

~~SECRET~~

TRP
 VZCZCTGI *
 RR RUEHC RUEHGT RUESMG RUEHZP RUEHSJ RUEHSN
 RUEOEHA RUEAIIA RUEKJCS RUEEDT
 DE RUEHTG #6944 183 **
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH
 R 021644Z JUL 83
 FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
 TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 5572
 INFO RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0816
 RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5129
 RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 7938
 RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8482
 RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9331
 RUEOEHA / USCINGSO QUARRY HTS PN
 RUEAIIA / CIA WASHDC
 RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC
 RUEEDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1241
 BT

CLASS: SECRET
 CHRG: PROC 7/1/83
 APPRV: AMB:JDNAGROPONTE
 CRTD: AMB:JDNAGROPONTE
 CLEAR: NONE
 DISTR: AMB DCM POL-2
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Key should be repeated to Mexico Caracas Bogota
Repeated with HJG 7/19/83
AK

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 06944

E.O. 12356: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, XC, MARR
 SUBJECT: LIMITATIONS ON OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND SIZE OF MILITARY FORCES AS PART OF OVERALL CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT
2. WE NOTE FROM ARA JOHNSTONE'S VISIT THAT SUBJECT ISSUE IS AGAIN A MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS ONGOING POLICY REVIEWS.
3. LAST YEAR IN 82 TEGUCIGALPA 3100 WE DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE OF NICARAGUAN FORCE REDUCTIONS AS PART OF A SATISFACTORY CENTRAL AMERICAN SETTLEMENT. ALSO, PARAGRAPH F OF THE OPERATIVE PORTION OF THE SAN JOSE DECLARATION OF OCTOBER 4, 1982 CALLS FOR ACTIONS TO "LIMIT ARMAMENTS AND THE SIZE OF MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES TO THE LEVELS THAT ARE STRICTLY NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND NATIONAL DEFENSE, RENOUNCING THE ACQUISITION OF (OFFENSIVE?) WEAPONS". THIS APPROACH ADDRESSES FACT THAT NICARAGUA HAS DEVELOPED AND CONTINUES TO DEVELOP ARMED FORCES IN EXCESS OF ANY REASONABLE DEFENSIVE NEED. INDEED, IN 1981 COMANDANTE ORTEGA SAID NICARAGUA INTENDED TO DEVELOP A REGULAR FORCE OF FIFTY THOUSAND MEN AND A MILITIA OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND. IF THESE TARGETS ARE REALIZED, NICARAGUA WILL HAVE PLACED CLOSE TO TEN PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE UNDER ARMS. CLEARLY, FOR A COUNTRY SUCH AS HONDURAS WHICH HAS APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF ITS POPULATION UNDER ARMS, THIS MILITARIZATION OF NICARAGUA THROUGH BUILD-UP OF GROUND FORCES IS PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST ALARMING FEATURE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY.
4. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT ANY ARTICULATION OF UNITED STATES POLICY IN REGARD TO CENTRAL AMERICA INCLUDE LIMITATION OF SIZE OF ARMED FORCES TO THAT NECESSARY FOR STRICTLY DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. FORMULATION SHOULD BE IN

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

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SUCH A MANNER AS TO PROVIDE FOR REDUCTION OF SIZE OF ARMED FORCES IN CASES WHERE THAT IS JUDGED NECESSARY.

5. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IF WE CONFINE OUR POSITION ONLY TO LIMITING IMPORTATION OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, WE COULD BE CONVEYING INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ACQUIESCING IN NICARAGUAN FORCE BUILD-UP. ALSO, LIMITING OUR POSITION IN THIS WAY COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INCONSISTENT WITH PRINCIPLES OF SAN JOSE DECLARATION. NEGROPONTE

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