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VZCZCTGI * PP RUEEC RUEELL DE RUEHTG #1174 251 ** ZNY CCCCC ZZE 071636Z SEP 84 FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA TO RUEEC / SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5423 INFO RUEELL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL CHRGE: PROG 09/7/84

APPRV: AMB: JDNEGROPONTE DRFTD: AMB: JDNEGROPONTE

CLEAR: NONE

DISTR: AMB DCM POL3

ECON MILGP DAO

(2)

CERON

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, XK, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND ADVISORS BRIEF

DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON STATUS OF CONTADORA

NEGOTIATIONS.

- INTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MINUS CENTRAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, TO BRIEF ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS ON STATUS OF CONTADORA NEGOTIATIONS. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS CLEARLY TO DEMON-STRATE THAT HONDURAS HAD BEEN RESPONSIVE TO CONTADORA PROCESS AND THAT NICARAGUA WAS THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AFTER FORMAL PORTION OF BRIEFING, CNE FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISOR SAID THAT BRIEFING WAS DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT CONTADORA COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WHICH GOE BELIEVES EAS BEEN MISREPRE-SENTING HONDURAN POSITION. GOH BRIEFING WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO PREEMPT ANY CRITICISM OF ITS PERFORMANCE WEICH MIGHT ARISE AT UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS IN PANAMA. END SUMMARY.

3. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA CONVOKED RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO PRESENT HONDURAN PERSPECTIVE ON LATEST CONTADORA DEVELOPMENTS. PAZ WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOUR KEY FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISORS. CENTRAL AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WERE NOT INVITED.

ECNDURAN PRESENTATION WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS. FIRST A DESCRIPTION OF THE HONDURAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ACTA DE CONTADORA. HONDURANS POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD BEEN FIRST TO ACCEPT THE ACTA AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS; THAT THEY HAD SUBMITTED WRITTEN OBSERVA-TIONS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER DATED JUNE 27 FROM PRESI-DENT SUAZO TO THE FOUR CONTADORA PRESIDENTS; AND THAT THEY HAD ALWAYS FAVORED CONTADORA AS THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS.

IN THE SECOND PART OF THE BRIEFING, EONDURANS DES- -CRIBED THE TENOR OF THE AUGUST 24-27 MEETING IN PANAMA, OUTLINING BRIEFLY THE BASIC POSITION ADOPTED BY EACH CENTRAL AMERICAN DELEGATION. COSTA RICA FAD INSISTED PRINCIPALLY ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. EL SALVADOR HAD EMPHASIZED ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE ISSUE OF VERIFICA-TION, ARMS TRAFFICKING, AND THE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM.

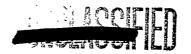
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GUATEMALA EAD FOCUSED ON A NUMBER OF FORMAL AND LEGAL ISSUES. IT HAD ALSO INSISTED ON MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM. HONDURAS HAD EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FULLY VERIFIABLE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN THE AREA OF SECUIRTY, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO SETTING MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR AND A CALENDAR OF REDUCTION OF TROOP LEVELS, ARMAMENT, AND FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS.

- C. ACCORDING TO THE BRIEFING, THE NICARAGUANS TOOK A VERY HARD LINE. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TINGCO SAID, THE ACTA IS VERY FAR FROM THE REAL POSSIBILITIES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE NICARAGUANS REFUSED TO CONTEMPLATE ANY BINDING OBLIGATIONS IN THE POLITICAL AREA AND THEY ALSO RAISED A SEPIES OF PRECONDITIONS (MANY OF THEM OBNOXICUS) BEFORE EVEN CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS ON MANY SECURITY QUESTIONS. GOH VIEW IS THAT THE NICARAGUAN POSITION HAS HARDENED AND PRACTICALLY REJECTS THE ACTA IN ITS POLITICAL AND SECURITY ASPECTS.
- 7. GOH PRESENTED ITS OWN SUGGESTED FORMULATION OF A SECURITY CHAPTER IN PANAMA MEETING AND REMAINS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ALL SECURITY ASPECTS AFFECTING CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS. ECWEVER, GOH INSISTS ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF ITS POSITION. HONDURAS CANNOT ACCEPT NICARAGUA'S INSISTENCE TEAT THEIR PROBLEMS BE ADDRESSED FIRST AND EVERYBODY ELSES BE ADDRESSED AFTERWARDS. THE GOH WISHES TO MALE CLEAR THAT IT CONTINUES TO FAVOR A STRENGTHENING OF CONTADORA PROCESS WHICH IT SEES AS THE ONLY WAY TO REACH NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO CENTRAL AMERICAN PROBLEMS.
- 8. AFTER THE MEETING, ONE FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISOR INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT GOH BRIEFING WAS PROMPTED BY CONCERN THAT AT SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING IN PANAMA CONTADORA FOUR MAY BE CRITICAL OF HONDURAN POSITION. ALSO GOH BELIEVES THAT SOME MEMBERS OF CONTADORA FOUR HAVE MISREPRESENTED HONDURAN POSITION TO THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE. FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISOR CHARACTERIZED THE BRIEFING AS PREEMPTIVE MOVE DESIGNED TO FORESTALL OR OFFSET POTENTIAL NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN PANAMA. NEGROPONTE

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