## TELEGGM

INDICATE
COLLECT
CHARGE TO

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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

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12356: DECL: OADR

CN: 5258

TAGS: SUBJECT:

NEXT STEPS WITH THE NICARAGUANS

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC

PREL, NU, US, XK

SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 525

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DECAPTIONED

REF:

MANAGUA 2105

- 1. ENTIRE TEXT
- 2. From Tegucigalpa vantage point we would favor quiet exploratory talks with Borge along lines proposed by Ambassador Quainton in paragraph five reftel, although we are skeptical about the prospects. Borge's level of interest in such discussions could in-and-of-itself be an interesting measure of the degree to which Nicaraguans are feeling the pressure and really interested in serious solutions with their neighbors.
- 3. We would have strong reservations, however, about any immediate follow-up by Ambassador Stone. Talks with local Ambassador can be characterized as part of a normal, continuing process. Unless carefully \*\*\* prepared and

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DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT.

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

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5-23-83 | 211 |

CLEARANCES:

CLASSIFICATION

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

50153-101

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

orchestrated, talks with Ambassador Stone will be portrayed as acceding to Nicaraguan insistence on bilateral talks. We assume that we would want to couch any eventual involvement with Nicaragua by Ambassador Stone in terms of consultations with all rpt all Central American countries; and that, in any case, Nicaragua would be the last of the five that he would visit.

4. Even preferable to any direct talks between Ambassador Stone and Nicaraguans, we would recommend consideration that his contacts be confined to the other four Central American countries in a behind-the-scenes supportive role designed to facilitate their coordination of an effective regional diplomatic strategy. This would emphasize diplomatic support for our friends, avoid creation of any suspicion about separate deals and drive home point that real progress towards peace in the region is not possible until Nicaragua deals seriously with its neighbors on a comprehensive, regional ki basis. Such a posture in our view would also strengthen Ambassador Quainton's hand in achieving more meaningful dialogue of his own with Sandinistas.

NEGROPONTE

