

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

JAN Chron

AT

1/

VZCZCTGI *
RR RUEHC RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEADWW RUEHGT RUESMG
RUEHSJ RUEHSN RUEHUB RUEOEHA
DE RUEHTG #2229/01 047 **
ZNY SSSSS ZZH

R 161737Z FEB 85
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 9091
INFO RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC
RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC
RUEADWW / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 2386
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 6309
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 9764
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 0908
RUEHUB / USINT HAVANA 0243
RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
BT

R

CLASS: ~~SECRET~~
CHRG: PROG 2/15/85
APPRV: POL:ARBARR
DRFTD: POL:EFFEREZ/SMCP
CLEAR: 1.AMB:JDN(DRAFT)
2.DCM:SCLOWMAN
DISTR: POL3 AMB DCM
SA DAO MILGP
USIS AID

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EM/IPS/CR/ISA Date: 4/22/98
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations
 DENY IN PART

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 02229

FOIA Exemptions _____ TS authority to
PA Exemptions _____ CLASSIFY as S or C Sec.
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR.
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, MOPS, HO
SUBJECT: WINDS OF CHANGE: GOH-USG DIALOGUE MAY BE
- IMPROVING GOH CONFIDENCE IN RELATIONSHIP
- WITH UNITED STATES

1. ~~(S)~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY. RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOH OFFICIALS WOULD APPEAR TO REFLECT RENEWED GOH CONFIDENCE IN USG SUPPORT FOR HONDURAS. DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL SECURITY TALKS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTING POSITIVE FACTORS. END SUMMARY.
3. WE HAVE NOTICED RECENTLY SIGNS OF A PERCEPTIBLE SHIFT IN ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY RANKING GOH OFFICIALS. FOR EXAMPLE:
 - -- ON 7 FEBRUARY THE GOH CATEGORICALLY DENIED PUBLICLY AN AFP STORY WHICH CLAIMED THAT HONDURAS AND THE U.S. HAD BROKEN OFF ITS ONGOING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TALKS DUE TO AN IMPASSE REACHED ON THE RMTC QUESTION. WHAT'S MORE, THE GOH, IN ITS OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, NOT ONLY REFERRED TO FUTURE MEETINGS ON THESE SUBJECTS BUT REITERATED ITS INTENTION "TO PROCEED WITH SAID TALKS UNTIL A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCORD IS REACHED BY THE PARTIES."
 - -- ON 11 FEBRUARY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GEN. WALTER LOPEZ DEFENDED HO-U.S. JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES TO REPORTERS BY AFFIRMING THAT THROUGH THEM THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES "WERE OBTAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCES IN DIVERSE MILITARY STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL FIELDS." HE ALSO NOTED THAT JOINT EXERCISES LIKE AHUAS TARA III "COULD BE DEFINED AS A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE OF FRATERNAL LINKS BETWEEN TWO HEMISPHERIC NATIONS THAT SHARE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND A COMMON HOPE THAT AMERICA REMAIN FOREVER THE HOME OF LIBERTY, HUMAN

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

RIGHTS, AND OF SOVEREIGN PEOPLES WHO CHOOSE THE COURSE OF THEIR DESTINIES."

-- ALSO ON 11 FEBRUARY, FOREIGN MINISTER EDGARDO PAZ BARNICA DENIED TO NEWSMEN THAT BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TALKS WITH THE USG HAD "COOLED" BECAUSE OF ALLEGED PRESSURES ON THE GOH BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON BEHALF OF THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS GUERRILLAS OPERATING IN THE AREA. INSTEAD, PAZ BARNICA POINTED OUT THAT SAID BILATERAL TALKS WERE "GOING WELL" ("LAS NEGOCIACIONES MARCHAN POR BUEN CAMINO") DUE TO THE RECEPTIVENESS SHOWN BY THE USG TO GOH PROPOSALS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO COMMENTED IN A POSITIVE MANNER IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW REPORTED BY THE WASHINGTON POST WHEN HE NOTED THAT HONDURAS HAD BACKED AWAY FROM EARLIER DEMANDS FOR A FULL-FLEDGED SECURITY PACT IN RESPONSE TO U.S. ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE LACK OF SUCH A PACT WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OCCASIONS AT WHICH HIGH-RANKING GOH OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT THEIR PLEASURE WITH THE WAY THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS GOING RECENTLY, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE LAST VISIT OF THE WASHINGTON SECURITY AD HOC GROUP. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON FEB. 14, IN ADDITION TO GIVING THE GREEN LIGHT TO THE TRAINING OF COSTA RICANS AT THE RMTG, PRESIDENT SUAZO REMARKED THAT THE TALKS WERE GOING WELL ("ESTAMOS EN UN BUEN CAMINO"). SUAZO ALSO HAD NOTED IN HIS INAUGURATION SPEECH FOR THE PALMEROLA AIRSTRIP THAT BOTH NATIONS WERE IN A NEGOTIATING PROCESS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS.

5. ALTHOUGH NO DOUBT DUE TO A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, WE BELIEVE THIS CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IS AT LEAST IN PART A REFLECTION OF THE BILATERAL TALKS. THE GOH SEEMS TO FEEL THAT WE HAVE RESPONDED SERIOUSLY TO THEIR CONCERNS. THEY ESPECIALLY SEEM TO VIEW OUR PROPOSAL ON SECURITY ASSURANCES AS CONCILIATORY TOWARD GOH POSITION, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT REPRESENT ALL THEY HAVE ASKED FOR. (THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION IS REFLECTED IN PAZ BARNICA'S OWN PUBLIC EXPLANATIONS AS TO WHY WE BELIEVE A SEPARATE SECURITY PACT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY AND COULD IN FACT UNDERMINE THE RIO

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

TEGUCIGALPA 02229

TREATY.) THEY ARE ALSO PLEASED, PERHAPS EVEN SURPRISED, AT OUR FORTHCOMING POSITIONS ON CLAIMS AND REPAIRS AND THE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF U.S. PERSONNEL. ANOTHER REFLECTION OF THIS NEW ATTITUDE IS THAT GOH OFFICIALS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, HAVE STOPPED NEGOTIATING THROUGH THE PRESS. INDEED, THEIR ACTIONS NOW SEEM TO INDICATE A BACKLASH AGAINST NEGATIVE PRESS STORIES SUCH AS THE CHARGE THAT THE TAL&S WERE STALLED OR THAT THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS WERE BEING EXPELLED. THE SHIFT IN ATTITUDE IS ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE GOH IS PREPARING ITS OWN PUBLIC OPINION FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THERE IS GREATER FAITH IN THE U.S./HONDURAN RELATIONSHIP ON THE PART OF GOH OFFICIALS THAN THERE HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

7

6. PERHAPS THE MESSAGE OF OUR CONSTANCY AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR SUPPORT FOR HONDURAS IS BEGINNING TO GET THROUGH.
NEGROPONTE

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

TEGUCIGALPA 02229