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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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INFO RUEHL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRG: PROG 17/19/84
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL2

TEGUCIGALPA 8926

FXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, NU, CO, EO
SUBJECT: SERGIO RAMIREZ VISIT TO COLOMBIA

REF: BCGCTA 8097

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.
2. IN CONVERSATION JULY 18 WITH HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA, HE CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON JULY 13 REGARDING NICARAGUAN INTEREST IN A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH HONDURAS. PAZ SAYS THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LASTED ABOUT 20 MINUTES AND HE PATIENTLY EXPLAINED HONDURAN REGIONAL APPROACH AND WHY GOH FELT BILATERAL WITH NICARAGUA WOULD UNDERMINE IT. PAZ POINTED OUT THAT IDEA OF BILATERAL NON-AGGRESSION PACT WAS AN OLD ONE AND HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OVERTAKEN BY CONTADORA'S RECOGNITION THAT NICARAGUA'S PROBLEMS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS WERE REGIONAL.
3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER APPARENTLY SHOWED SOME PREFERENCE FOR VISIT BY CONTADORA VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN A MEETING OF ALL NINE OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP AS FOLLOW UP TO CONTADORA DRAFT TREATY. PAZ EXPALINED TO HIS COLOMBIAN COLLEAGUE THAT A VISIT BY CONTADORA TO THE INDIVIDUAL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT SERVE THE PURPOSE OF GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD MORE LIABLY JUST PRODUCE ANOTHER CONTADORA TEXT. PAZ RECALLED THAT ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT EVEN NICARAGUA WANTS THE NEXT PHASE TO BE A MEETING OF ALL NINE COUNTRIES IN THE TECHNICAL GROUP.
4. COMMENT: WE CERTAINLY AGREE WITH PAZ THAT A BILATERAL BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS ON A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS. IT AGAIN STRIKES US AS A DISTURBING INDICATION OF CONTADORA'S PARTIALITY TO NICARAGUAN POSITION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RAMIREZ OCAMPOS WOULD HAVE EVEN TRANSMITTED SUCH A HADNEYED NICARAGUAN IDEA TO THE HONDURANS. EMBASSY WONDERS WHETHER IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR US TO CONVEY TO RAMIREZ OCAMPOS OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR HONDURAN POSITION ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT. NEGROPONTE

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/2/98 Exemption

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