

VZCZCTGI *
RR RUEHC RUEHLL
DE RUEHTG #8896 199 **
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 171640Z JUL 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 4198
INFO RUEHLL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

A379
Carm
R

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRG: PROG 07/17/84
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL
ECON MILGP DAO

1515

~~TEGUCIGALPA 08896~~

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, XK
SUBJECT: SANDINISTA COMMENTS ON U.S./NICARAGUAN DIALOGUE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY NOTED WITH INTEREST STORY APPEARING IN JULY 16 MIAMI HERALD WHICH QUOTES SANDINISTA DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NORA ASTORGA AS SAYING ABOUT THE U.S./NICARAGUAN DIALOGUE, "THE TWO MEETINGS REAFFIRM OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A PROPAGANDA MANEUVER...IT IS A PUBLICITY STUNT WITH ELECTORAL GOALS." STORY THEN GOES ON TO STATE THAT, ON BACKGROUND BASIS, SANDINISTA OFFICIALS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TALKS.
3. IN WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING PASSAGE, ASTORGA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SANDINISTA'S KEY DEMANDS WILL BE FOR U.S. TO END AID FOR ANTI-SANDINISTA REBELS AND U.S. ACCEPTANCE TO SANDINISTAS AS A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. OTHER SANDINISTA OFFICIALS, STORY CONTINUES, STATE THAT ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION IS THE RESTORATION OF NICARAGUA'S U.S. SUGAR QUOTA AND THE RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL LOANS NOW BLOCKED BY WASHINGTON. IN EXCHANGE, THE OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE SANDINISTAS COULD ACCOMODATE" WASHINGTON ON AID TO SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS, FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS, AND NICARAGUA'S MILITARY BUILD-UP.
4. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, WE HAVE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS INFORMED HOST GOVERNMENT OF US/NICARAGUAN AGREEMENT NOT RPT NOT TO PUBLICLY CHARACTERIZE OUR BILATERAL DIALOGUE IN ANY WAY. THIS MIAMI HERALD STORY WOULD APPEAR TO BE JUST THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF SANDINISTA DEVIATIONS FROM SUCH AGREEMENT AND IS BOUND TO CONTRIBUTE TO WHATEVER UNSETTLING AFFECT OUR BILATERAL DIALOGUE IS HAVING ON FRIENDS IN THE REGION. NEGROPONTE

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