ARA/FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOTLEY FROM NEGRONPOTE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OAS, AOEC, HO, XX
SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICA ISSUE AT OASGA

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 10702, (B) SAN JOSE 6617

1. [Redacted] - ENTIRE TEXT

2. BASED ON FIVE RPT FIVE DIFFERENT PHONE CALLS YESTERDAY I INFORMED THE HONDURANS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VOLOR SUPPORTED HONDURAN INTRODUCTION OF A CENTRAL AMERICAN AGENDA ITEM AT OASGA. TWO CALLS WERE FROM CRAIG JOHNSTONE, TWO WERE FROM BILL MIDDENSTORF AND ONE WAS FROM HAROLD EISNER.

3. TO MY EMBARRASSMENT I LEARNED LAST NIGHT FROM THE HONDURAN OAS PROREP THAT COSTA RICANS WERE NOT ON BOARD AT ALL. THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED TO ME BY CRAIG JOHNSTONE LATE AT NIGHT AND BY PARA THREE OF SAN JOSE MESSAGE UNDR REFERENCE.

4. WHILE I APPRECIATE THE NEED ON OCCASION TO CONDUCT URGENT BUSINESS BY TELEPHONE, IT DOES NOT IN MY VIEW REDUCE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE MESSAGES THAT WE TRANSMIT BE ACCURATE. I FAIL TO Understand HOW I COULD HAVE RECEIVED FIVE SEPARATE ASSURANCES THAT THE COSTA RICANS WERE ON BOARD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE HONDURANS STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THEY WERE GETTING THE EXACT OPPOSITE SIGNAL FROM COSTA RICA. THEY TURNED OUT TO BE RIGHT AND I THINK WE LOST A BIT OF CREDIBILITY IN THE EXERCISE. NEGRONPOTE