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TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01648 012059Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6305

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GUATEMALA 1648

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: SIX MONTHS AFTER STORY BREAKS
TAGS: SBAX, HU, GT
SUBJECT: SECRET PAYMENT BY UNITED BRANDS TO HONDURAN
CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ

REF: STATE 072066

1. SHOULD TIME PERMIT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO SEE PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TO INFORM HIM OF THE STORY JUST BEFORE IT IS PUBLISHED. I BELIEVE HE WOULD APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION TOGETHER WITH A STATEMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE NET RESULT OF SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS.

2. GIVEN THE PAST HISTORY OF UNITED FRUIT IN GUATEMALA, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUBLIC COMMOTION WHEN THE STORY BREAKS WHICH COULD INCLUDE SOME UNIVERSITY STUDENT AGITATION AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE REFLECTED IN OUTCRIES FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO CALL FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE SIMILAR ACTIVITY HERE. THE CHANCES FOR AN EVENTUAL GUATEMALAN TAX ON BANANAS WILL ALSO BE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED.

3. THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD IN MY JUDGMENT OF PHYSICAL DANGER TO U.S. EMPLOYEES OF DELMONT, THE ONLY U.S. FRUIT COMPANY DOING BUSINESS HERE, OR TO EMPLOYEES OF OTHER U.S. CORPORATIONS IN GUATEMALA, FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE STORY.

MELOY

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GUATEMALA 6960

EYES ONLY

NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE: VIEWS OF VICE-PRESIDENT; PROBLEMS OF
THE PRESIDENT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 8, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT MARIO SANDOVAL HAD REPORTED TO A CABINET MEETING DECEMBER 5 ON HIS WIDE-RANGING TRAVELS AND HAD PROPOSED THAT GUATEMALA WITHDRAW FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. LAUGERUD SAID THAT SANDOVAL HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GUATEMALA MIGHT CUT OFF ALL TRADE WITH BRITAIN AND SEIZE ALL PROPERTY BELONGING TO BRITISH NATIONALS. TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT THIS SOUNDED LIKE IDI AMIN, LAUGERUD AGREED, STATING THAT GUATEMALA WAS A RESPONSIBLE NATION AND SANDOVAL'S IDEAS WERE PREPOSTEROUS. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAD SUFFERED FAR MORE THAN GUATEMALA AT THE HANDS OF THE UNGA BUT HAD NOT WITHDRAWN; THERE WAS MUCH LESS REASON FOR GUATEMALA TO DO SO.

2. LAUGERUD EXPRESSED DISCOMFORT AT SANDOVAL'S RETURN TO GUATEMALA AND INTIMATED THAT BY SUCH MEASURES AS THE LEAK OF THE CABINET DISCUSSIONS TO THE PRESS SANDOVAL WAS ALREADY TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON THE BELIZE PROBLEM FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES. PRESIDENT REFERRED TO "CRAZY" LOCAL NEWSMAN WHO HAD PROPOSED A MARCH ON BELIZE (A LA SPANISH SAHARA) ON HIS RADIO TALK SHOW AND TO PR PARTY'S TAKING UP OF THE IDEA IN RINGING SPEECHES IN CONGRESS. NONE OF THESE ORATORS WOULD EVER GET PAST

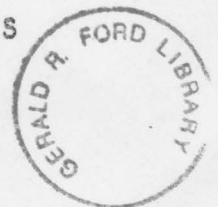
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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

STATE DEPT, GUIDELINES

BY GA, NARA, DATE 11/15/2000



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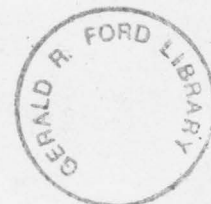
THE BELIZE BRIDGE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GUATEMALA CITY, THE PRESIDENT SAID, BUT "THESE PEOPLE CAN ALL BE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND AGAINST ME." (COMMENT: LA NACION DECEMBER 8 QUOTED SANDOVAL AS SAYING, "IF SHEL DOESN'T GO (TO ADDRESS UN ON BELIZE) I WILL GO." THERE IS NO DANGER OF SANDOVAL'S GOING, BUT IT'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD IN MIND.)

3. AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT RECENT STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE THAT ANYONE OPPOSING GUTEMALA'S CALIM TO BELIZE IS A TRAITOR HAD NOT HELPED CALM CLIMATE OR DEPOLITICIZE ISSUE. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO HAVE THAT STATEMENT ISSUED BACAUSE A GUATEMALAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADER HAD SAID THAT IF BELIZE BACAME PART OF GUATEMALA IT WOULD ONLY BECOEM A COLONY OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, LIKE GUATEMALA. IF IT REMAINED AS IT IS, IT WOULD BE COLONY OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM. THEREFORE ONLY CHANCE FOR BELIZE WAS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT. GUATEMALA LAW, PRESIDENT SAID, DEFINES STATEMENTS OF THAT KIND AS REASON AND THERE HAD BEEN GROUPS WATCHING TOSEE IF LAUGERUD WOULD POINT THAT OUT AND IFNOT TO ATTACK HIM PUBLICLY.

4. AMBASSADOR SAID THERE WERE ASLO GROUPS IN GUATEMALA THAT ARE PREPARED TO AACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE RESULTING IN LESS THAN TOTAL RECUPERATION OF BELIZE AND READY TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO THAT END. BUT PUBLIC OPINION MUST BE EDUCATED AND RALLIED IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S POLICY. LAUGERUD REPEATED THAT GOG'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTREMISTS. AT THE TIME A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, "I WILL BE ACCUSED OF SELLING OUT AND DISMEMBERING THE NATIONAL TERRITORY. BUT I WILL HAVE TO FACE THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES."

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TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 508

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GUATEMALA 1603

NODIS

FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), GT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ON
GUATEMALAN SHIPPING DISCRIMINATION

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, FEB. 24, BETWEEN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON SUBJECT OF DELTA/FLOMERCA:

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND SECRETARY THEY WERE JOINED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR MELOY. SECRETARY TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD RAISED WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF DELTA/FLOMERCA. THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM AND SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN GUATEMALA AND RESULTANT DISRUPTION OF NORMAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES, THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION AND THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, BOTH OF WHOM HAD FOUND EXISTING GUATEMALAN LEGISLATION DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST U.S. SHIPPING INTERESTS, HAD BOTH POSTPONED PLANS TO INVOKE COUNTER-VAILING MEASURES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND REVIEW. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT GOG HAD BEEN INFORMED IN WRITING OF THESE USG DECISIONS. AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO EXPLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION TO DEFER ACTION BY BOTH FMC AND STR WAS A TEMPORARY

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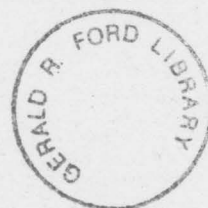
ONE DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY AND THAT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER GOG WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE DISCRIMINATORY SHIPPING REGIME OF GUATEMALA IF IT WERE TO AVOID USG EQUALIZATION MEASURES.

3. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD RESPONDED THAT THE GOG WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE GUATEMALAN CONGRESS TO CHANGE THE LA. AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THIS IF IT APPEARED THE GOG WERE ACTING UNDER U.S. PRESSURE. THE RESULT WOULD BE A STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION AND THE CONGRESS WOULD REFUSE TO COOPERATE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT IF FLOMERCA AND DELTA COULD REACH AN AGREEMENT, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS IMMINENT IF NOT ALREADY ACHIEVED, THIS WOULD SETTLE THE MATTER. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT SO. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN FLOMERCA AND DELTA WOULD NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE FMC AND THE STR HAD FOUND GUATEMALAN LEGISLATION DISCRIMINATORY IN GENERAL AGAINST U.S. SHIPPING LINES AND NOT ONLY AGAINST DELTA. THEREFORE, THE PROBLEM REMAINED.

4. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR THE GOG TO TAKE ACTION IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT CRISIS SITUATION, BUT THAT NONETHELESS IT WAS A PROBLEM THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED BY THE GOG IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT THE DECISION AS TO HOW THE GOG WISHED TO PROCEED, WHETHER THROUGH PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO THE CONGRESS OR SOME OTHER MEANS, WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE GOG.

5. THE PRESIDENT AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOG TO TAKE ACTION IF IT APPEARED IT WERE RESPONDING TO USG PRESSURE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO EMBARRASS THE GOG AND EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO PREVENT THE DECISIONS OF THE FMC AND STR FROM BECOMING PUBLIC. HOWEVER, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION REMAINED WITH THE GOG.
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 509

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ GUATEMALA 1604

NODIS

ED 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GT, US, OVIP (KISSINGER, H.A.)

