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DE RUEHTG #1752 039 **
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 081330Z FEB 85
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 8886
INFO RUEHUB / USINT HAVANA 0229
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Caron

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CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CHRG: PROG 2/7/85
APPRV: POL:TSWILKINSON
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE/S

CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL3
SA

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DECAPTIONED

~~EXISTS~~

DecapTION

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, HO
SUBJECT: ~~RELATIONS 1995: IMPACT ON CAREER FLORES OF NEW
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF
OSCAR MEJIA~~

REF: 84 TEGUCIGALPA 15956

1. (ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AMBASSADOR MET WITH CARLOS FLORES MORNING FEB. 7. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF OSCAR MEJIA ARELLANO'S CANDIDACY ON FEB. 6. FLORES BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT SUAZO IS BEHIND THE MOVE, ALTHOUGH WHEN HE SPOKE TO SUAZO DIRECTLY THE LATTER DISCLAIMED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT.

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3. AMBASSADOR ASKED FLORES WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS MOTIVATING DR. SUAZO. FLORES REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT CREDIT THE EXPLANATION MAKING THE ROUNDS TO THE EFFECT THAT SUAZO'S PURPOSE WAS TO OVERCOME DIVISIONS CAUSED BY THE CANDIDACIES OF FLORES, AZCONA, AND BU GIRON BY COMING UP WITH YET ANOTHER CANDIDATE. FLORES SAID THAT IF DR. SUAZO WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN UNIFYING THE PARTY, HE WOULD PLACE HIMSELF FOUR-SQUARE BEHIND ONE CANDIDATE AND SEEK TO PROMOTE GREATER HARMONY WITHIN THE RODISTA FACTION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. FLORES HAD CONCLUDED, THEREFORE, THAT DR. SUAZO WAS STILL TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF "CONTINUISMO", AND, BY SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF CANDIDACIES, DR. SUAZO WAS EFFECTIVELY KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN. ACCORDING TO THIS SCENARIO, FLORES SAID, SUAZO WOULD POINT TO THE FACTIONALISM IN THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES AS EVIDENCE OF HONDURAN POLITICAL IMMATUREITY AND RESUME PROMOTING A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF HIS OWN TERM.

4. FLORES SAID THAT HE, HIMSELF, WAS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING HIS CANDIDACY BUT THAT HE HAD NOT REACHED SUCH A DECISION YET. HE DID NOT THINK THAT EITHER OSCAR MEJIA NOR BU GIRON WERE CREDIBLE CANDIDATES. HE, THEREFORE, DID NOT SEE ANY CANDIDATE MORE VIABLE THAN HE ON THE SCENE YET. FLORES ALSO SAID THAT THERE

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WOULD NOT BE A RODISTA CONVENTION IN MARCH. TEUS,
THE ONLY FORMAL LIBERAL PARTY NOMINATING PROCEDURES
WOULD BE AT THE OVERALL PARTY CONVENTION IN MID-APRIL.

5. COMMENT. CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR TRACS
CLOSELY WITH FLORES' REMARKS TO PAO IN DECEMBER, WHEN
FLORES WAS ALREADY CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD
ABANDON HIM FOR "CONSENSUS" CANDIDACY OF MEJIA.
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