CHARGE TO

FROM

CLASSIFICATION

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

EXDIS

E.O. NYBERK

DECL: OADR

CN: 10600

TAGS: SUBJECT: 12356: DECL: OADR
OVIP (REAGAN; RONALD W.), HO, GT

RIOS MONTT PARTICIPATION IN SAN PEDRO EVENTS

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT/IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE NIACT/IMMEDIATE

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

> 10600 TEGUCIGALPA

EXDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BILL HENKEL

WHITE HOUSE ALSO PLEASE REPEAT TO RON FULLER IN SAN PEDRO

ENTIRE TEXT

AMB DCM POL

Ambassador was summoned to Presidential Palace by Doctor thirty Suazo afternoon November/NM to discuss Rios Montt participation in December/A events at San Pedro. Also attending meeting were Foreign Minister Paz Barnica, Minister of Presidency Flores and Embassy Public Affairs Officer Arcos.

Foreign Minister recalled that when initial invitation to Rios Montt had been extended at our request so that he could hold bilateral with President Reagan, invitation had

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DRAFTING DATE TEL. EXT.

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CLEARANCES:

60153-101

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

clearly specified that Rios Montt expected to arrive afternoon December four perhaps an hour or two before President Reagan's arrival. GOH was now therefore somewhat taken aback by call from Guatemalan Foreign Minister who informed Paz Barnica that Rios Montt intended to visit Salvador for meetings with President Magana December two and "had decided" to come to Tegucigalpa Friday.

December three. It was further Rios Montt's EX intention to travel together with Doctor Suazo from Tegexai Tegucigalpa to San Pedro on December 4.

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- 4. I will spare our readers the atmospherics of Doctor Suazo's reaction to these unexpected and rather belated suggestions. The long and the short of our conversation was that Doctor Suazo is unable to receive Rios Montt before the afternoon of December four and that it wands would be inconvenient to receive him in Tegucigalpa in any event since San Pedro is the Locus of all preparations for President Reagan's visit.
- 5. GOH therefore intends to reaffirm its invitation to Rios Montt for an arrival in San Pedro between two and two-thirty p.m. Saturday, December four. After arrival ceremonies, Doctor Suazo would hold bilateral of approximately one hour's length with Rios Montt whereupon latter would proceed to his hotel awaiting bilateral with President Reagan. GOH understands that Rios Montt is probably

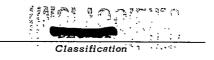


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not rpt not interested in substantive economic discussions because of the nature of his delegation and his desire that his first meeting with any American official on this visit be with President Reagan.

- 6. Doctor Suazo made clear that he did not expect any press conferences or press declarations to be made after his bilateral with Rios Montt and GOE also intends to make clear that for sake of uniformity with program being neither two Central American elaborated/Nerg of the/three Presidents will be holding ax press conferences until after President Reagan's departure.
- 7. Doctor Suazo/also very clear that his program simply does not allow any possibility of receiving Rics Montt before the date/andxtime/already indicated.
- 8. Finally, GOH strongly suspects that Rios Montt's suggestion of arriving twenty-four hours arriving twenty-four hours arrived is designed to take advantage of insuring inevitable press focus on Honduras during that time. Suazo is determined that there be no publicity prior to President Reagan's arrival which might in any wak way undermine impact of our President's visit.
- 9. GOH and ourselves continue to expect Guatemalan delegation for nine a.m. meeting Thursday, December two at San Pedro military airbase for "walkthrough" of visit arrangements.

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Barnica called me to say that he had subsequently spoken twice to his Guatemalan counterpart. In face of Paz Barnica's explanations, Rios Montt has now reportedly abandoned idea of December three arrival in Yagagiy Tegucigalpa. He is now suggesting ten a.m. arrival at San Pedro December four "whether or not Suazo is there to greet him". Paz Barnica told me that he intended to review matter again with President Suazo morning December one.

11. COMMENT: After a coupld of false starts, GOH and GOG may be reaching agreement on Rios Montt arrival time.

NEGEOPONTE