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENTS REQUEST TO SECRETARY FOR HELICOPTERS
AND PARTS

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER FEBRUARY 24,
GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HANDED HIM A MEMORANDUM,
READING AS FOLLOWS IN ITS ENTIRETY (TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH):

"GUATEMALA, FEBRUARY 24, 1976
GRANT AID

"TO: SECRETARY HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

SUBJECT: 2UH-1H

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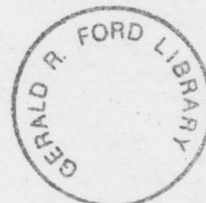
4 ROTOR BLADES

SPARE PARTS IN GENERAL"

2. PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT ALL OF GUATEMALA'S SIX
HELICOPTERS ARE PRESENTLY GROUNDED FOR MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIRS. HELICOPTER SUPPORT WAS ABSOLUELY ESSENTIAL TO
THE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT AND GUATEMALA
NEEDED NOT ONLY THE SPARE PARTS NECESSARY TO GET ITS
PRESENT FLEET FLYING AGAIN, BUT ALSO AT LEAST TWO NEW
HELICOPTERS TO EXPAND THE AIR FORCE'S COMMUNICATIONS AND
DELIVERY CAPABILITY.

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3. SECRETARY SAID THAT OF COURSE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE FOLLOWING UP ON THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, BUT IN ADDITION DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH DOD ON THIS MATTER PROMPTLY.
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 510

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, GT, US, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S REQUEST TO SECRETARY FOR
REPORT FROM US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

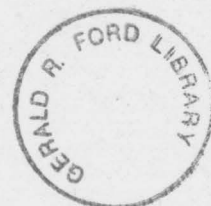
REF: GUATEMALA 1114

1. DURING SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD FEBRUARY 24, PRESIDENT ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TEAM THAT IS STUDYING THE GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRESIDENT WOULD OF COURSE RECEIVE THE TEAM'S REPORT, BUT IT MIGHT BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR FINAL REPORT IS READY. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT NOT ALL OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL INFORMATION THAT HAD BEEN COLLECTED HAD BEEN OURS, SINCE THERE WERE A NUMBER OF MEXICAN SEISMOGRAPHS AND MEXICAN RESEARCHERS IN THE COUNTRY AS WELL.

2. PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAD STILL - THREE YEARS AFTER THE MANAGUA EARTHQUAKE - NOT RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE MANY SEISMOLOGISTS WHO HAD DONE RESEARCH THERE. WE CAN'T LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY, HE SAID, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID WE WILL GET YOU A REPORT FROM THE USGS, EVEN IF IT REPRESENTS ONLY THEIR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS, WITH FINAL CONCLUSIONS TO FOLLOW LATER.

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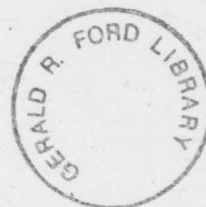
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SECRETARY SAID DEPARTMENT WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH USGS.
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 518

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), GT

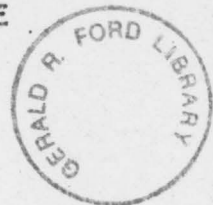
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA:
BELIZE DISPUTE

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND SECRETARY FEB 24, THEY WERE JOINED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR MELOY. SECRETARY TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAD EXPLAINED HIS VIEWS ON BELIZE AND THE PROBABLE REACTIONS OF GUATEMALA SHOULD THE UK GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE UNILATERALLY. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT GUATEMALA HOPED TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE UK IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PERHAPS IN MARCH, BUT REMAINED DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT UK MIGHT AT ANY TIME INITIATE PROCESS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE PRIOR TO REACHING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITH GUATEMALA. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM GOG INTENDS TO APPROACH THE UK IN EARLY MARCH WITH A VIEW TO SETTING A DATE FOR THE TALKS TO RESUME IN APRIL, AFTER EASTER.

