

UNCLASSIFIED

TEGUCIGALPA 13336

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 INFO RUEAJCS / SECDEF WASHDC
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 RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
 SERGT: P003 12/3/83
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TEGUCIGALPA 13336

F.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MARR, HO
 SUBJECT: SECNAV MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUAZO

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: DOCTOR SUAZO SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A JOINT US-HONDURAN NAVAL FACILITY BUILT AT PUERTO CASTILLA BEFORE HE LEFT OFFICE IN 1986. SECRETARY LEHMAN RESPONDED THAT HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A NAVAL BASE, ESPECIALLY AS A TRAINING FACILITY AND FOR PURPOSES OF "WORKING UP" THE ATLANTIC FLEET BEFORE IT GOES TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. END SUMMARY.
3. DOCTOR SUAZO AND SECNAV LEHMAN HELD WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION FOR CLOSE TO ONE HOUR MORNING DECEMBER ONE. MOST OF CONVERSATION WAS DEVOTED TO BROAD REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES AND HOW THEY ARE VIEWED FROM HONDURAN PERSPECTIVE.
4. TOWARDS END OF MEETING SPECIFIC ISSUE OF A JOINT US-HONDURAN AIR/NAVAL FACILITY AT PUERTO CASTILLA AROSE. ONLY HALF IN JEST, DOCTOR SUAZO SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SUCH A FACILITY CONSTRUCTED BEFORE HE LEFT OFFICE IN 1986. HE ASKED SECRETARY LEHMAN HIS THINKING ON SUBJECT. SECRETARY LEHMAN RESPONDED THAT HE FAVORED THE IDEA OF A NAVAL BASE, ESPECIALLY AS A TRAINING FACILITY. HE THEN EXPLAINED HOW OUR ATLANTIC FLEET NEEDED AREAS TO "WORK UP" BEFORE GOING TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD PURSUE MATTER FURTHER UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
5. SECNAV'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, MADE IN REPLY TO PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH SUAZO, ARE CONTAINED IN TEGUCIGALPA 13242.
6. COMMENT: HONDURAN INTEREST IN CONSTRUCTION OF A HONDURAN AIR/NAVAL FACILITY AT PUERTO CASTILLA TO WHICH UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE ACCESS REMAINS VERY STRONG. NEXT STEPS WOULD APPEAR TO BE WASHINGTON FOLLOW-UP IN RELEASING FUNDS FOR SURVEY, AND AUTHORIZING US/JOE NEGOTIATIONS. LOWMAN

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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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