANAMA

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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WITH TENORIO AND GUTIERREZ, THEY HAD DECIDED PAZ SHOULD SPEAK FOR CENTRAL AMERICANS. WHEN GUTIERREZ MADE THIS PROPOSAL AT THE MEETING, HOWEVER, D'ESCOTO OPPOSED BECAUSE OF THE "CONFRONTATION" BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS. D'ESCOTO PROPOSED THAT GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE SPEAK INSTEAD "BECAUSE GUATEMALA HAD KEPT ITSELF REMOVED FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS." ANDRADE STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED TO PAZ AS SPOKESMAN, ALSO ON GROUNDS THAT HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA WERE IN "CONFRONTATION." AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT CONSENSUS COULD NOT BE REACHED ON HONDURAS, PAZ BARNICA PROPOSED THAT SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER TENORIO BE CHOSEN TO SPEAK BECAUSE SALVADOR IS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY TO HAVE MOST RECENTLY ELECTED A CIVILIAN PRESIDENT. ANDRADE AGAIN OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY, ARGUING THAT SALVADOR IS IN A-CIVIL WAR AND "THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE BEING KILLED EVERY WEEK." ACCORDING TO PAZ, FOREIGN MINISTER TENORIO WAS HORRIFIED AND SPEECHLESS IN THE FACE OF THESE REMARKS. PAZ THEN PROPOSED THAT D'ESCOTO BE THE PERSON TO SPEAK SINCE HE HAS THE MOST SENIORITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER BUT D'ESCOTO POLITELY DECLINED. (THE IDEAL CHOICE, COSTA RICA WAS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE SINCE PRESIDENT MONGE ALREADY PLANNED TO SPEAK AS HOST TO THE CONFERENCE.) WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THIS DEBATE WAS LEADING NOWHERE, PAZ BARNICA ACQUIESCED IN ANDRADE BEING DESIGNATED AS THE SPEAKER.

5. PAZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS MEETING WITH ANDRADE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND BITTER. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT ANDRADE HAD COME TO PANAMA SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER CORE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND HAD STAYED AT THE SAME HOTEL AS THE NICARAGUAN AND CONTADORA DELEGATION RATHER THAN WITH REST OF CORE FOUR. PAZ SAID THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO HIM THAT ANDRADE'S BEHAVIOR AND POSITION AT MEETING HAD BEEN FULLY COORDINATED BEFOREHAND WITH NICARAGUA.

6. PAZ SAID THAT HE RELATED THIS LAMENTABLE INCIDENT TO THE AMBASSADOR AT SUGGESTION OF PRESIDENT SUAZO

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AND FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISORS BECAUSE THEY WERE REALLY BEGINNING TO WONDER WHO ANDRADE IS SPEAKING FOR. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HONDURANS TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY ANDRADE AT THESE MEETINGS WERE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT VIEWPOINT. PAZ WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT ANDRADE WAS TAKING SOME OF THESE POSITIONS "BEHIND THE BACK OF CHIEF OF STATE MEJIA."

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