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FROM
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET~~

CN: 2759

E.O. ~~12958~~
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

12356: DECL: OADR
PREL, PINR, PROP, PINS, HO, NU, XK
NICARAGUAN EFFORTS TO GENERATE WAR SCARE

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC ~~IMMEDIATE~~ NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO: AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 2759

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT
2. Doctor Suazo called me to his office afternoon March 22 to discuss Humberto Ortega's latest news conference and associated Nicaraguan efforts to generate scare of war between Honduras and Nicaragua.
3. Suazo expressed concern that Nicaraguans might engage in some limited cross-border strikes followed by an effort to bring matters before Security Council. According to Suazo, purpose of Nicaraguan maneuver would be to pin blame for regional tensions on Honduras and get Security Council to create multilateral force to police Honduras-Nicaragua border.

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CLEARANCES:

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CLASSIFICATION

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

Dep't of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 6/2/98 Exemption _____

4. I expressed some doubt that Nicaraguans were about to launch any type of cross-border attack. I told Suazo that I thought it more likely that Nicaragua was engaged in a strictly propagandastic exercise the purpose of which would be to distract world attention from its internal difficulties and also to avoid blame it deserves for the regional problems it is causing. In other words, we may be witnessing an accentuated version of the famous Nicaraguan "bilateral thesis".

5. Suazo did not reject my speculation. He nonetheless observed that if Nicaragua engaged in some sort of attack, Honduras could not stand idly by with its arms folded. There would have to be a response. We agreed that matters had not, in any event, reached that point and as an immediate measure we should ask our respective intelligence organizations to increase their efforts to monitor any Nicaraguan buildup along Honduran border. We then left this subject and went on to other more mundane topics such as strike at local American-owned brassiere factory (reported septels).

6. Three hours after my meeting with Suazo, he called to say that he had just received word from his U.N. delegate to effect that Nicaragua is proposing Security Council meeting on the Honduras-Nicaragua border situation.

Suazo said he was awaiting further details from his Ambassador in New York before deciding on next steps.

