CHRGE: PROG

CLEAR: NONE

DRFTD: AMB:JDN

\_\_\_\_DISTR: AMB DCM\_POL\_

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL

APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPON

12/31/83

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO RUIHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE \$421 RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 8949

INFO RUEHGT / AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1392

RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 5573

RUEHME / AMEMBASSY MEXICO 2350 RUEHZP / AMEMBASSY PANAMA 8587 RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 9314 RUEEDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORA 1437

> SECTION 31 OF \* TEGUCIGALPA 14275

EXDIS

## DECAPTIONED

SAN JOSE FOR AMBASSADOR WINSOR FROM NEGROPONTE

E.O. 12356: 12/31/99 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: THE MONGE STYLE: CONSENSUS NOT CONFRONTATION

SAN JOSE 8772

ENTIRE TEXT.

- READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR MESSAGE ABOVE SUBJECT.
- REGARDING PARA NINE, WE UNDERSTAND VARIOUS INTERESTS GO CR BELIEVES IT MUST BALANCE IN PURSUING ITS FOREIGN POLICY. AND WE UNDERSTAND WHAT MOTIVATES SUGGESTION IN FOURTH SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH FOUR WHICH STATES QUOTE WE MUST REASSURE COSTA RICA'S FRIENDS THAT ITS TACKING IS NOT DUE TO UNCERTAINTY BUT RATHER TO THE CONSENSUS STYLE OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO IS EVERY BIT A REALIST AND FRIEND OF THEIRS AND OURS, BUT WHO ALSO PERCEIVES A NEED TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE PLN PARTY AND TO SUSTAIN AN INDEPENDENT IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE LESS COMMITTED POLITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. END QUOTE.
- OUR ONLY COMMENT WOULD BE THAT THERE MAY BE WAYS IN WHICH COSTA RICA COULD AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WEIGHT IT ASSIGNS TO THESE VARIOUS ANTERESTS ARE NOT OUT OF BALANCE. SURELY GOOR DOES NOT WANT TO PURSUE FRIENDSHIP WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO EXCLUSION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY. MORE SPECIFICALLY, GOOR WOULD NOT WANT EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS TO CONCLUDE THAT SOME-HOW GOOR BELIEVES IT CAN BUY LONG-TERM IMMUNITY FROM PRO-BLEMS POSED BY NICARAGUA BY PUBLICLY DISTANCING ITSELF FPOM EL SALVADOP AND/OR HONDURAN POLICIES. HONDURANS NEE REASSURANCE ON THIS SCORE, PERHAPS NOT SO MUCH FROM US AS YOU SUGJEST, BUT HOAD LITSTLE DIPLOMACY WITH COSTA RICA ITSTLE AS YOU SUGGEST, BUT MORE LIKELY TEROUGH SOME DIRECT

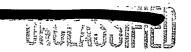
Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir. (V) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny (V) Declassify 6/2/08 Exemption

TEGUCIGALPA 14275/01

S. RECENT SELECTION OF A NEW COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD APPEAR TO OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE HONDURAS/COSTA RICAN DIALOGUE TO STATUS QUO PRIOR TO VOLIOS' DECLINING FORTUNES WITH GOOR. VOLIO WAS MUCH RESPECTED HERE AND HIS DECLINING INFLUENCE DURING PAST YEAR WAS SORELY LAMENTED BY GOH. PERHAPS FOREIGN MINISTER GUTIERREZ COULD GET THINGS OFF TO A GOOD START BY CONSIDERING AN EARLY VISIT TO HONDURAS. THIS WOULD PERMIT HIM TO PERSONALLY EXPLAIN TO HIS HONDURAN COLLEAGU THE VARIOUS TACAS OF COSTA RICA'S DIPLOMACY, WHILE AT THE VERY SAME TIME SYMBOLICALLY REASSURING GOH AND HONDURAN PUBLIC OF JOCR SOLIDARITY BY MERE FACT OF VISIT.

6. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, GOCR DOES NOT MAKE SOME SUCH GESTURE AND CONTINUES, FOR EXAMPLE, TO MAKE STATE-MENTS WHICH ARE CONSTRUED HERE AS FURTHER SOFTENING GOCR STANCE ON NICARAGUA, (AS APPEARED TO BE CASE IN GUTIERREZ FIRST PUBLIC REMARKS DECEMBER 27) THEN ANY EXPLANATION USG MIGHT MAKE TO GOH ABOUT STEAD-FASTNESS OF GOCR POLICIES WILL BE MET WITH DEEP SKEPTICISM.

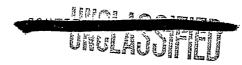
7. WE RECOGNIZE GOH DIPLOMACY DURING PAST YEAR COULD ALSO HAVE USED SOME BRUSHING UP OF ITS OWN. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALSO FOCUSSED A LOT OF PERSONAL ATTENTION ON EUROPE, PROBABLY FOR MANY OF THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS THAT GOOR NURTURES RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. PRESIDENT SUAZO DOESN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT FOREIGN RELATIONS OTHER THAN BILATERAL POLICIES TOWARDS U.S., NICARAGUA, AND EL SALVADOR. EVEN ON THOSE SUBJECTS, SUAZO HAS NOT DONE MUCH TO INVIGORATE MATTERS. AND, AS A RESULT, REGIONAL RELATION—SHIPS, WHICH SHOULD ENJOY MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO A SECONDARY POSITION EXCEPT WHEN OBLIGED TO PAY ATTENTION BY CONTADORA PROCESS. THUS, IN ADDITION TO NEGLECTING AN ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE, OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN FRIENDS HAVE FAILED TO BUILD A BROAD BASE OF POLITICAL COOPERATION WHICH WOULD AS A



TEGUCIGALPA 14275/01

MATTER OF COURSE HAVE THEY LESS VULNERABLE TO SOME OF THE CONTADORA FOUR'S MORE MISCHIEVOUS MANEUVERS. PERHAPS THIS CRITICISM IS VALID TO SOME DEGREE OR OTHER OF EVERY ONE OF THE CORE FOUR COUNTRIES. I HINA, IN CASE OF HONDURAS AT LEAST, THE MESSAGE IS BEGINNING TO SINK IN AND I VIEW DESIGNATION OF HIGHLY CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS AS A VERY POSITIVE, ALBEIT BELATED, FIRST STEP. GALVEZ HAS HELD A VARIETY OF TOP POSTS IN THIS COUNTRY FOR CLOSE TO OVER WELL WITH THE NEIGHBORS AND PERHAPS HIS APPOINT OVER WELL WITH THE NEIGHBORS AND PERHAPS HIS APPOINT AMERICAN COUNTRIES. LET'S HOPE IT IS NOT A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT. NEGROPONTE

LTL



TEGUCIGALPA 14275/02