

TELEGRAM

Oct 20 23 43 '82

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FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

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TAGS:
SUBJECT:

DECL: 10/20/88
PEPR, HO, XK
MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

QN: 9207 7

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO: AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

DIST:
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EXDIS

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REF: (A) STATE 290714 (B) TGU 9115

1. ENTIRE TEXT.
2. Ambassador and political counselor met on October 19 with Foreign Minister Paz Barnica, who has just returned from one month of almost continuous travel to Europe, San Jose, New York and Washington. Paz expressed satisfaction with the results of his trips. We were struck, as was the Department (Ref A), that the Foreign Minister now appears more self-confident than in the past. Paz obviously views the San Jose conference as a major accomplishment for himself and Honduras.

DRAFTED BY: POL: RFBURGHARDT:dsn	DRAFTING DATE 10/20/82	TEL. EXT. 214	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: DCM: SCLOWMAN
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CLEARANCES:

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Date 6/2/98 Exemption _____

He is particularly gratified that the conference endorsed in its entirety the Honduran peace plan.

4. Paz stated emphatically that it was Honduras' position that the "Peace Forum" created at San Jose must have priority in all efforts to seek a negotiated solution to Central America's problems. Honduras not only has a commitment to the San Jose declaration, but was a co-sponsor of the meeting. Paz noted that the "Peace Forum" had its origin in his meeting with AS Enders in Santo Domingo. Any meeting between himself and Nicaragua's D'Escoto would have to await the completion of Volio's round of meetings with Managua, Caracas, Panama, etc. to inform those governments of the results of the San Jose meeting. Paz did not rule out the possibility of a meeting with D'Escoto some time in the near future, but the timing would be such that it would not detract from the San Jose process. Paz clearly ruled out a meeting of Honduran and Nicaraguan chiefs of state in the foreseeable future; careful preparation would be imperative beforehand.

5. The Ambassador mentioned that Minister of the Presidency Carlos Flores had discussed with him on October 16 the idea of a meeting of all Central America Foreign Ministers (Ref B). The Foreign Minister said the idea was Flores' and reflected his concern that Nicaragua would be

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successful in portraying Honduras as intransigent. Paz did not rule out possibility of an eventual regional Foreign Ministers' meeting; but he obviously did not see it as the next step. More likely, Paz said, and he repeated this at another meeting with Ambassador October 20, would be another meeting of the San José group, but hopefully including additional states such as Mexico and Venezuela. Paz said he would be giving Flores and President Suazo a more complete explanation of the San José process and thought it would be useful if the Ambassador also discussed the issue with Dr. Suazo. Ambassador and Paz Barnica agreed that Honduras had no need to be defensive and whatever Honduras did, the Sandinistas would dismiss it as "not enough", as shown by their belittling of the Paz/D'Escoto two-hour meeting in New York.

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