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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SS-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /027 W
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2347

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 GUATEMALA 09163

FOR ASST. SEC. ENDERS

E.O. 12356: DECL: 12/6/88
TAGS: OVIP (REAGAN, RONALD W.), GT, US
SUBJECT: DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION--BILATERAL
- BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE PRESIDENT
- OF GUATEMALA, GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT

- 1. █████ - ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:
 - BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND
 - THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT

PLACE: ARMANDO ESCALON AIR FORCE BASE,
- SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS

TIME: 5:30 P.M., DECEMBER 4, 1982

3. PRESIDENT REAGAN OPENED THE MEETING BY WELCOMING
PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT AND EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE THAT
THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN WILLING TO COME OVER TO
HONDURAS TO MEET WITH HIM. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED
THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO HELP GUATEMALA. HE THEN
SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO SEE
GUATEMALA IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC
COMMUNITY. IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONTEXT,

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HE HOPED THAT THE BELIZE ISSUE WOULD BE SETTLED SOON.

- 2. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT THEN LAUNCHED INTO A HALF HOUR
MONOLOGUE IN WHICH HE MADE HIS USUAL POINTS ABOUT

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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
(✓) Release () Excise () Deny (✓) Declassify
Date 1/27/00 Exemption

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THE MULTI-RACIAL COMPOSITION OF GUATEMALA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN POPULATION WHICH WAS VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 60 AND 70 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION. RIOS MONTT HAD A SERIES OF CHARTS WHICH WERE OVERLAYS OF A BASIC MAP OF GUATEMALA SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION GEOGRAPHICALLY OF THE MAJOR ETHNICAL GROUPS AND THE MAJOR INSURGENT AREAS LARGELY COTERMINOUS. PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THAT THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AREAS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST WHERE THE AREAS WERE LADINOS, OR NON-INDIANS, LIVED.

3. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT NEXT EXPLAINED THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED CIVIL DEFENSE FORCES TO HELP COUNTER THE INSURGENTS. THERE WERE SOME 300,000 PERSONS SO ORGANIZED. THEY, HOWEVER, LACKED WEAPONS. HE NEEDED M-1 RIFLES AND CARBINES, AS WELL AS "SOME AMMUNITION". HE HOPED THAT THESE ITEMS COULD BE GIVEN TO GUATEMALA FROM U.S. SURPLUS STOCKS. THESE ITEMS WERE NO LONGER IN U.S. ARMY INVENTORY, HE ASSERTED. HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, JUST THESE FEW ITEMS.

4. ALSO TO ASSIST THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AREA, RIOS MONTT REQUESTED THE U.S. TO DONATE PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS AND BAILEY BRIDGES. HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR LOANS OR GRANTS, BUT HE ASKED THAT THE USG ASSIST GUATEMALA IN

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NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN LOANS. HE WAS NOT VERY CLEAR ON THIS POINT BUT HE IMPLIED THAT THE LOANS WOULD COME FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE BANKS. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT CONTINUED THAT THE IMF KNEW GUATEMALA'S POTENTIAL AND THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE IMF WOULD RESPOND. RIOS MONTT THEN SAID THAT GUATEMALA WAS DRAFTING A NEW PETROLEUM LAW WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO FOREIGN COMPANIES AND WOULD SOON BE IN FORCE. HE WAS NOT VERY SPECIFIC ON THIS POINT.

5. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT THEN SHIFTED TO THE BELIZE ISSUE. HE PRODUCED ANOTHER OVERLAY OF THE GUATEMALAN MAP SHOWING GUATEMALA'S TERRITORIAL DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO BELIZE. THE AREA DESIRED WAS AS FAR NORTH AS THE MONKEY RIVER AND UP ITS TRIBUTARIES

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TO THE WEST AND FROM THE HEADWATERS OF THE RIO
BLADEN, WEST TO THE PRESENT BORDER. RIOS MONTT
REFERRED TO THE PRESENT BORDER AS THE LINE
RECOGNIZED BY GREAT BRITAIN. HE REITERATED THE
POINT THAT GUATEMALA WANTED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE
U.K. BUT HE CONCEDED THAT BELIZE REPRESENTATIVES
WERE PRESENT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD BEEN
HELD IN NEW YORK AND WHICH HE MAINTAINED WERE STILL
IN PROGRESS. RIOS MONTT RETURNED TO AN EARLIER
MAP OVERLAY AND SHOWED THAT THE AREA BEING SOUGHT
BY GUATEMALA WAS COTERMINOUS WITH THE AREA OCCUPIED
BY KEKCHI IN PRESENT DAY BELIZE. PRESIDENT RIOS
MONTT THEN WAVED SOME PRINTED SHEETS WHICH HE
ASSERTED WERE COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATING

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IN BELIZE. HE MADE THE POINT THAT BELIZE WAS A
FACILE CONDUIT FOR COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. HE
THEN WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE MEXICAN ROLE
IN SUPPLYING THE GUERRILLAS ACROSS THE EXTENSIVE

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GUATEMALAN/MEXICAN BORDER. HE ASSERTED THAT MEXICO WAS BEING USED AS A REST AREA AND A PLACE FOR TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION OF GUERRILLAS.

