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TEL. EXT. 214

that on October 12 he was scheduled to meet with the former CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

AMB NEGROPONTE

CLEARANCES:

CLASSIFICATION

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

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (V) Release () Excise () Deny (1) Declassify 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 Auazo's letter to Herrira and Lopez, and to portray the issue as strictly bilateral. The Ambassador

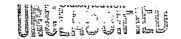


OPTIONAL FORM 153/ (Formerly FS-413A January 197: Dept. of State said the idea struck him as another one of Jorge
Castaneda's propaganda ploys -- a typical piece of
pre-UNGA grandstanding. It would therefore be best, the
Ambassador suggested, to delay any meeting with Nicaragua
which involved Mexico 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 withthe 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 multilateral 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, Xaezo 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. implyings that a supprised which is a summarized with the consideration of the same and the

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 appeciate it if Department would send English and Spanish texts, with authorization to share the latter with Suazo.

NEGROPONTE

