

July 29, 1983

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TO: ARA/MOTLEY  
NSC/CLARK  
DCI/CASEY

FROM: NEGROPONTE *JBN*

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SUBJECT: CURRENT SITUATION IN HONDURAS

1. A few summary thoughts before departing for home leave during month of August. Will be in Department for consultations starting September six.
2. First, deployment of fleet is viewed here with huge sigh of relief and welcomed as a deterrent to a possible overt Sandinista aggression. Suazo says he's sleeping better now. As such it is seen as a stabilizing factor and preventing war rather than exacerbating regional tensions, as the critics would have it. It is a very positive step which tends to bottle the problem back up into Nicaragua.
3. Second, the fleet is not rpt not seen as a substitute for the indispensability of continued pressure inside Nicaragua by FDN and others. Hondurans believe special project is as important as ever.
4. Viewed from this distance, we didn't do too badly in the Boland/Zablocki debate. At least, the votes were not on strictly partisan lines. Dick Stone called about ten wavering Congressmen from here on Tuesday and seemed to get a reasonably good response. Perhaps we can consider the Zablocki/Boland vote a plateau on which

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
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we can build when Congress resumes in September. I have told Dewey Claridge who is visiting here and Ed Fox at State that I am willing to do whatever lobbying you want me to do on the Hill as part of a full court press when I am in Washington in September. I suspect that best approach for someone in my position would be low-key briefing to Congressmen and Senators on potential consequences of cut-off from a Honduras perspective.

5. In any event, it is important to us locally that yesterday's vote not be treated as a catastrophe. We must project a confident image, a sense that we can shape events despite the adversities, and maintain hope that the loss will be recouped.

Amb. Negroponte:kjl  
7-29-83

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