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TELEGRAM

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	FROM Ambassador TEGUCIGALPA	CLASSIFICATION SECRET
E.O. 11652 TAGS: SUBJECT:	02 12065: XDS-3 1/4/81 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M 0030 PEPR, PINT, HO, VE, XK, CS, CO, ES CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONAL GROUPING.	
ACTION:	SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE	
REF:	SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 0030 NODIS DECAPTIONED	
AMB DCM	REF: TEGUCIGALPA 9592 1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT 2. I met again with Foreign Minister Elvir afternoon January 4 to discuss Central America Regional Grouping. 3. Elvir said he had consulted with President Paz and was in position to state that GOH fully supports concept. Elvir said his government is in agreement that core group should consist of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador and he believes that logical next step is for a private meeting between the three Foreign Ministers concerned, either in Tegucigalpa or San Jose. 4. Elvir had a few minor reservations about talking paper which I had left him. First, he had problem with term "consultative group" which we used to describe other	

DRAFTED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 1-4-81	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:JDNegroponte
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CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

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

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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interested nations. Difficulty was prompted by our somewhat misleading translation of term as "grupo asesor" in Spanish. Elvir said he preferred phrase "paises cooperadores" in Spanish. Elvir's next point was that he thought specific mandate of Association could be spelled out along lines suggested without specifically naming Nicaragua. Elvir stressed that he was not suggesting that mandate of Group in any way be changed; but he thought it important that it be launched in most auspicious way possible, minimizing opportunities for adverse reaction.

5. Speaking more generally, Elvir said he thought such an initiative very desirable, that it should get underway as soon as possible, and that we must ensure ~~XXXX~~ once the Association ^{has} ~~is~~ surfaced ^{that} / prompt supportive actions are taken by other friendly countries. Elvir said there was no doubt in his mind that Communists would quickly discern purpose of Association, seek to discredit it and possibly foment adverse internal political reaction. In a somewhat understated fashion, Elvir also surmised that Mexico would not identify itself with this initiative. I responded ~~that~~ formation of such an Association would no doubt generate some heat but the real test would be if it ~~XXXXXX~~ resulted in more coordinated political action and greater international political support. Elvir agreed.

6. Conversation this subject ended with agreement that I would report our meeting to Washington and get back to Elvir in the next few days on whether or not he should now take initiative in raising matter with his Costa Rican and Salvadoran counterparts. I told Elvir I would be going to Panama January 5, returning afternoon January 6; and we agreed to be back in touch morning of January 7.
7. ACTION REQUESTED: Department's guidance and/or instructions requested.


NEGROPONTE