

ACTION: POL-3 INFO: AMB DCM ECON AID USIS CONS MILG DAO CML /12 (3) A378

VZCZCTG0173
PP RUEHTG
DE RUEBGB #8097 1982101
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 162101Z JUL 84
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4392
INFO RUEHLL/CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
RUEBJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEOEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
BT

LOC: 128
16 JUL 84 2132 087R
CN: 03778
CHRG: PROG
DIST: POL

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ BOGOTA 08097

E.O. 12356: DCLR:OADR
TAGS: PREL, NU, CO, HO
SUBJECT: SERGIO RAMIREZ VISIT TO COLOMBIA
REF: BOGOTA 8070

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUSTO RAMIREZ OCAMPO FRIDAY, JULY 13, FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED AMBASSADOR ABOUT SERGIO RAMIREZ'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BETANCUR, AT WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT.
3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT SERGIO RAMIREZ'S ATTITUDE HAD BEEN ONE OF OPENNESS AND PERHAPS EVEN EAGERNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. SERGIO RAMIREZ WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE TALKING WITH THE U.S. AND INDICATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MARXIST MILITARY JUNTA HAD APPARENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THEIR BEST CHANCE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH THE U.S. WAS BETWEEN NOW AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. SERGIO RAMIREZ COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF PRESIDENT REAGAN SINCE IT WOULD TEND TO REMOVE ANY NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS AMONG THE U.S. ELECTORATE WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE COVERT MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS. NICARAGUA WAS ALSO MOST PLEASED WITH THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE HONDURAN BORDER. RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED MARKEDLY SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL WALTER LOPEZ IN THE HONDURAN DEFENSE MINISTRY. IN ORDER TO SMOOTH OVER FRONTIER INCIDENTS, THE NICARAGUAN AND HONDURAN COUNTERPARTS HAVE EXCHANGED TELEPHONE NUMBERS.
4. SERGIO RAMIREZ HAD STATED THAT NICARAGUA WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH HONDURAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SIGNED WITH COSTA RICA.
5. SERGIO RAMIREZ, HOWEVER, HAD EMPHASIZED THAT IN SPITE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTADORA POSITION, THAT THEY WERE ADAMANT ABOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESS.

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BOGOTA 08097

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/2/91 Exemption

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 SERGIO RAMIREZ HAD STRESSED THAT THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY OFFICIAL OBSERVERS PRIOR OR DURING THE SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 3 ELECTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE INDICATED THAT THE MARXIST MILITARY JUNTA WAS WILLING TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESENCE OF UNOFFICIAL OBSERVERS. SERGIO RAMIREZ WILL BE THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON THE SANDINISTA TICKET WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY COMMANDANTE ORTEGA. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE SANDINISTA TRIUMPH, SERGIO RAMIREZ HAD REQUESTED ELECTORAL AND CAMPEIGN INFORMATION FROM PRESIDENT BETANCUR AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAMIREZ OCAMPO. (FYI: RAMIREZ OCAMPO WAS BETANCUR'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER DURING THE 1980 ELECTIONS.)

6. SERGIO RAMIREZ HAD ONCE AGAIN STRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER THEIR DESIRE FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH HONDURAS END THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIDED IN ME THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA ON FRIDAY, JULY 13, IN AN EFFORT TO SOUND HIM OUT ABOUT NICARAGUA'S INTEREST. FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA HAD ADAMANTLY REJECTED SUCH A PROPOSAL. STILL, FOREIGN MINISTER RAMIREZ OCAMPO WAS HOPEFUL OF SUCH A POSSIBLE SOLUTION AND REQUESTED ME TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT THAT COLOMBIA, IF IT WERE IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE, WOULD BE WILLING TO HOST A LOW-PROFILE MEETING BETWEEN HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA TO DISCUSS SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD BE ONE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER SEPULVEDA SET UP BETWEEN THE NICARAGUANS AND THE U.S. IN MANZINILLO.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER RAMIREZ OCAMPO, UPON MY DEPARTURE, EMPHASIZED HOW MUCH THE CONTADORA GROUP APPRECIATED U.S. SUPPORT AND THAT THEY BELIEVED U.S. ACQUIESCENCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF A MEETING BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. TAMBS

BT
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