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R 251629Z JUL 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 4407
INFO RUEHLL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
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CLEAR: NONE
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PRL, EO, NU, X1
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA, JULY 24: ORTEGA REQUEST FOR BILATERAL AND MEETING WITH CONTADORA VICE-FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 9222

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA RECEIVED ME AT MY REQUEST AFTERNOON JULY 24. I ASKED WHAT GOH RESPONSE TO HUMBERTO ORTEGA PROPOSAL FOR BILATERALS WOULD BE. PAZ SAID HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO REPLY. GOH INTENDED TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY AND POLITICAL ISSUES MUST BE RESOLVED COMPREHENSIVELY AND REGIONALLY ON BASIS OF CONTADORA 21 POINTS. THERE MAY BE SOME OTHER ISSUES FOR BILATERAL RESOLUTION AND GOH DOES NOT RULE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA IN SUCH AREAS, IF POSSIBLE.

3. ON CONTADORA VICE-FOREIGN MINISTERS' VISIT TO TEGUCIGALPA JULY 23, PAZ SAID THAT CONTADORA GROUP ASKED GOH FOR MORE EXHAUSTIVE COMMENTS ON CONTADORA DRAFT TREATY. VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS SAID THAT THEY INTENDED TO COMPILE COMMENTS FROM ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THEN PREPARE A NEW DRAFT AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT A SUBSEQUENT TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING. PAZ SAID GOH CONTINUED TO RESIST THIS APPROACH, MAINTAINING THAT DETAILED COMMENTS SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR AN ACTUAL NEGOTIATION AT TECHNICAL GROUP LEVEL. MATTER ENDED UP AT SOMEWHAT OF A FRIENDLY IMPASSE, PAZ SAID, AND IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO HIM WHAT ACTUAL NEXT STEP WOULD BE. PAZ REMAINED FIRM IN HIS CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE BOTH A MISTAKE AND CONTRARY TO EXPRESSED WILL OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES FOR CONTADORA TO COME UP WITH A NEW DRAFT AT THIS STAGE.

4. PAZ DID SAY THAT CONTADORA VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD INFORMED GOH TECHNICAL EXPERTS THAT NICARAGUA HAD COME UP WITH A VERY DETAILED SET OF COMMENTS ON THE CONTADORA DRAFT. FOR THEIR PART, GOH REPS PROVIDED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO CONTADORA VICE-FOREIGN MINISTERS CONTAINING SOME GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT TREATY. AMBASSADOR WONDERED OUT LOUD TO PAZ IF FACT THAT NICARAGUA HAD SUPPLIED MORE EXHAUSTIVE COMMENTS TO CONTADORA

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date *6/2/98* Exemption

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MIGHT NOT GIVE NICARAGUAN VIEWS DISPROPORTIONATE WEIGHT IN ANY NEW DRAFT CONTADORA MIGHT COOK UP. PAZ SAID HE DIDN'T THINK SO BECAUSE COMMENTS BY GOH AND GOCR, THOUGH RELATIVELY BRIEF, HAD BEEN ON MAJOR ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE (E.G. SIMULTANEOUS TREATMENT OF ALL SECURITY ISSUES AND DEMOCRATIZATION) AND HE FELT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR CONTADORA TO PAPER OVER SUCH MAJOR DIFFERENCES.

5. PAZ IS OFF TO JAPAN, KOREA AND TAIWAN STARTING THURSDAY, JULY 26 AND WILL RETURN TO HONDURAS ON CR ABOUT AUGUST 18. NEGROPONTE

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