Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05430 01 OF 03 110321Z ACTION SS-25

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O 102110Z JUN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN AND SECTION INFO FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2027 WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 3 BOGOTA 5430

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY(MRN 5430 VICE 5439 AND SECTION INFO)

CARACAS FOR ASST SECY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CO, SNAR, ASEC, PARM

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ

FOLLOWING IS TELEGRAPHIC MEMO OF CONVERSATION WHICH TOOK PLACE AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FROM 11 AM TO 12:15 ON JUNE 10. MEMO IS SUBJECT T O

APPROVAL BY MRS. CARTER'S PARTY. PARTICIPANTS WERE: PRESIDENT LOPEZ, FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, MRS. CARTER, ASST SECY TODMAN, CHARGE DREXLE R,

AND MS HOYT AND MR. PASTOR.

1. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, PRES LOPEZ NOTED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM THE OPPOSITION IN BRAZIL DURING HER VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY. HE SAID HE HAD OFFERED BOTH BRANCHES OF THE COLOMBIA N

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05430 01 OF 03 110321Z

COMMUNIST PARTY THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE COMPLAINTS TO MRS. CARTER BUT THEY HAD DECLINED AND SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN DELUDED BY THE USG POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. CARTER COMMENTED THAT OF COURSE THE COLOMBIAN RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS VERY GOOD.

2. MRS. CARTER OUTLINED FOR LOPEZ THE BACKGROUND TO HER TRIP AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S OUTLOOK TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA. SHE UNDERLINED THE

PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AIMED AT RESOLVING REGIONAL AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ADOPTED A MORE OPEN APPROACH TO FOREIGN RELATIONS AND WOULD BE GOVERNNED BY THE BELIEF THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS TO REFLECT OUR NATIONAL VALUES. WE WERE SEEKING A WIDER PARTICIPATION IN WORLD POLITICAS AS WELL AS BROAD PROGRESS, ON A MULTILATERAL BAIS, IN HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO WANTS TO END THE SPECTRE OF WAR AND REDUCE THE WASTE OF RESOURCES IN ARMAMENTS. THE ADMINISTRATION WAS, IN PARTICULAR, SEEKING WIDER LATIN AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND THE NPT. PRESIDENT LOPEZ REMARKED THAT THE USSR HAD ASKED COLOMBIA TO TAKE THE LEAD AMONG OTHER LA NATIONS IN PRESSING BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA TO RATIFY BOTH THESE TREATIES.

3. TURNING TO SPECIFIC MEASURES THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALREADY TAKEN IN FURTHERING ITS LA POLICY OBJECTIVES, MRS CARTER CITED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATONS. SHE COMMENTED THAT SIGNIFICATN PROBLEMS STILL REMAINED BUT THAT THERE HAD ALSO BEEN GOOD PROGRESS AND THAT WE HOPED FOR AN AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THIS SUMMER

SHE THANKED LOPEZ FOR THE HELP HE HAD ALREADY RENDERED IN FACILITATING AN AGREEMENT AND ASKED HIM TO IMPRESS UPON TORRIJOS THE NEED FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY BEFORE THE SUMMER WAS OVER. LOPEZ SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TORRIJOS RECENTLY BUT ADDED THAT HE HIMSELF WAS "QUITE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. RETITERATING COMMENTS HE HAD MADE EARLIER TO AMBASSADORS CONFIDENTIAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05430 01 OF 03 110321Z

BUNKER AND LINOWITZ, LOPEZ SAID THAT ONLY THE USG WAS IN A POISITON T O

GUARANTEE THE SECURITY AND NETURALITY OF THE CANAL FOR THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD TORRIJOS THAT PANAMA SHOULD POSSESS THE AREA'S RESOURCES AND THE US SHOULD HOLD THE GUARANTEE.

