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TEGUCIGALPA 7695/01

*Chon R*

RR RUEHC RUEBSG RUEHCV RUEHGT RUEHMD RUESMG  
RUEHME RUEHZP RUFHFR RUEHRO RUEHSJ RUEHSN  
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CLASS: SECRET  
CHRG: PROC 7/22/83  
APPR: AMB:JDNEGROPONT  
REF: AMB:JDNEGROPONT  
CLEAR: NONE  
DISTR: AMB DCM POL

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 5984  
INFO RUEBSG / AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1335  
RUEHCV / AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1435  
RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 2893  
RUEHMD / AMEMBASSY MADRID 2215  
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5186  
RUEHME / AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1665  
RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 3020  
RUFHFR / AMEMBASSY PARIS 0276  
RUEHRO / AMEMBASSY ROME 0131  
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 8540  
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9393  
RUEOHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
RUEHDT / USMISSION JSUN NEW IOR 1272  
BT

SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 07695

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**DECAPTIONED**

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR S/SE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, KK, HO  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PAZ BARNICA

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA IS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF HIS EUROPEAN TRIP. HE HAS A PROPOSAL IN HIS HIP POCKET FOR UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING; BUT EL SALVADOR MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY ON BOARD. PAZ WANTS OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN MAINTAINING UNITY AMONG THE CORE FOUR. AND COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT BETANCUR WILL VISIT HONDURAS WEDNESDAY. END SUMMARY.

3. I HAD LENGTHY MEETING WITH PAZ BARNICA ON JULY TWENTY-TWO DURING WHICH TIME HE BRIEFED ME ON HIS EUROPEAN TOUR AND LATEST REGIONAL NEGOTIATING DEVELOPMENTS. HE WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS TRIP TO SPAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY. HE THOUGHT GONZALEZ "REASONABLY EFFECTIVE" ABOUT CENTRAL AMERICA AND WAS GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL HAD GIVEN "ULTIMATUM" TO NICARAGUA ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIZATION. IN FRANCE, HE THOUGHT CHEYSSON WAS MOVING TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL APPROACH. PAZ WAS OBVIOUSLY MOST SATISFIED WITH HIS TRIP TO ROME WHERE HE HAD WARM MEETING WITH POPE AND GOOD SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER COLOMBO. LATTER, PAZ SAID, HAD "CLEAREST UNDERSTANDING" OF CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION OF ANY OF THE EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HE HAD MET.

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

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4. TURNING TO MATTERS CLOSER TO HOME, PAZ SAID THAT, IN THEIR MEETING IN GUATEMALA ON JULY TWENTY, CORE FOUR HAD AGREED ON COMMON POSITION TO BE ADOPTED AT UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING. POSITION IS AS OUTLINED IN THE EIGHT-POINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY FOUR AT END OF MEETING. IN ADDITION, PAZ BARNICA HAS DRAFTED A PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE USE BY CORE GROUP AT CONTADORA MEETING. SUAZO EXPECTS CONTADORA GROUP TO TABLE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL AND THEREFORE SOME COUNTER-PROPOSAL MIGHT BE CALLED FOR. ONLY HITCH WAS THAT EL SALVADOR WAS NOT FULLY ON BOARD WITH PAZ'S IDEA. MY REACTION WAS THAT, IF CONTADORA GROUP TABLES A PROPOSAL, CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CERTAINLY WERE NOT OBLIGED TO RESPOND DEFINITELY OR IMMEDIATELY. THEY COULD ALWAYS ASK FOR TIME TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND MATTERS AND THEN CONSIDER A DELIBERATE REPLY, POSSIBLY IN FORM OF A COUNTER-PROPOSAL. PAZ GAVE ME A COPY OF HIS DRAFT PROPOSAL CALLED "WORKING DOCUMENT NUMBER ONE" AND ASKED FOR MY COMMENTS. (WE ARE TRANSLATING THE PAPER AND WILL TRANSMIT SEPTEL.)

5. PAZ ALSO MENTIONED THAT NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO HAD BEEN INVITED TO JULY TWENTY MEETING BUT DECLINED BECAUSE OF FOURTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, WHICH WAS UNDERSTANDABLE; BUT D'ESCOTO COULD HAVE SENT REPRESENTATIVE, PAZ ADDED.

6. PAZ THEN REITERATED HIS LONG-STANDING CONCERN ABOUT UNITY OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA FOUR. VOLIO HAD TOLD HIM THERE WAS INTERNAL PRESSURE FOR COSTA RICA TO BECOME THE FIFTH CONTADORA COUNTRY WHICH, IN PAZ' WORDS, WOULD BE A "DISASTER". PAZ ASKED THAT WE CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST BEHIND-THE-SCENES TO KEEP COSTA RICA TIED TO THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT VOLIO'S HEALTH DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO BE THE "FIGHTER" HE HAD BEEN BEFORE. VOLIO'S POSITION WAS FIRM, PAZ SAID, BUT HE WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO BE AS VOCAL OR SPIRITED IN HIS PRESENTATIONS. PAZ FEARED THAT AS A RESULT HE MIGHT BE LEFT ALONE TO DEFEND SOME POINTS OF VITAL INTEREST TO HIS COUNTRY. HE CONSIDERED GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO THE MOST CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTIVE OF HONDURAN CONCERNS.

7. FINALLY, PAZ INFORMED ME THAT PRESIDENT BETANCUR OF COLOMBIA WOULD LIKELY COME TO TEGUCIGALPA TO MEET WITH DOCTOR SUAZO ON JULY TWENTY-SEVEN TO DISCUSS CONTADORA PROCESS; DE LA ESPREILLA MIGHT COME AS WELL. LLOREDA HAD

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SUGGESTED, EITHER TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY BUT TUESDAY WAS RULED OUT BECAUSE OF GENERAL VESSEY'S VISIT HERE. PAZ WAS A BIT CONCERNED THAT WEDNESDAY VISIT BY BETANCUR WOULD MAKE PRE-CONTADORA CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS DIFFICULT; BUT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY LLOREDA THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD HAVE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH TO CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES IN PANAMA IF NECESSARY.

8. COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER BETANCUR IS IN A LISTENING MOOD. NEGROPONTE

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