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SUBJECT: CONTADORA DEVELORYENTS

TEGUCIGALPA 11565, (B) SAN SALVADOR 9801.

(C) GUATEMALA 9078

- INTIRF TEXT

HEARTILY CONCUR DITH CHAVEZ MENA RECOM-MENDATION (RIFTEL B) THAT THER? BE NO CONTADORA MEETING UNTIL AFTER FIRST OF THE YEAR. MEANWHILE, RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON TAKE THE LEAD IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES BUT ACTIVE ROLE IN FOMENTING CORE FOUR UNITY. ONLY WE CAN DO IT. CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES ARE TOO DUID WEAK, DISCRGANIZED AND NO MATCH FOR PRESSURES OF CONTADORA FOUR. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY NEED US AS COUNTERBALANCE TO CONTADORA GROUP. END SUMMARY.

CHAVEZ MENA'S SUGGESTION THAT THERE BE NO CONTADORA MEETINGS UNTIL THE NEW YEAR IS A GREAT IDEA. CORE FOUR IS OBVIOUSLY NOT READY AND PERHAPS EXTRA TIME WOULD ALLOW FOR A MORE COFERENT RESPONSE TO CONTADORA PRESSURE TO MOVE TOWARDS AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT IN CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEREST. PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY WE SEE IS THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONSISTENTLY UNIFYING ELEMENT UNIO BETWEEN GORE FOUR COUNTRIES. CADC IS APPARENTLY EXAD LETTER FROM COSTA RICAN POINT OF VIEW. WE'RE SURE EONDURANS WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE IT REVIVED AND WOULD WELCOME GUATEMALAN PARTICIPATION. BUT, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, COSTA RICANS YOULD BE EVEN MORE RELUCTANT THAN THEY. WERE BARLIER IN THE MONGE ADMINISTRATION. CONDECA CEVIOUSLY HAS ITS LIMITS ALSO. IT IS PROBABLY BEST TO LEAVE CONFECA MATTERS STRICTLY TO MILITARY CHIEFS IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

4. THIS THEN BRIGS US TO POSSIBILITY OF, AT A MINIMUM, SOME AIND OF PERMANENT "CENTRAL AMERICAN" (I.E., CORE ODUD FOUR) CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH CONTADORA PROCESS. SUCH MECHANISM IN OUR VIEW IS ABSOLUTELY ISSUNTIAL IF CORE FOUR IS TO BLUNT REFECTIVENESS OF MEXICAN/NICARAGUAN SALAMI SLICER. IF IT WOULD HELP NEEP COSTA FICANS REASONABLY ON BOART, WE SELITIVE GOF JOULD EL AMINABLE TO COSTA RICANS CHAIRING SQUE SCRT

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OF CORE FOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP. INDEED WE THING HONDURANS COULD BY BROUGHT TO GO ALONG WITH ANY SUCH PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER TERRE.

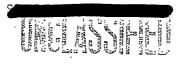
E. BUT AS LATEST HONDURAN EFFORT TO HOST REGIONAL CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATES, PROMOTING ANY (IND OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY IS DIFFICULT FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL CENTRAL AMERICAN STATE. ADMITTEDLY, HONDURAN EFFORP WIS PRECIPITATE AND BY DEFINITION POORLY PREPARED. IT PROBABLY DESTRYED EXACTLY WHAT IT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONFUSION AND DISARRAY IN THE FRIENDLY CAMP.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, THE MOST COORDINATED ACTIONS AMONGST OUR FRIENDS HAVE COME WHEN WE PLAYED A STRONG HAND: THE JOINT DECLARATION AT PRESIDENT SUAZO'S INAUQURAL IN JANUARY 1982; THE SAN JOSE DECLARATION IN OCTOBER OF THE SAME YEAR. BUT SINCE OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR THE INITIATIVE HAS PASSED TO OTHER MANDS. IN THE DIPLOMATIC AREA AT LEAST, THE UNITED STATES AND ITS CENTRAL AMERICAN FRIENDS HAVE DUNG FALLEN INTO A REACTIVE AND PASSIVE MODE SINCE THE SAN JOSE FINAL ACT. THIS EMBASSY IS NOT REASSURED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY BECAUSE CONTADORA FOUR WILL SAFEGUARD OUR SEY INTERESTS. CONTADORA IS ESSENTIALLY A MEXICAN EXERCISE AND WE SHOULDN'T KID OURSELVES ABOUT THAT. MATTERS ARE LIKELY TO GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER IN LIGHT OF VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PROCESS.

7.\_ SO QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHETHER WE, IN CONCERT WITH THE CORE FOUR, CAN DO ANYTHING TO REGAIN INITIATIVE WE HAD A YEAR AGO. WE FELIEVEITSHOULD BE TAKEN

AS A GIVEN THAT NO COUNTRY IS GOING TO EMERGE AS NATURAL LEADER OF CORE FOUR. ONLY USG CAN PROVIDE NECESSARY COHESION. BUT FOR THIS TO HAPPEN WE MUST SHIFT SOMEWHAT FROM STRIKING A POSE OF IMPARTIALITY TO AND ALOOFNESS FOOM COURSE OF CONTADORA PROCESS TO A MORE ACTIVIST ROLE. COULD THERE BE ANOTHER SAN JOSE ACT? PERTAPS THIS TIME WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ IN ATTENDANCE? ALTERNATIVELY, COULD THE SECRETARY MEET IN SAN SALVADOR WITH THE CORE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS

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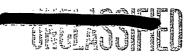
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AS DRAMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF OUR SUPPORT AND TO URGE SYSTEMATIC CORE FOUR CONSULTATION ON CONTADORA MATTERS THERAFTER? PERHAPS WE COULD PRING THE DOMINICANS AND JAMAICANS BAC: INTO THE PROCESS AFTER THEIR UNCERE
OPIN MCHIOUS EXCLUSION FROM CONTADORA PROCESS. IN SHORT, PERHAPS WE COULD USE OPPORTUNITY OF SECRETARY'S MILLIMONESS TO CONSULT WITH REGIONAL CHIEFS OF MISSION TO ALSO FOMENT SORELY NEEDED UNITY OF EFFORT BETWEEN USE-AND THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSEST IDENTITY OF VIEWS IN CENTEAL AMERICA.

CORE FOUR WILL BE CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVE CONCERTED
ACTION WITHOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT OR SUPPORT, WE BELIEVE
THAT AN ACTIVE USG ROLE, WHETHER VISIBLE, BEHIND-THESCENES OR SOME COMBINATION OF BOTF, IS ESSENTIAL AT



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