2. SECRETARY SAID THAT UK IS NOT GOING TO ACT UNTIL PROPOSED TALKS WITH GOG HAVE RUN THEIR COURSE. THE PRESIDENT INTERJECTED THAT HE HOPED SO. SECRETARY SUGGESTED PRESIDENT NOT RUSH THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. GUATEMALA SHOULD WAIT UNTIL LATE APRIL OR EVEN MAY BEFORE RESUMING TALKS. THIS IS NO TIME FOR A SHOWDOWN. GUATEMALA IS IN NO CONDITION TO FACE A BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BETTER TO POSTPONE THEM AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. UNDER THE

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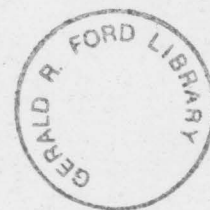
CIRCUMSTANCES THIS WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION OF WEAKNESS.

3. SECRETARY CONTINUED THAT US WILL NOT TRY TO FORCE THE UK TO DO ANYTHING AND IS NOT RPT NOT GOING TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE,

BUT WE WILL USE OUR GOOD OFFICES. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WILL SPEAK TO THE BRITISH. WE WILL TRY TO ENCOURAGE THE BRITISH TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED IN CONFIDENCE HE DID NOT EXPECT TO GET FROM THE BRITISH ALL THAT GUATEMALA WAS ASKING. THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THIS, SAYING THAT GUATEMALA, HOWEVER, MUST START OUT WITH A GOOD BARGAINING POSITION.
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.) GT

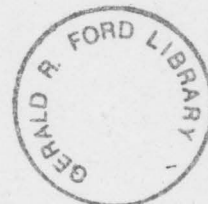
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER-
BELIZE

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY ABOARD THE SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT FEBRUARY 24 ENROUTE FROM SAN JOSE TO GUATEMALA, FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ORANTES RETURNED TO SUBJECT OF BELIZE WHICH HE HAD BEGUN DURING BILATERAL CONVERSATION IN SAN JOSE, AND STRESSED GUATEMALA'S CONVICTION THAT IT WAS ENTITLED TO SOME COMPENSATION FOR UK FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1859 TREATY.

2. THE SECRETARY ASKED HOW THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAW A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO GOG COULD TAKE ONE OF THREE FORMS: FIRST, AGREEMENT THAT BELIZE WOULD HAVE AN "ASSOCIATED STATE" STATUS WITH GUATEMALA SIMILAR, IN HIS WORDS, TO THAT OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATE, IN WHICH BELIZE WOULD HAVE INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BUT CONTROL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, AND FINANCE WOULD BE RESERVED FOR GUATEMALA. A SECOND ALTERNATIVE, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, WOULD BE FOR UK TO MAKE SOME TERRITORIAL CESSION TO GUATEMALA IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF BELIZE, IN RETURN FOR GOG AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT FULL INDEPENDENCE FOR REMAINDER OF BELIZE.

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THIS WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ASSURING GUATEMALA OF ACCESS TO THE HIGH SEAS WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CONFIGURATION OF BELIZE. THE SECRETARY ASKED WHERE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD PROPOSE DRAWING THE NEW BORDER, AND AFTER SOME HESITATION FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT COULD BE IN THE AREA OF THE MAYA MOUNTAINS (WHICH EXTEND ROUGHLY FROM 16 DEGRE S 15 MINUTES TO 17 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE). THIRD POSSIBILITY ACCEPTABLE TO GOG, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, WOULD BE TO PUT THE WHOLE DISPUTE ON ICE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

3. MOLINA SAID THE GOVERNMENT PARTY IN BELIZE WANTS EARLY INDEPENDENT, BUT NOT THE OPPOSITION PARTY. OPINION IN BELIZE ITSELF IS THEREFORE DIVIDED. THE BRITISH OF COURSE WANT TO BE FREE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND TO LEAVE, AND THEREFORE ARE SUPPORTING THE PARTY FAVORING EARLY INDEPENDENCE. WHAT GOG MOST FEARS IS THAT UK WILL SIMPLY DECIDE TO PULL OUT.

4. SECRETARY SAID US IS NOT RPT NOT GOINT TO MEDIATE THIS DISPUTE. BUT WILL SPEAK TO THE BRITISH AND URGE THEM TO SEEK A SOLUTION THAT WOULD BE MUTAULLY ACCEPTABLE. US WILL TRY TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE.
MELOY

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