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INDICATE COLLECT CHARGE TO

FROM CLASSIFICATION -CHODIN

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CN: 2759

E.O. K1652 TAGS:

12356: DECL: OADR

PREL, PINR, PROP, PINS, HO, NU, XK

SUBJECT:

NICARAGUAN EFFORTS TO GENERATE WAR SCARE

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC INMEDIATE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USMission USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

TEGUCIGALPA 2759

- ENTIRE TEXT

Doctor Suazo called me to his office afternoon March 22 to discuss Humberto Ortega's latest news conference and associated Nicaraguan efforts to generate scare of war between Honduras and Nicaragua.

AMB DCM POL-2 USIS AMMDAO MIEGP

Suazo expressed concern that Nicaraguans might engage in some limited cross-border strikes followed by an effort. to bring matters before Security Council. According to Suazo, purpose of Nicaraquan maneuver would be to pin blame for regional tensions on Honduras and get Security Council

DRAFTED BY:

to create multilateral force to police Honduras-Nicaragua border.

| DRAFTING DATE | TEL. EXT. | CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB: JDNegroponte: kjl

3-22-83

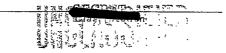
AMB: JDNegroponte

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

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify TY Exemption

- 4. I expressed some doubt that Nicaraguans were about to launch any type of cross-border attack. I told Suazo that I thought it more likely that Nicaragua was engaged in a strictly propagandastic exercise the purpose of which would be to distract world attention from its internal difficulties and also to avoid blame it deserves for the regional problems it is causing. In other words, we may be witnessing an accentuated version of the famous Nicaraguan "bilateral thesis".
- 5. Suazo did not reject my speculation. He nonetheless observed that if Nicaragua engaged in some sort of attack, Honduras could not stand idly by with its arms folded. There would have to be a response. We agreed that matters had not, in any event, reached that point and as an immediate measure we should ask our respective intelligence organizations to increase their efforts to monitor any Nicaraguan buildup along Honduran border. We then left this subject and went on to other more mundane topics such as strike at local American—owned brassiere factory (reported septels).
- 6. Three hours after my meeting with Suazo, he called to say that he had just received word from his U.N. delegate to effect that Nicaragua is proposing Security Council meeting on the Honduras-Nicaragua border situation. Suazo said he was awaiting further details from his _______ Ambassador in New York before deciding on next steps.



7. COMMENT: Unless there is some military activity on border of which we are as yet unaware, fact that GON is reported to be pressing for a Security Council meeting at this time would appear to confirm that this is a propaganda If a Security Council debate takes place, we exercise. believe it is important to from focus on fact that Nicaragua is now facing serious dissidence well within its borders. Indeed, armed resistance is now reportedly taking place as far as 150 kilometers inside Nicaragua from the Honduran border and within 60 kilometers of Managua itself. We also believe that any debate will be useful opportunity to once again air Honduran peace plan, San Jose peace formula and the destabilizing regional role being played by Nicaragua. It also occurs to us that Nicaragua may be engaging in this exercise at this time because of serious loss of prestige it incurred by shabby treatment of Pope John be additional Socialist International meeting may/adsoxbera factor. Lastly we recall that it is the anniversary almost called by Nicaragua last year to the day of the Security Council meeting/on this very

9. How many times can they cry wolf?

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