- 4. REGARDING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MRS. CARTER REPORTED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BUT PROBLEMS REMAINED. SHE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACT THAT WE AT LEAST HAD OPENED A DIALOGUE WITH CASTRO. LOPEZ CHARACTERIZED CASTRO'S LATEST SPEECH ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AS "TRICKY".
- 5. RESUMING HER OUTLINE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO FOREIGN RELATIONS, MRS. CARTER SAID WE WERE ALSO SEEKING BETTER INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS SINCE THOSE EXISTING WERE FORMED AT THE TIME OF WORLD WAR II AND HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. SHE REITERATED THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTING

CLOSELY WITH LA NATIONS IN DEVELOPING
OUR GLOBAL POLICIES AND IN ATTACKING WORLD PROBLEMS. LOPEZ
COMMENTED THAT IF THERE IS ANY NATIONA WITH WHICH THE US HS NO
PROBLEMS. IT IS COLOMBIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05430 02 OF 03 102312Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 3 BOGOTA 5430

EXDIS

CARACAS FOR ASST SECY TODMAN

6. DEVELOPING FURTHER HER EARLIER COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. CARTER SAID THAT ON HER TRIP SHE HAD ENCMUNTERED A FAR BETTER RESPONSE THAN SHE HAD EXPECTED TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY. SHE SENSED A NEW SPIRIT AND POPULAR INTEREST WITH REGARD TO SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID THAT IN VIEW OF COLOMBIA'S GOOD EXPERIENCE WE WOULD WELCOME LOPE' SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT THE CLIMATE FOR FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMED GOOD. HE COMMENTED THAT MOST GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY IN LATIN AMERICA, WERE SUFFERING FROM UNPOPULARITY BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND A NUMBER OF OTHER REASONS. IN THE DEMOCRACIES, PEOPLE WERE CALLING FOR STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WHEREAS IN THE MILITARY REGIMES, THE PEOPLE WANTED DEMOCRACY. IN THE LATER NATIONS, THE REGIMES WERE BEING FORCED TO PROMISE ELECTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES IN THE NEXT YEARS AHEAD IN ORDER TO CALM THEIR PEOPLE. AND THIS CLIMATE. IN LOPEZ' VIEW, COULD BE PROPITIOUS FOR ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HARD, AND INADVISABLE, FOR THE US TO ACT AS A "PROTECTOR" OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LA PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WAS REALLY THE COLLECTIVE OBLIGATION OF THE OAS AND UN. HE ARGUED CONFIDENTIAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05430 02 OF 03 102312Z

FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A LATIN

AMERICAN COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE OAS FRAMEWORK.

LOPEZ ENVISIONED THE APPOINTMENT OF SOME DISTINGUISED

STATESMAN TO FILL THIS ROLE AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT EVEN

BE A CANADIAN, WHO WOULD HAVE SPECIAL CLAIMS TO OBJECTIVITY.

HE ADDED THAT THIS OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT BE TERMED A

"SECRETARY GENERAL" BECAUSE THIS TITLE SOUNDED FAR LESS IMPOSING

IN SPANISH THAN IN ENGLISH, LOPEZ REFERRED TO REFENT MOVES BY

SOME SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES TO FORM A BLOC COUNTERING

US EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY ALLEGING THAT

THEY CONSTITUTED "INTERVENTION." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION,

LOPEZ AND LIEVANO INDICATED THAT THESE MOVES WERE STILL UNDER

WAY BUT THAT COLOMBIA HAD NOT BEEN WELCOME AS A PARTICIPANT.

WHEN ASKED WHAT DEMOCRATIC NATIONS MIGHT DO TO COUNTER SUCH MOVES ON

ON THE PART OF SOUTHERN CONE NATIONS, LOPEZ UNDERLINED THAT

BOTH COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA HAD REFUSED TO JOIN IN AND THAT

THE GOC. AS HE HAD MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, WAS ADVOCATING

A COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN

IMPARTIAL LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSIONER AS AN "OMBUDSMAN."

7. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS, MRS. CARTER SAID
THE PRESIDENT WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG ABUSE AND ACCORDINGLY HAD ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE OFFICE ON THE
PROBLEM, HEADED BY DR. BOURNE, WHO WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE
CARTERS. SHE REMINDED LOPEZ THAT DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO,

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON NARCOTICS,
PLANNED TO VISIT COLOMBIA SHORTLY. MRS. CARTER EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD MEET WITH BOURNE AND FALCO
TO DISCUSS HOW OUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE.
LOPEZ STATED THAT THERE WERE FEW THINGS THAT HAD
DISAPPOINTED HIM AS MUCH AS HIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE USG
WITH REGARD TO NARCOTICS CONTROL. HE SAID THE QUESTION WAS
WHETHER COLOMBIA WAS CORRUPTING THE US OR VICE VERSA.
IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS AMERICAN
MONEY, CHANNELS AND AIRCRAFT THAT WERE BEING USED IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05430 02 OF 03 102312Z

NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING INVOLVING COLOMBIAN TERRITORY. HE REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATIONS NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECY KISSINGER WHO, HE SAID, PROMISED TO HELP COLOMBIA WITH THE EQUIPMENT IT NEEDED TO FIGHT THE TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS GEAR. MUCH TIME HAD ELAPSED SINCE THEN AND WE WERE STILL DEBATING THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY JUST THREE HELICOPTERS.

