

Jan 11 11 52 AM '82

# TELEGRAM

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FROM Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA		CLASSIFICATION <del>SECRET</del>
E.O. 11652	12065: GDS 1/11/82 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M	CN: 214
TAGS:	MILI, PGOV	
SUBJECT:	SELECTION OF HONDURAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF	
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY	
INFO:	USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PANAMA	
	<del>SECRET</del> TEGUCIGALPA 214	
	ENDIS <b>DECAPTIONED</b>	
	1. <del>SECRET</del> - ENTIRE TEXT	
	2. I used occasion of January eleven meeting with Suazo to express concern over rumblings that President Paz might be seeking to extend his mandate as Honduran CINC.	
	3. As it turned out, this question also very much on Suazo's mind. He had word that defeated Nationalist candidate Zuniga was encouraging General Paz to hang in there; but more junior officers would have none of it.	
	In fact, delegation consisting of Colonels Alvarez, Torres-Arias and Bodden had called on Suazo over weekend to advise him of Military insistence that Paz step aside.	
AMB	According to Suazo, this latter group advised him that	
DCM	Armed Forces Council would meet shortly to confirm three	
DAO		
MILGP		
POL-2		
CHRON		

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 1-11-82	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte
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CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~  
CLASSIFICATION

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

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify  
Date 10/1/98 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

names for submission to Congress from which Congress would select new CINC. Suazo expected names of Colonels Alvarez, Flores Terecin and Montoya to be on list, although he couldn't be certain.

4. Suazo's bottom line was that he strongly favors Alvarez for CINC position. Also, he obviously views possibility of prolonged presence of Paz as CINC with great distaste. He is prepared to do whatever is necessary to ensure that Paz steps aside gracefully including clearing Paz of any future charges that he may have in any way misused government funds. He is also prepared to name Paz, who apparently does not wish to leave the country as Ambassador or the like, as some sort of military advisor.

5. As long as Alvarez' name appears on list of three sent ~~sent~~ to Congress, it appears virtual certainty that he will be selected. This would be most convenient to our mutual interests here.

NEGROPONTE