

A493

R

VZCZCTGI *
RR RUEHC RUESB RUEHCV RUEHGT RUESMG RUEHME
RUEHZP RUEHSJ RUEHSN RUEHDT
DE RUEHTG #0355 280 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 071504Z OCT 83

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: PROG 10/6/83
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONT
CRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONT
CLEAR: POL:RBURGHARDT
DISTR: AMB POL(2) DCM

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 7586
INFO RUESBG / AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1947
RUEHCV / AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1552
RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1117
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5401
RUEHME / AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1879
RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8328
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8756
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9531
RUEHDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1378
BT

TEGUCIGALPA 10955

EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

3.0. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, KA
SUBJECT: CONTADORA NEXT STEPS, BIPARTISAN COMMISSION
- VISIT AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. WE SEE TWO SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THE CONTADORA PROCESS AND THE NBCCA VISIT TO THE REGION.

3. FIRST, IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE US IF NICARAGUA WERE TO ENGAGE IN ONE OF ITS PERIODIC HYSTERICAL EFFORTS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF IMMINENT REGIONAL WAR, THUS REINFORCING ITS WELL KNOWN BILATERAL THESIS. WE CANNOT RULE OUT THEREFORE THAT, ESPECIALLY DURING THE WEEK THAT THE NBCCA TRAVELS TO THE REGION, NICARAGUA AND ITS SUPPORTERS WILL CHOOSE TO DRAMATIZE VARIOUS BORDER AND OTHER INCIDENTS IN THE MEDIA AND POSSIBLY AT THE UNGA.

4. THE OTHER POINT, PERHAPS SOMEWHAT LONGER TERM BUT NONETHELESS DOVETAILING WITH THIS STRATEGY, IS THAT NICARAGUA WILL LIKELY SINGLE OUT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AGREED TO IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WILL SELECT THOSE OBJECTIVES WHICH SUIT THEIR CONVENIENCE, ARGUE THAT THEY SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AND IMPLEMENTED RIGHT AWAY, AND LEAVE OBJECTIVES OF LESSER OR NO INTEREST TO THEM FOR LATER. MOST LIKELY THEY WILL INSIST ON IMMEDIATE BORDER AGREEMENTS WITH HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING PRETTY MUCH FROM THE BEGINNING. THIS PREFERRED NICARAGUAN APPROACH COULD EASILY FIND SUPPORT FROM CERTAIN CONTADORA COUNTRIES, EITHER BECAUSE OF POLITICAL AFFINITY OR OUT OF BOREDOM WITH

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

SECRET

THE CONTADORA PROCESS.

5. WHAT CONCERNS US IN THIS LATTER REGARD IS THE APPARENT LACK OF INSISTENCE IN THE CONTADORA DOCUMENT THAT THE AGREED OBJECTIVES BE NEGOTIATED AND IMPLEMENTED ON A COMPREHENSIVE AND SIMULTANEOUS BASIS, THEREBY LEAVING THE DOCUMENT WIDE OPEN TO THE PREFERRED NICARAGUAN INTERPRETATION. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS PROBLEM IS THE FACT THAT MANY INVOLVED IN THE CONTADORA PROCESS ARE NOW SPEAKING IN TERMS OF MULTIPLE AGREEMENTS RATHER THAN ONE COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT. ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES MAY BE DRAFTING DIFFERENT PARTS OF THESE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS. IN SHORT, THE EFFORT APPEARS TO US AS FRAGMENTED AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO EXPLOITATION BY THOSE WITH INTERESTS INIMICAL TO OUR OWN.

6. THEREFORE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT UNTIL THE CORE FOUR HAVE ESTABLISHED MORE COHERENT STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN OUR COMMENTS ON THE CONTADORA PROCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT PRAISE FOR THE DOCUMENT OF OBJECTIVES WOULD BEST BE ACCOMPANIED BY REMINDERS THAT WHILE WE LAUD THESE OBJECTIVES, WE SEE THEIR ATTAINMENT AS PART OF A SIMULTANEOUS PACKAGE DEAL WITH ADEQUATE MEASURES OF VERIFICATION AND SUPERVISION, AND DEFINITELY NOT AS A PIECEMEAL EFFORT. INDEED A PIECEMEAL APPROACH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. WE NOTE THAT THIS CAUTIONARY TONE WAS CLEARLY PRESENT IN PRESIDENT SUAZO'S LETTER TO HERRERA CAMPINS ACCEPTING THE DOCUMENT OF OBJECTIVES (FBIS CHIVA CHIVA 242238Z OCT 83). SUAZO TOLD THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT THAT THE DOCUMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A REGIONAL SOLUTION "AS LONG AS THE TERMS OF REFERENCE CONTAINED THEREIN ARE BASED ON A FIRM POLITICAL COMMITMENT". SUAZO ALSO WARNED THAT HONDURAS WOULD BE FORCED TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THE DOCUMENT IF NICARAGUA PERSISTED IN FRUSTRATING THE CONTADORA FOUR'S EFFORTS BY INSISTING ON DEBATING CENTRAL AMERICAN ISSUES AT THE UNGA. THIS LATTER POINT ALSO SEEMS ONE WE COULD WISELY ECHO IN OUR OWN REMARKS ON THE CONTADORA PROCESS.

NEGROPONTE

BT

#2955

NNNN