

TELEGRAM

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FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION

CN: 3875

12356

E.O. 17652

TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

DNG: CO 4/21/93
OVIP, PREL, HO, US
INVITATION TO PRESIDENT SUAZO FOR STATE VISIT

SECSTATE WASHDC

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 3875

1. ~~ENTIRE~~ TEXT.

2. I propose that the White House and the Department consider extending an invitation to President Suazo to make a State visit to the United States sometime before the year's end. A State visit this year would build on Suazo's official working visit last year to consolidate the close relationship between our countries during a difficult period.

3. At a time of intense Congressional and public interest in Central America, a state visit by Suazo would provide an opportunity to focus attention on some aspects of the regional situation which have not received sufficient attention: the consolidation of democratic, constitutional government in Honduras and Honduras' concern about Nicaragua's arms build up and its export of revolution. The State visit would permit stops in several cities besides Washington ~~and~~ at USG expense,

DIST:

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POL: RFBURGHARDT:dsn

DRAFTING DATE

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TEL. EXT.

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~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFICATION

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(Formerly FS-41)
January 1977
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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify

Date 6/1/98 Exemption

enabling the GOH to tell its story to a wide audience.

4. Since President Suazo's last visit to Washington in July 1982, there has been a significant increase in our military relations with Honduras, including the largest joint exercise to date, discussion of installing a training facility here for Salvadoran troops, installation of a radar system, and the beginning of work on the MILCON airfield project. All of these activities have raised the profile of Honduras. In return for being our most reliable partner in Central America, Honduras has paid the price of rising belligerency by the Sandinistas and their friends, including some very explicit threats by the ~~Comandantes~~ Comandantes, a string of maritime provocations and a nearly successful attempt to assassinate the Honduran Charge in Bogota. These pressures, coupled with the hot debate on United States policy in Central America in our Congress, have ~~understandably~~ understandably left Suazo and his chief aides in need of some USG reassurance. The July 1982 visit was very successful in shoring up ~~the~~ Honduras' confidence in the steadfastness of our friendship and of American purposes in the region. I believe that some time between now and the end of the year it would be highly desirable to provide President Suazo the uniquely effective reassurance of a State visit.

NEGROPONTE

[Redacted]
 Classification