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RR RUEHC RUEKJCS RUEHGT RUESMG RUEHSJ RUEHSN
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DE RUEHTG #2413/01 314 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
R 102131Z NOV 83
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 8356
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC
INFO RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1251
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5481
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8031
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9709
RUEOETHA / JSCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
RUEBSAA / COMJTF-11 COMAYAGUA HO
BT

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: PROG 11/10/83
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL-2
DAO MILGP

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF * TEGUCIGALPA 12413

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, XK, HO
SUBJECT: SUAZO MEETING WITH DR. IKLE

1. ~~██████████~~ ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: DOCTOR SUAZO EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR AHUAS TARA II EXERCISE AND HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE AHUAS TARA III, IV AND V. HE PRAISED USG ACTION IN GRENADA. AND HE SEEMED VERY RELUCTANT TO INVITE PRESIDENT MAGANA TO HONDURAS FOR A BILATERAL. SUAZO VIEWS HOLDING OF SALVADORAN ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE AS MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY. END SUMMARY.
3. DR. FRED IKLE CALLED ON PRESIDENT SUAZO AFTERNOON NOVEMBER NINE. CONVERSATION OPENED WITH DISCUSSION OF AHUAS TARA EXERCISE. DR. IKLE SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS HONDURAS OF U.S. FORCES EXERCISING HERE. SUAZO RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME MORE U.S. TROOPS. HE ALSO WOULD BE HAPPY IF WE PLANNED AHUAS TARA III, IV AND V. HE FELT THAT THESE EXERCISES WERE A DETERRENT TO NICARAGUAN CONVENTIONAL THERAT.
4. ON GRENADA, SUAZO EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME. HIS ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT, HE SAID, WAS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE INVADED SURINAM AT THE SAME TIME.
5. ON RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA, SUAZO SAID THAT GOH FELT BETRAYED BY FACT THAT NICARAGUANS HAD TAKEN MATTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS DESPITE THEIR PROMISE TO DEAL WITH ISSUE IN CONTADORA PROCESS. SUAZO THEREFORE HAD NO HOPE FOR NEGOTIATING PROCESS, AND FELT THAT IF SANDINISTA REGIME PERSISTED, THEN SIMILAR REGIMES WOULD SPREAD THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA. HE THEREFORE FELT WE SHOULD CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS AND INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO THEM ON AN URGENT BASIS BEFORE THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE BECOME TOO DEMORALIZED.
6. SUAZO SAID THAT IF HONDURAS HAD SUFFICIENT STRENGTH

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 () Release () Exercise () Deny () Declassify
 Date 6/2/97 Exemption

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THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF NICARAGUAN SITUATION THEMSELVES; BUT THIS JUST WASN'T IN THE CARDS FOR HONDURAS. IF, HOWEVER, USG WERE TO ACT DECISIVELY REGARDING NICARAGUA, "MR. ANDROPOV WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THEM". HE CITED EXAMPLE OF GRENADA WHERE THE COMMUNISTS DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP".

7. THERE WAS THEN A DISCUSSION ABOUT A POSSIBLE BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MAGANA OF EL SALVADOR. BOTH AMBASSADOR AND DR. IKLE DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE OF WORKING WITH SALVADORANS AND DOING WHAT WE COULD TO PREVENT THAT COUNTRY FROM FALLING UNDER COMMUNIST RULE. SUAZO AGREED WITH THE OBJECTIVES, POINTING OUT THAT HONDURANS THEMSELVES HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE BOTH IN ESTABLISHING THE RMTC AND IN CONDUCTING BORDER OPERATIONS. REGRETTABLY, HE SAID, SALVADORANS HAD SOURED MATTERS SOMEWHAT BY SENDING PROTEST NOTE ABOUT HONDURAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON THE BORDER. ALSO, EVEN THOUGH VIDES CASANOVA HAD AGREED TO CONDECA CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING OCTOBER ONE, THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TORPEDOED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS ANDRADE AND CHAVEZ MENA WHO, ACCORDING TO SUAZO, MET EXPLICITLY FOR PURPOSE OF UNDOING WHAT DEFENSE CHIEFS HAD AGREED AT GUATEMALA OCTOBER ONE CONDECA SESSION. SUAZO HAD THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT MAGANA WAS A LAME DUCK; THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CONTROL OVER EITHER HIS FOREIGN OR DEFENSE MINISTER AND THAT HE WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE ABLE TO DELIVER ANYTHING HE AGREED TO AT A BILATERAL WITH SUAZO.

8. THIS BROUGHT SUAZO TO THE ISSUE OF THE UPCOMING SALVADORAN ELECTIONS. SUAZO FELT THAT HOLDING ELECTIONS ON TIME IS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY. HE BELIEVES THAT RESURGENCE OF DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY IS DESIGNED TO FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS AND HE BELIEVES THAT SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD BE FATAL FOR EL SALVADOR. IF THERE ARE FREE ELECTIONS, SUAZO CONTINUED, NAPOLEON DUARTE WILL WIN AND HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. IN SUAZO'S OPINION, FIDEL CHAVEZ MENA WOULD HAVE THE MOST TO BENEFIT FROM A POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE HIM TIME TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION IN HIS RIVALRY WITH DUARTE.

9. AT END OF CONVERSATION DOCTOR SUAZO EXPRESSED

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INTEREST IN U.S. MILITARY ENGINEERS STAYING IN HONDURAS AFTER AHUAS TARA II. HE SAID HE IS THINKING OF SENDING US AN OFFICIAL NOTE ON THE SUBJECT. HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE EXCELLENT CIVIC ACTION OUR FORCES WERE UNDERTAKING.

10. COMMENT: SUAZO STRUCK AMBASSADOR AS VERY EMPHATIC ABOUT HIS REFUSAL TO INVITE MAGANA FOR A BILATERAL. DAS NESTOR SANCHEZ AND PAO ARCOS, WHO ALSO ATTENDED MEETING, SEEMED TO FEEL THAT SUAZO MAY RECONSIDER HIS SEEMINGLY INTRANSIGENT POSITION. IN ANY EVENT, THERE WAS CLEARLY NO POINT IN PRESSING MATTER FURTHER DURING THAT PARTICULAR CONVERSATION. WE WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE IT AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO URGE VIDES CASANOVA TO FOLLOW UP ON IDEA WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ. NEGROPONTE
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