

*Chron*

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CLASS: SECRET  
CHRG: PROG 07/16/84  
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE  
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE  
CLEAR: NONE  
DISTR: AMB DCM POL  
DAO MILGP ECON

VZCZCTGI \*  
PP RUEHC RUEKJCS RUEOEHA RUEKJCS RUEHSN RUESMG  
RUEHSJ RUEHDT  
DE RUEHTG #8840 198 \*\*  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
P 162058Z JUL 84  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4180  
INFO RUEKJCS / SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEOEHA / USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS / JCS WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHSN / AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 0258  
RUESMG / AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 5938  
RUEHSJ / AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY 9324  
RUEHDT / USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1497  
BT

TEGUCIGALPA 08840

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, EFIN, EAID, XK, HO  
SUBJECT: GENERAL VESSEY'S VISIT TO TEGUCIGALPA

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: GENERAL VESSEY BROUGHT WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR HONDURAS AND STEADFASTNESS OF U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS CENTRAL AMERICA. PRESIDENT SUAZO AFFIRMED TO GENERAL VESSEY THAT HONDURAS IS AND WANTS TO BE UNITED STATES' "BEST FRIEND AND ALLY" IN CENTRAL AMERICA. SUAZO REITERATED URGENT GOH NEED FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND PLEA FOR BEHIND-THE-SCENES U.S.G. HELP IN GETTING IMF AGREEMENT. SUAZO DEPLORED THE SENATE'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE \$21 MILLION FOR THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS; AND OBSERVED THAT, FOR LACK OF A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS, WE MIGHT SUFFER IRREVERSIBLE SETBACKS IN CENTRAL AMERICA OVERALL. END SUMMARY.

3. GENERAL VESSEY HAD A VERY GOOD 24 HOUR VISIT HERE, JULY 15-16. SCHEDULE INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH HONDURAN HIGH COMMAND, A CALL ON PRESIDENT SUAZO AT HIS HOME VILLAGE OF LA PAZ AND VISITS TO PALMEROLA AIR BASE AND THE RMTC.

4. BOTH ATMOSPHERE AND SUBSTANCE OF MEETINGS WAS VERY POSITIVE. GOH WAS MAKING OBVIOUS EFFORT TO RECTIFY RECENT PUBLIC MISIMPRESSIONS THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF RIFT BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. AT DOCTOR SUAZO'S INSISTENCE, GENERAL VESSEY'S VISIT WAS PUBLICIZED BEFOREHAND AND THE PRESS WAS INVITED EN MASSE TO COVER THE SUAZO/VESSEY MEETING.

5. IN MEETING WITH DOCTOR SUAZO, ATTENDED ALSO BY SIX RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL VESSEY CONVEYED USG'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO OBTAINING NECESSARY RESOURCES TO DO THE JOB. PRESIDENT SUAZO RESPONDED IN VERY EFFUSIVE TERMS ABOUT US/HONDURAN

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify  
Date 6/2/98 Exemption

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FRIENDSHIP. HE SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HONDURAS WAS USG'S BEST FRIEND IN THE REGION; IT WOULD NEVER WAVER IN ITS COURSE; BUT THAT GOH SOUGHT OUR URGENT COMPREHENSION AND ASSISTANCE IN REGARD TO ITS ECONOMIC NEEDS. SUAZO ALSO ASKED FOR OUR BEHIND-THE-SCENE HELP IN PROMOTING A STAND-BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONDURAS AND THE IMF.

6. SUAZO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT SENATE DECISION TO DROP ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ANTI-SANDINISTAS. SUAZO SAID HIS GOVERNMENT THOUGHT SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM WAS ESSENTIAL AND THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF, FOR WANT OF A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY, ANTI-SANDINISTA EFFORT WERE TO COLLAPSE. (IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS DOCTOR SUAZO HAS REFERRED TO SUCH AN EVENTUALITY AS ANOTHER "BAY OF PIGS.") HONDURAN ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL GONZALEZ INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT THAT RECENT REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT GOH WAS OPPOSED TO THE FDN OR OTHER ANTI-SANDINISTAS ARE INCORRECT. "IT IS YOUR CONGRESS WHICH IS OPPOSED TO THE FDN," GONZALEZ ADDED.

7. SUAZO ALSO MENTIONED GOH REVIEW OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF US/HONDURAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. HE REFERRED TO RATIO OF SALVADORAN TO HONDURAN TROOPS BEING TRAINED AT RMTC AND GOH DESIRE TO USE MORE MAP FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CONSUMABLES AS THE KINDS OF ISSUES HE HOPED WE COULD ADDRESS TOGETHER.

8. COMMENT: GOH WENT ALL OUT TO GIVE GENERAL VESSEY THE RED CARPET TREATMENT. COMING ON THE HEELS OF A VERY WARM RECEPTION FOR USFORCOM COMMANDER GENERAL SENNEWALD BY HONDURAN MILITARY ON JULY 12 AND A SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY GENERAL LOPEZ TO USS JOHN F. KENNEDY ON JULY 14, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP MAY BE RETURNING TO A SOMEWHAT MORE EVEN KEEL AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY. THIS MAY ALSO REFLECT A GREATER CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF HONDURAN MILITARY IN ITS DEALINGS WITH US AS THE ANXIETIES SURROUNDING GENERAL ALVAREZ' MARCH 31 OUSTER RECEDE INTO THE PAST.

9. DOCTOR SUAZO, INCIDENTALLY, APPEARED TO BE IN FINE FETTER. NEGROPONTE

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