FROM: AMBASSAD TEGUCIGALPA  
TO: NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON "AMERICA'S SECRET WAR"

ACTION: INFO WASHDC
INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED TEGUCIGALPA 9903
USINFO FOR P/R; P/F; VOA/BL
STATE FOR ARA/CEN

1. MODERATE LA TRIBUNA CAME TO THE DEFENSE OF AMBASSADOR JOHN D. NEGROPONTE WITH A FRONT-PAGE POLITICAL CARTOON ON 6 NOVEMBER.

2. THE CARTOON, USING A PLAY ON THE AMBASSADOR'S NAME AND TAKING SOME LIBERTIES WITH CORRECT SPANISH, IS CALLED "BLACK POINT" (FONTE-NEGRO). IT SHOWS THE AMBASSADOR HOLDING AN UMBRELLA DESIGNED IN STARS AND STRIPES. BLACK INK CASCADES OFF THE UMBRELLA AS AN ENORMOUS PEN, MARKED "AMERICAN PRESS," WHICH HANGS OVER THE AMBASSADOR, PREPARES TO LET DROP ANOTHER LARGE DOSE OF STAIN, MARKED "DISCREDIT". MEANWHILE, A TINY SANDINISTA GUERRILLA, WEARING A MANIACAL GRIN, SAYS: "IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT I HAVE PULL WITH THE NICARAGUANS OF THE GRINGA PRESS." ("QUE CULPA TENDO DE TENER CON LOS 'CHOCHOS' DE LA PRENSA 'GRINGO'."

3. THIS CARTOON IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONDURAN REACTION TO THE CHARGES AGAINST AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE MADE BY NEWSWEEK. ARCos

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CLEARANCES:

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