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COLLECT
CHARGE TO

Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA CLASSIFICATION	
12065: RDS-1 2/17/02 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M CN: 1236 PINS, PINT, PEPR, KK (S) CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETINGS	7
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1. SEE - ENTIRE TEXT.	
2. I met for half an hour at Costa Rican Embassy in	
Tegucigalpa with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Niehaus	
morning February 17 at latter's request. Their Ambassador,	
Federico Alvarez, was also present.	
2. According to Niehaus status of invitations to Central	·
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San Jose is as follows: Panama's Royo, Nicaragua's Ortega	
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AMB: JDNegroponte

and Salvador's Duarte have accepted. Invitation is being conveyed to Venezuelans today, February 17. Guatemalans have indicated that they don't want anything to do with regional meetings, although no formal invitation yet extended. If Venezuela accepts, then Niehaus will travel personally to Mexico to extend invitation to Lopez Portillo.

- 4. As for Honduras, after first indicating favorable inclination, Foreign Minister Paz Barnica has now told Niehaus that Dr. Suazo is too busy to attend. That was reason Niehaus wanted to see me. Could we persuade Suazo of importance of his participation, lest Carazo use Suazo's absence as a pretext for denouncing MX CADC. Niehaus was going to see Suazo personally just after our meeting. Other concern in this regard is that, if Honduras declines, then Duarte might drop out. In such case, Niehaus said, worst of all worlds might conceivably develop, namely meeting of only three heads of government: Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama.
- 5. I told Niehaus that all of this was pretty new to me and that I would have to seek instructions. Concern that Carazo might denounce CADC was repeated several times by both Niehaus and Ambassador Alvarez.
- 6 . ACTION REQUESTED: Instructions as to what to say



to Dr. Suazo regarding invitation to San Jose. Have appointment to see Suazo at ten a.m. February 19 to discuss other matters at which time this issue could be discussed as well.

NEGROPONTE

