

TELEGRAM

Nov 25 00 54 81

INDICATE
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 CHARGE TO

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FROM	Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION	CONFIDENTIAL
E.O. 12852X	12065: GDS 11/25/87 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M	CN:	8802 R7
TAGS:	PINT, MILI, HO, NU		
SUBJECT:	Conversation with Honduran Minister of Defense		
ACTION:	SecState WASHDC <u>IMMEDIATE</u>		
INFO:.	DOXXWASHDC IMMEDIATE Amembassy GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE Amembassy MANAGUA IMMEDIATE Amembassy SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE Amembassy SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE Amembassy PANAMA IMMEDIATE USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE /SCJ2-109/SCJ2-PLOPS/ IMMEDIATE DIA WASHDC//DB-3E1/DB-3C2/JS1-4B/DN-3C/DN-2D2/ IMMEDIATE CONFIDENTIAL TEGUCIGALPA 8802		
AMB DCM POL DAO MILGP	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Entire Text. 2. During course of November 25 courtesy call on Honduran Minister of Defense, Col. Mario Flores Theresin, by Ambassador and DATT, Defense Minister made following points of interest: 3. First, President Paz will go on television at 8 p.m. local time evening of November 25 to state that Armed Forces will guarantee electoral process very much along same lines as Paz' speech just prior to April, 1980 Constituent Assembly		

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CLEARANCES:

DAO:Col Bollert (in draft)

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/1/98 Exemption _____

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
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elections. This news has been confirmed by local press sources as well as by direct phonecall from GOH Foreign Minister to Ambassador.

4. Second: Minister of Defense stated that Armed Forces will be on state of alert starting midday Saturday with instructions to do their utmost to maintain public order. They will be deployed in such a fashion that they can readily come to the assistance of an electoral tribunal in various constituencies should their assistance be required. In the absence of any incidents and in the absence of any requests from any electoral tribunal, military have instructions to remain inconspicuous as possible from polling places. Flores added that, although incidents could not be ruled out, he was hopeful that balloting would proceed smoothly and weekend would pass quietly. The one factor which creates somewhat higher risk of incidents this time as opposed to the April 1980 elections is fact that so much more is at stake politically.

5. Finally, Flores discussed situation in Nicaragua. He noted that Nicaraguan charges to effect that Honduran forces are deployed aggressively toward that country are absolutely preposterous and, if anything, the reverse is true. At most, two Honduran battalions are currently

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deployed in immediate vicinity of Nicaraguan border
whereas Nicaragua has many times that number deployed
on its side. (EMBASSY COMMENT: To best of our knowledge
there are approximately ten Nicaraguan regular and
border battalions which can be considered as stationed
within immediate vicinity of Honduran border, not
counting whatever additional militia forces may be
so deployed.)

NEGRO PONTE

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