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OO RUEHC RUEHGT RUESMG RUEHZZ RUEHSJ RUEHSN  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7859  
INFO RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1200,  
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5444  
RUEHZZ / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8399  
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8793  
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9663  
RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC  
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
RUEHDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1395  
BT

CLASS: SECRET  
CHRG: PROG 10/13/83  
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE  
DREFD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE  
CLEAR: POL:RBURGHARDT  
DISTR: AMB DCM POL

TEGUCIGALPA 11459

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, MARR, Xs, HO  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SUAZO SEEKS TO HOST REGIONAL MEETING

1. ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: AS FOLLOW-UP TO OCTOBER ONE CONDECA TYPE MEETING IN GUATEMALA BETWEEN REGIONAL MILITARY CHIEFS, PRESIDENT SUAZO PROPOSES TO HOST A REGIONAL MEETING OF REGIONAL HEADS OF STATE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS. GOH IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT OF EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA PARTICIPATION; BUT WOULD APPRECIATE SOME BEHIND-THE-SCENES ASSISTANCE FROM USG IN ENSURING PANAMANIAN AND COSTA RICAN REPRESENTATION. GOH REALIZES COSTA RICAN PARTICIPATION AT HEAD OF STATE LEVEL MOST UNLIKELY BUT WOULD WELCOME REPRESENTATION AT FOREIGN MINISTER/MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL; OR, AS ULTIMATE FALLBACK, PARTICIPATION OF A COSTA RICAN OBSERVER. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO POTENTIAL GOH INVITEES. END SUMMARY.
3. FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA CALLED AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON OCTOBER NINETEEN TO INFORM HIM THAT PRESIDENT SUAZO PLANS TO HOST A MEETING OF REGIONAL HEADS OF STATE, FOREIGN MINISTERS AND DEFENSE CHIEFS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY-FIVE. PARTICIPATION VISUALIZED IS GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, COSTA RICA AND PANAMA AND PURPOSE WOULD BE TO HOLD DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY-ONE A GOE DELEGATION CONSISTING OF FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISOR AMBASSADOR CARLOS LOPEZ CONTRERAS AND ARMED FORCES INSPECTOR GENERAL COLONEL MARCO ANTONIO ROSALES ABELLA WILL VISIT EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES TO PERSONALLY DELIVER DOCTOR SUAZO'S LETTER OF INVITATION.

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4. FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA IS REASONABLY CONFIDENT OF EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA PARTICIPATION. HE IS LESS CERTAIN ABOUT PANAMA AND COSTA RICA, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER. HE ASKS FOR OUR QUIET BEHIND-THE-SCENES SUPPORT IN ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION BY LATTER TWO COUNTRIES. PAZ BELIEVES PARTICIPATION BY MONGE MOST UNLIKELY (ALTHOUGH WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF MONGE SURPRISED US THIS TIME!). BUT HE HOPES COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND APPROPRIATE SECURITY MINISTER CAN ATTEND. AS ULTIMATE FALLBACK, PAZ WOULD SETTLE FOR A HIGH LEVEL COSTA RICAN OBSERVER.

5. AMBASSADOR ASKED IF THIS WAS FOLLOW-UP TO OCTOBER ONE MEETING IN GUATEMALA CITY ATTENDED BY REGIONAL MILITARY CHIEFS. PAZ SAID IT WAS ALTHOUGH GOH IS FLEXIBLE IN REGARD TO TERMINOLOGY AND DOESN'T BELIEVE MEETING NEED BE CHARACTERIZED AS "CONDECA" MEETING. IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THERE BE HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL CONSULTATION CONCERNING PEACE, SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION IN LIGHT OF THREAT FROM NICARAGUA.

6. COMMENT: PROPOSED MEETING DOES APPEAR TO HAVE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS. IMPETUS IS CLEARLY FROM GOH MILITARY IN WAKE OF OCTOBER ONE MEETING IN GUATEMALA. BELIEVE IT COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS COMPLIMENTARY TO AND NOT AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH CONTADORA PROCESS. INDEED IT COULD BE VIEWED AS AN ENHANCED "CORE FOUR" INITIATIVE WHICH INCLUDES OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT ON CONTADORA NEXT STEPS. GOH MAY BE IN FOR SERIOUS DISCOURAGEMENT REGARDING COSTA RICAN AND PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION. BUT, IF PANAMA'S NORIEGA COULD ATTEND AS FULL PARTICIPANT AND COSTA RICANS COULD SEND RESPECTED OBSERVER, BELIEVE GOH MINIMUM HOPES FOR MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN MET.  
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