1. ENTIRE TEXT

2. RUMORS OF PAZ BARNICA'S DEMISE HAVE CIRCULATED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST. RECENTLY THE MOST ARDENT PROMOTER OF SUCH STORIES HAS BEEN UN AMBASSADOR ORTEZ COLINDRES WHO HIMSELF IS WIDELY BELIEVED HERE TO ASPIRE TO PAZ BARNICA'S OFFICE.

3. IN LIGHT OF RECENT STATE OF SUCH RUMORS AMBASSADOR QUERIED MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY CARLOS FLORES ABOUT THEM AT MEETING JULY 2. FLORES INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO SUCH REPORTS AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, ORTEZ COLINDRES WOULD NOT BE THE MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO PAZ BARNICA WERE THE LATTER TO EVER LEAVE HIS POST FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, PRESIDENT SUAZO, UPON RETURN FROM TRIP TO U.S. JULY 9, PUBLICLY DENIED RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER OR MINISTER OF EDUCATION WERE RESIGNING.

5. FOR REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE, THEREFORE, WE DOUBT REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL IS CORRECT. NEGROPONTE