

CONFIDENTIAL

TEGUCIGALPA 14275/01

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OO RUEHC RUEHSJ RJEHGT RUESMG RUEHME RUEHZP  
RUEHSN RUTHDT  
DE RUEHTG #4275/01 365 \*\*  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 311757Z DEC 83  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9421  
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 8949  
INFO RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1392  
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5573  
RUEHME / AMEMBASSY MEXICO 2350  
RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8587  
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9314  
RUEHDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1437  
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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: PROG 12/31/83  
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPON  
DRFTD: AMB:JDN  
CLEAR: NONE  
DISTR: AMB DCM POL  
CHRON

JAN  
Caron

SECTION 01 OF \* TEGUCIGALPA 14275

EXDIS **DECAPTIONED**

SAN JOSE FOR AMBASSADOR WINSOR FROM NEGROPONTE

E.O. 12356: 12/31/99

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: THE MONGE STYLE: CONSENSUS NOT CONFRONTATION

REF: SAN JOSE 8772

1. ~~REDACTED~~ ENTIRE TEXT.
2. READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR MESSAGE ABOVE SUBJECT.
3. REGARDING PARA NINE, WE UNDERSTAND VARIOUS INTERESTS GOCR BELIEVES IT MUST BALANCE IN PURSUING ITS FOREIGN POLICY. AND WE UNDERSTAND WHAT MOTIVATES SUGGESTION IN FOURTH SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH FOUR WHICH STATES QUOTE WE MUST REASSURE COSTA RICA'S FRIENDS THAT ITS TACKING IS NOT DUE TO UNCERTAINTY BUT RATHER TO THE CONSENSUS STYLE OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS EVERY BIT A REALIST AND FRIEND OF THEIRS AND OURS, BUT WHO ALSO PERCEIVES A NEED TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE PLN PARTY AND TO SUSTAIN AN INDEPNDENT IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE LESS COMMITTED POLITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. END QUOTE.
4. OUR ONLY COMMENT WOULD BE THAT THERE MAY BE WAYS IN WHICH COSTA RICA COULD AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WEIGHT IT ASSIGNS TO THESE VARIOUS INTERESTS ARE NOT OUT OF BALANCE. SURELY GOCR DOES NOT WANT TO PURSUE FRIENDSHIP WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO EXCLUSION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY. MORE SPECIFICALLY, GOCR WOULD NOT WANT EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS TO CONCLUDE THAT SOMEHOW GOCR BELIEVES IT CAN BUY LONG-TERM IMMUNITY FROM PROBLEMS POSED BY NICARAGUA BY PUBLICLY DISTANCING ITSELF FROM EL SALVADOP AND/OR HONDURAN POLICIES. HONDURANS NEE REASSURANCE ON THIS SCORE, PERHAPS NOT SO MUCH FROM US AS YOU SUGGEST, BUT MORE LIKELY THROUGH SOME DIRECT DIPLOMACY WITH COSTA RICA ITSELF.

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

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TEGUCIGALPA 14275/01

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5. RECENT SELECTION OF A NEW COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD APPEAR TO OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE HONDURAS/COSTA RICAN DIALOGUE TO STATUS QUO PRIOR TO VOLIOS' DECLINING FORTUNES WITH GOCR. VOLIO WAS MUCH RESPECTED HERE AND HIS DECLINING INFLUENCE DURING PAST YEAR WAS SORELY LAMENTED BY GOH. PERHAPS FOREIGN MINISTER GUTIERREZ COULD GET THINGS OFF TO A GOOD START BY CONSIDERING AN EARLY VISIT TO HONDURAS. THIS WOULD PERMIT HIM TO PERSONALLY EXPLAIN TO HIS HONDURAN COLLEAGUE THE VARIOUS TACS OF COSTA RICA'S DIPLOMACY, WHILE AT THE VERY SAME TIME SYMBOLICALLY REASSURING GOH AND HONDURAN PUBLIC OF GOCR SOLIDARITY BY MERE FACT OF VISIT.

6. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, GOCR DOES NOT MAKE SOME SUCH GESTURE AND CONTINUES, FOR EXAMPLE, TO MAKE STATEMENTS WHICH ARE CONSTRUED HERE AS FURTHER SOFTENING GOCR STANCE ON NICARAGUA, (AS APPEARED TO BE CASE IN GUTIERREZ' FIRST PUBLIC REMARKS DECEMBER 27) THEN ANY EXPLANATION USG MIGHT MAKE TO GOH ABOUT STEADFASTNESS OF GOCR POLICIES WILL BE MET WITH DEEP SCEPTICISM.

7. WE RECOGNIZE GOH DIPLOMACY DURING PAST YEAR COULD ALSO HAVE USED SOME BRUSHING UP OF ITS OWN. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALSO FOCUSSED A LOT OF PERSONAL ATTENTION ON EUROPE, PROBABLY FOR MANY OF THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS THAT GOCR NURTURES RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. PRESIDENT SUAZO DOESN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT FOREIGN RELATIONS OTHER THAN BILATERAL POLICIES TOWARDS U.S., NICARAGUA, AND EL SALVADOR. EVEN ON THOSE SUBJECTS, SUAZO HAS NOT DONE MUCH TO INVIGORATE MATTERS. AND, AS A RESULT, REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH SHOULD ENJOY MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO A SECONDARY POSITION EXCEPT WHEN OBLIGED TO PAY ATTENTION BY CONTADORA PROCESS. THUS, IN ADDITION TO NEGLECTING AN ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE, OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN FRIENDS HAVE FAILED TO BUILD A BROAD BASE OF POLITICAL COOPERATION WHICH WOULD AS A

  
TEGUCIGALPA 14275/01

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MATTER OF COURSE HAVE THEM LESS VULNERABLE TO SOME  
OF THE CONTADORA FOUR'S MORE MISCHIEVOUS MANEUVERS.  
PERHAPS THIS CRITICISM IS VALID TO SOME DEGREE OR  
OTHER OF EVERY ONE OF THE CORE FOUR COUNTRIES. I  
THINK, IN CASE OF HONDURAS AT LEAST, THE MESSAGE IS  
BEGINNING TO SINK IN AND I VIEW DESIGNATION OF HIGHLY  
RESPECTED AMBASSADOR ROBERTO GALVEZ AS AMBASSADOR FOR  
CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS AS A VERY POSI-  
TIVE, ALBEIT BELATED, FIRST STEP. GALVEZ HAS HELD A  
VARIETY OF TOP POSTS IN THIS COUNTRY FOR CLOSE TO  
THIRTY YEARS. THIS CALM AND LOW KEY STYLE WILL GO  
OVER WELL WITH THE NEIGHBORS AND PERHAPS HIS APPOINT-  
MENT WILL PROMPT SIMILAR DESIGNATIONS IN OTHER CENTRAL  
AMERICAN COUNTRIES. LET'S HOPE IT IS NOT "A DAY LATE  
AND A DOLLAR SHORT." NEGROPONTE

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TEGUCIGALPA 14275/02