8. MRS. CARTER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZED THE ROLE
OF THE AMERICAN FOMESTIC MARKET FTR DRUGS BUT SHE STRESSED
THAT IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO
CONFINE RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH A MATTER TO ONE COUNTRY. SHE
WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
HAD HAD A CORRUPTING INFLUENCE ON THE GOC. BOTH LOPEZ AND LIEVANO
SAID THEY ENTIRELY AGREED WITH MRS. CARTER BUT THEY STRESSED THAT
THE GOC DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE
TRAFFICKERS AND THAT THE PROMISED USG HELP HAD NEVER COME. MRS.
CARTER COMMENTED THAT THE SOURCES OF THIS TRAFFICKING PROBLEM CAN
BE FOUND IN BOTH THE US AND COLOMBIA AND THAT WE NEEDED TO WORK
TOGETHER. LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEGUN DOING
SO THREE YEARS AGO. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE GEOGRAPHICAL
FACTORS WHICH FAVORED TRAFFICKING FROM THE NORTHEAST PART OF COLOMBIA.

HE ADDED THAT RECENTLY DISCOVERED PLANTATIONS FOR GROWING MARIHUANA USED ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FINANCED BY AMERICANS.

MRS. CARTER REITERATED THAT CORRUPTION WAS LIMITINV THE EFFECTIVENESS

OF COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT ACTION. LOPEZ AGAIN AGREED AND EMPHASIZED THE

GOC'S NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER EQUIPMENT. MRS. CARTER REPEATED THAT SHE HOPED PRESIDENT LOPEZ WOULD MEET WITH BOURNE AND FALCO WHEN THEY VISITED COLOMBIA. LOPEZ SAID THE GOC WANTED TO COOPERATE AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE US IN THIS BATTLE AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS.

 $9.\ MRS.\ CARTER$ NEXT REGISTERED THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 05430 02 OF 03 102312Z

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05430 03 OF 03 102340Z ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2031 WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 3 OF 3 BOGOTA 5430

EXDIS

CARACAS FOR ASST. SECY TODMAN

AMERICAN PRISONERS, LIKE THELEN, WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN COLOMBIA FOR VERY LONG PERIODS WITHOUT BEING BROUGHT TO TRIAL. SHE RELATED THIS TO OUR CONCERSN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNDERLINED THE INTEREST IN SUCH CASES IN THE US. LOPEZ REPLIED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA ARE PROTECTED BY LAW. THAT THE LAWS NEED TO BE ENFORCED BY AN INDEPENDENT JIDICIARY AND THAT THE COLOMBIAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH CANNOT MANIPULATE THE JIDICIAL PROCESS BECAUSE THT WOULD IN FACT BE A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MRS. CARTER REITERATED THE CONCERNS THAT WERE FELT IN THE US WITH REGARD TO PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN HELD SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL. LOPEZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE DELAY AND BACKLOGS AND SAID THE COLOMBIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN TO TRY TO SPEED UP SOME 8000 PROTRACTED CASES WHICH WERE PENDING TRIAL. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT SUCH BACKLOGS AND JUDICIAL BURDENS WERE A PROBLEM IN OTHER COUNTRIES, TOO, INCLUDING THE US.

10. REGARDING THE STARR KIDNAPPING CASE, MRS. CARTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOC'S HELP AND CONCERN AND VOICED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TOWARDS SECURING STARR'S SAFE RELEASE. LOPEZ SAID THE GUERRILLAS SEEMED TO BE HOLDING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05430 03 OF 03 102340Z

HIM IN THE REMOTE EL PATO AREA AND THAT IF GOC ARVED FORCES TRIED TO RESCUE HIM THERE IT WOULD ENDANGER HIS LIFE. HE STRESSED THAT IN SUCH CASES IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BE PATIENT, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT STARR'S MOTHER RECOGNIZED THE DANGERS OF TRYING TO FORCE THE ISSUE BY THE USE OF ARMED FORCE. MRS. CARTER UNDERLINED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE PEACE CORPS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS MOTHER HAD ALSO SERVED AS A PC VOLUNTEER.

