

TELEGRAM

A447

APR 19 23 21 83
INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

R

FROM: AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356
11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

N/A

CN: 3759

LA PRENSA COLUMNIST PRAISES AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE

ACTION:
USIS
AMB/ICM
POL
ECON
JAO
AID
DAO
CONS
MILGP
PC
CHRON

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

Newsweek file

UNCLASSIFIED TEGUCIGALPA 3759

USINFO FOR P/RC; P/PPL; VOA/BL
STATE FOR ARA/CEN

- REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR MARIO GUILLERMO DURON IN HIS COLUMN IN CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA CHARACTERIZED AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE AS A "SOLID MAN OF PRINCIPLES" WHOSE WORK HAS RESULTED IN A "MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-HONDURAN RELATIONS." THE PIECE, WHICH APPEARED ON 18 APRIL, REFLECTS THE SENTIMENT THAT MANY HONDURANS HOLD FOR THE AMBASSADOR.
- HEREWITH POST TRANSLATION.

DRAFTED BY: IO: RJCallahan/mtg	DRAFTING DATE 4/19/83	TEL. EXT. 289	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: IO: RJCallahan
-----------------------------------	--------------------------	------------------	--

50153-101

UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

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

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

3. (BEGIN TEXT) SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN OUR COUNTRY, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR JOHN DIMITRI NEGROPONTE HAS INSISTED THAT HIS DIPLOMATIC MISSION HAS BEEN -FUNDAMENTALLY - THE ATTEMPT TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. THE CRITICISMS OF THIS POLICY TOWARD HONDURANS COME FROM THE SO-CALLED LIBERAL CIRCLES OF THE AMERICAN PRESS. THESE CIRCLES PREFER TO GATHER LEFTIST INFORMATION FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD - ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE UNTRUE - INSTEAD OF THAT INFORMATION WHICH COMES FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES OR FROM THOSE WHO HOLD MODERATE OPINIONS.
4. HOWEVER, IN MY JUDGMENT, MR. NEGROPONTE'S POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC QUALITY IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THAT OF HIS PREDECESSORS. HIS POSITION AND HIS ATTITUDES REVEAL THE CONSISTENCY OF A SOLID MAN OF PRINCIPLES. NO HONDURAN, THOUGH HE MAY DISAGREE WITH HIS IDEAS, CAN DENY MR. NEGROPONTE'S HUMAN QUALITIES OR HIS IMPORTANT PRESENCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA IN THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE FOR WORLD HEGEMONY BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT SUPERPOWERS.
5. HIS CONCRETE AND RAPID FORM OF EXPRESSION DISPLAYS HIS BRILLIANT INTELLIGENCE, WHICH WAS PALPABLY SHOWN AT THE TEGUCIGALPA ROTARY CLUB LAST WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6. IN A BRIEF BUT SUBSTANTIVE TALK MR. NEGROPONTE DELINEATED THE SPECIAL INGREDIENTS OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD HONDURAS AS THESE: a) SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS; b) ASSISTANCE TO DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF HONDURAS.

6. CERTAIN NEWSPAPER COMMENTATORS FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY INSIST ON FINDING OTHER AREAS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN HONDURAS AND PORTRAY HIM AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DIRECTORS OF ANTI-SANDINISTA GROUPS IN OUR COUNTRY. ALL OF THIS IS UNPROVED. MEANWHILE, WHAT HE HIMSELF HAS SAID VERIFIES HIS DETERMINED SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE LOANS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ALONG WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ MARTINEZ AND AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE MARCH IN CONCERT AND THAT THIS POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC ACCOMMODATION REPRESENTS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-HONDURAN RELATIONS.

7. THE PRICE FOR HONDURAS WILL BE THE DISTRUST AND ENMITY OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH ENVY, RESENT, OR HATE AMERICAN POWER. BUT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR OUR HOMELAND NOT TO CHOOSE A CLEAR AND DETERMINED OPTION IN ITS INTERNATIONAL POLICY? WOULD IT BE REALISTIC FOR HONDURAN GOVERNMENTS TO TEND TOWARD THE TOTALITARIAN SYSTEMS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND NOT INCLINE THEMSELVES TO THE GIANT OF THE NORTH? FOR THE TIME BEING, THIS ALLIANCE COULD NOT BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH SIDES: FOR HONDURAS, BECAUSE IN ITS WEAKNESS IT FINDS PROTECTION IN A FEDERATION OF STATES WITH IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR SYSTEMS; FOR THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE CENTRAL AMERICA IS A GEOGRAPHIC ENEMY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ITS PEACE STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET POWER.

8. AMBASSADOR NEGROPONTE HAS INVOLVED HIMSELF PROFOUNDLY IN HONDURAN SOCIETY. HE IS A MAN WHO IS LISTENED TO AND ATTENDED TO WITH INTEREST AND RESPECT. HIS MANNER OF CONDUCTING DIPLOMACY DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT HE ~~IS~~^{IS} THE TYPE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WHO LIKES TO INTERFERE DIRECTLY ~~AND~~^{AND} ~~EX~~^{EX}PLAINTLY IN THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF OUR COUNTRY, BUT HIS INFLUENCE IS FELT OR PERCEIVED. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO NOTE THAT WHOEVER THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IS IN HONDURAS, HE IS LISTENED TO BECAUSE HE REPRESENTS THE MOST IMPORTANT WESTERN NATION. BUT VERY FEW AMBASSADORS LEAVE THE STAMP OF THEIR OWN AND UNIQUE PERSONALITY SO WELL DEFINED AS MR. NEGROPONTE. (END TEXT)

CALLAHAN 

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification