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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7920

INFO RUEHLL / CONTADORA COLLECTIVE

BT

TEGUCIGALPA 11565

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: PROG 10/24/83
APPRV: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
DRFTD: AMB:JDNEGROPONTE
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: AMB DCM POL

Chon
A482

EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR S/S

E.O. 12356: DECL: CADD

TAGS: PREL, X:

SUBJECT: CONTADORA DEVELOPMENTS: THE SLIPPERY SLOPE?

REF: PANAMA 13356

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT
2. PAZ BARNICA CALLED ME MORNING OCTOBER TWENTY-FOUR TO SAY HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OYDEN ORTEGA. ORTEGA TOLD HIM ABOUT CONTADORA GROUP WORK ALONG LINES OUTLINED REFTEL, INCLUDING PREPARATION OF BILATERAL HONDURAS/NICARAGUA "PROTOCOL". PAZ SAYS HE TOLD ORTEGA THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HONDURAS ACCEPT A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT IN ANY FORM WITH NICARAGUA ON CONTADORA SUBJECTS. PAZ THEN COMMENTED TO ME THAT THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW CONTADORA PROCESS SERVED TO LEGITIMIZE NICARAGUA'S APPROACH.
3. COMMENT: CONTADORA PROCESS DOES INDEED APPEAR TO BE HEADED IN DIRECTIONS INIMICAL TO OUR INTERESTS. FIRST, CONTADORA COUNTRIES THEMSELVES HAVE ARROGATED RIGHT OF DRAFTING TREATIES RATHER THAN ENCOURAGING CENTRAL AMERICANS TO COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS. THIS RAISES SPECTER OF AN IMPOSED "PEACE". NEXT, THE MEXICAN SALAMI SLICER IS BUSILY AT WORK, HAVING EFFECTIVELY COOPTED MONGE OR AT LEAST SERIOUSLY DEBILITATED THE LEVEL-HEADED FACTION OF HIS PARTY. (PAZ BARNICA TOLD ME ON OCTOBER TWENTY-THREE THAT VOLIO HAD SENT HIM MESSAGE TO EFFECT THAT HE WOULD RESIGN ON OCTOBER TWENTY-FOUR IN DISAGREEMENT WITH OUTCOME OF MONGE'S MEXICAN TRIP, INCLUDING OFFENSIVE PORTIONS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE.) AND, FINALLY, THE LITTLE GUYS ARE BEING WHIPSAWED IN TWO FORUMS IN WHICH THEY HAVE LITTLE OR NO CONTROL - E.G., THE UNITED NATIONS AND CONTADORA.
4. OUR SIDE IS IN DISARRAY. THE SOONER WE RECOGNIZE IT AND COME UP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THE SITUATION, THE BETTER. NEGROPONTE

RECAPTIONED

TEGUCIGALPA 11565

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