11. MRS. CARTER ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY MESSAGES OR THROUGHTS WHICH PRESIDENT LOPEZ WISHED HER TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER.
IN REPLY, LOPEZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF TRADE PREFERENCES AND TARIFFS.
REITERATING THE LIEVANO PLAN FOR A LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL SYSTEM IN WHICH THE US WOULD FAVOR ITS SOUTHERN
NEIGHBORS IN THE HEMISPHERE, LOPEZ SAID THE GOC EITHER WANTED BETTER TREATMENT FROM THE US OR HELP IN SECURING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM ALL OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE HAD IN MIND THE FACT THAT COLOMBIA SUFFERED

DISCRIMINATION IN TERMS OF MARKET AVAILABILITY FROM THE NATIONS IN THE LOME AGREEMENT AND THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH. MRS CARTER SAID THE US WANTED TO WORK WITH THE COLOMBIANS VIA THE MTN IN GENEVA TO REDUCE REGIONAL DISCRIMINATION. WE THOUGHT THIS FAR BETTER THAN CREATING NEW REGIONAL TRADING SYSTEMS (AS ENVISAGED IN THE LIEVANO PLAN). LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WERE IN THE MINORITY IN THE MTN AT GENEVA AND THAT IN PARTICULAR THERE WERE ONLY A HANDFUL OF LA NATIONS PARTICIPATING. HE WENT ON TO THANK THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS ENLIGHTENED ACTION ON SHOE IMPORTS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD TAKE SIMILAR POSITION IN REGARD TO EFFORTS TO CURTAIL COLOMBIAN CUTFLOWER IMPORTS. LOPEZ AND LIEVANO WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY DID NOT REGARD AN INCREASE IN COLOMBIAN EXPORTS TO THE US AS A FORM OF INCREASED ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE US. LOPEZ ALSO OBSERVED THAT IF THERE WAS A WORLD WIDE SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH FIRST RENOUNCED THE PREFERENCES THEY RECEIVED UNDER CLOSED, REGIONAL SYSTEMS, THERE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05430 03 OF 03 102340Z

BE A CONTINUING MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE LARTER, GLOBAL SYSTEM AND AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

12. LOPEZ ALSO WARNED THAT ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL/
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT WOULD CONFRONT THE US WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW YEARS WOULD RESULT FROM THE ANTICIPATED DROP IN COFFEE PRICES.
HE SAID COLOMBIA HAD TAKEN MEASURES WHICH WOULD MITIGATE THE
IMPACT HERE BUT THAT MOST OTHER COFFEE EXPORTING
NATIONS HAD NOT DONESO AND HAD PEGGED THEIR INTERNAL
PRICES TO THE INTERNATIOAL PRICE. THEY THUS FACED SEVERE ECONOMIC
DISLOCATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONSEQUENT POLITICAL
DISRUPTION WHEN THE PRICE FALLS AND THE US WOULD HAVE TO COPE,
ESPECIALLY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WITH THE POLITICAL
PROBMEMS THIS CAUSED.

13. IN CONCLUSION, MRS. CARTER STATED THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO COMPLETE THE PAN AMERICAN
HIGHWAY SEGMENT IN COLOMBIA BUT WAS WORIED BY LACK OF
PROGRESS IN CURBING HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE. SHE EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THAT PRES LOPEZ WOULD GIVE THIS PROBLEM HIS PERSONAL
ATTENTIN. PRES LOPEZ GOOD NATUREDLY TOLD MRS. CARTER TO ADVISE
HER HUSBAND NOT TO WASTE HIS TIME WORRYIN ABOUT
THIS ISSUE. LOPEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN LISTENING TO TALK ABOUT
COMPETING THE HIGHWAY FOR MANY YEARS BUT THAT MEANNWHILE ONLY
THE CONSTRUCTION COST HAS GOME UP. HE COMMENTED THAT IT
WAS ALL A COMPLICATED PROBLEM WITH MANY CONFLICTING INTERESTS
INVOLVED.
DREXLER

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