

TELEGRAM

Oct 6 23 53 '82

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<p>12356 E.O. 11652 TAGS: SUBJECT: ACTION: INFO:</p>	<p>FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA</p> <p>DECL: 10/6/88 PEPR, XK, HO, MX, VE INVITATION TO SUAZO TO GO TO VENEZUELA</p> <p>SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE</p> <p>AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY MANAGUA</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS TEGUCIGALPA 8751</p> <p>EXDIS REF: (A) DECAPTIONED SAN JOSE 6729 NOTAP (B) CARACAS 9581 (C) TEGU 8020</p> <p>DIST: AMB DCM POL EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS CONEX CHRON</p>	<p>CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS TEGUCIGALPA 8751 DECAPTIONED</p> <p>1. ENTIRE TEXT.</p> <p>2. Ambassador accompanied by political counselor called on President Suazo October 6 in his hometown of La Paz to discuss the Venezuelan invitation, as instructed in Ref A. Suazo told us that he had already declined the invitation.</p> <p>3. The day before two special emissaries from Caracas, accompanied by the Venezuelan charge, had flown to La Paz in a GOH helicopter to present to Suazo President Herrera Campin's letter. Herrera invited Suazo to meet in Caracas with Nicaraguan Comandante Ortega and Mexican President Lopez Portillo on October 13. Suazo said that in reply he noted that on October 12 he was scheduled to meet with the former</p>
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<p>DRAFTED BY: POL: RFBURGHARDT dsn</p>	<p>DRAFTING DATE 10/6/82</p>	<p>TEL. EXT. 214</p>	<p>CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: XXXXXXXXXXXX AMB NEGROPONTE</p>
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CLEARANCES:

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CLASSIFICATION

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

50153-101

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

hostages freed from the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce building, and if the next day he sat down with Daniel Ortega, through whose country the terrorists had entered Honduras to carry out that attack, he would be "a traitor". Suazo noted that his Venezuelan callers had been quite taken aback by his response.

4. Suazo said he also reminded the Venezuelans of his letter to Herrera and Lopez, in which he had stated that if those countries wished to help Honduras, he would appreciate it if they would resettle some of the refugees. He also reminded them that in his letter he had emphasized that the Central American problem required a global solution and was not merely a Honduran/Nicaraguan bilateral dispute. Suazo said he had explained that patrolling the Honduran/Nicaraguan border would not solve the Central American problem because the Sandinistas and their friends would just continue to subvert the countries of the region. Finally, he noted to the Venezuelans that the San Jose meeting had just been concluded and would be a major factor in the situation.

5. Ambassador commented that the Venezuelan invitation appeared to be an effort to sabotage the San Jose meeting, to disregard Suazo's letter to Herrera and Lopez, and to portray the issue as strictly bilateral. The Ambassador

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said the idea struck him as another one of Jorge Castaneda's propaganda ploys -- a typical piece of pre-UNGA grandstanding. It would therefore be best, the Ambassador suggested, to delay any meeting with Nicaragua which involved Mexico until after the della Madrid administration took over.

6. Suazo responded that he agreed entirely that the situation now was not ripe for a meeting at the Chief of State level. He thought a meeting of Honduran and Nicaraguan foreign ministers was possible, but did not mention any timeframe.

7. The Ambassador suggested that if the Venezuelans or Mexicans pressure Suazo again, the San Jose declaration provided an excellent vehicle to deflect them. The San Jose meeting had established a procedure for dealing with the Central American problem. Suazo said he agreed Honduras had a commitment to the other countries at the San Jose meeting to deal with these problems in a multi-lateral fashion; the kind of session Herrera was suggesting would not be in the spirit of that commitment. Suazo said he probably would refer to the San Jose meeting in his written reply to Herrera.

8. Finally, Suazo said he found Herrera's letter rather odd because it recalled that Mexico and Venezuela had

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provided Honduras the San Jose petroleum credits (which in fact Honduras has only just begun to use). Suazo reacted with obvious disgust to what he took to be Herrera's insinuation of a debt, observing that democracy was not for sale.

9. The President himself summarized his remarks best by saying that his policy was to move "arm in arm with the United States" on these questions. He said he was confident that we knew each other's thoughts on these matters. ~~implying that surprised him if there were any~~
~~even imagine he would accept Herrera's invitation~~

10. Action requested: I believe it would reinforce President Suazo's strong sense that we are on the same wave length if I could give him a copy of President Reagan's letter to Herrera and Lopez. We have apparently not received text of that letter. We would appreciate it if Department would send English and Spanish texts, with authorization to share the latter with Suazo.

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