HE ASSERTED THAT THERE WERE NO REFUGEES IN MEXICO BUT PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GUERRILLAS. RIOS MONTT'S FINAL POINT WITH REGARD TO BELIZE WAS A GENERALIZED STATEMENT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO THE SEA AND TO THE CARIBBEAN. HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT GUATEMALA WAS PRESENTLY HEMMED IN BETWEEN BELIZE AND HONDURAS AND ONLY HAD ACCESS THROUGH THE BAHIA AMATIQUE. ONLY WITH THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL COAST LINE COULD GUATEMALA PARTICIPATE IN THE CBI, RIOS MONTT SAID, BECAUSE WITHOUT THAT COASTLINE GUATEMALA REALLY DID NOT FRONT ON THE CARIBBEAN.

6. RIOS MONTT WAS THEN PROMPTED TO CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM OF GUATEMALA WAS REALLY PART OF A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM. HE ASKED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN LIFT THE TRAVEL ADVISORY WITH REGARD TO U.S. CITIZENS. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT SAID THERE WAS

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ONLY A LIMITED AREA IN THE CENTRAL PART OF GUATEMALA IN WHICH THERE WAS ANY DANGER IN REGARD TO TRAVEL. HE WOULD GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN THE AREA. RIOS MONTT THEN MENTIONED THAT THE IMF WAS SENDING A DELEGATION IN JANUARY TO CONDUCT A NEW STUDY.

7. PROMPTED BY HIS SECRETARY, FRANCISCO BIANCHI, PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT THEN LAUNCHED INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE GUARANTEES FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PROMULGATE THREE ELECTORAL LAWS ON MARCH 23, 1983, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED. HE THEN SAID IN A RUSH THAT HE COULD GUARANTEE THAT ELECTIONS FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF 1983 (BUT SEE BELOW). RIOS MONTT SAID THAT THIS PROCESS WAS THE BASIS FOR GETTING THE ARMY OUT OF GOVERNMENT. THE ARMY WISHED TO RETURN TO ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AND HAD NO DESIRE TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT. HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN STAYING IN POWER.

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8. AGAIN PROMPTED, PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT REFERRED TO THE BEANS AND RIFLES PROGRAM, OR FRIJOLE Y FUSILES PROGRAM. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ARMY WAS SEEKING TO FEED CIVILIANS WHO RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE AND THAT THOUSANDS HAD COME OVER. THE GOVERNMENT WAS USING INTERNATIONAL AID (THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION IT) TO CARRY THIS OUT. HE ASSERTED THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAD EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH AID AND COULD AVOID ITS MISUSE. HE ASKED

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FOR ADDITIONAL UNSPECIFIED HELP FOR THE BEANS AND RFILES PROGRAM.

9. AGAIN PROMPTED WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS BEING MADE ABOUT GUATEMALA BY HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AMNĒSTY INTERNATIONAL AND IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA. HE SAID THAT 21 GUERRILLA "COMMANDANTES" HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE LAST 20 DAYS, AND AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES, THESE WERE ASSERTED TO BE READY TO GO BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES TO BRING THE TRUE GOSPEL. HE POINTEDLY ASSERTED THAT THESE COMMANDANTES WOULD NOT BE SHOT. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT THEN REFERRED TO TWO EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS MEDICAL SCHOOL WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND WERE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION AS COMMUNIST AGENTS. RIOS MONTT IN CONCLUSION ASKED FOR AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF MONEY TO COUNTER FALSE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AROUND THE WORLD.

WHEN RIOS MONTT CONCLUDED HIS MONOLOGUE, PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CERTAINLY GIVEN HIM A LOT TO THINK ABOUT AND HE WOULD TAKE THE POINTS AND THE DOCUMENTATION HOME AND STUDY THEM. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN MEXICO AND WONDERED WHETHER PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID MIGHT BE HELPFUL. PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT RESPONDED INITIALLY THAT

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HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY AS DE LA MADRID HAD ALREADY INVITED SOME COMMUNISTS TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS. THE GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THIS RATHER CONFUSED STATEMENT AND PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT ENDED BY SAYING THAT PERHAPS PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID COULD BE HELPFUL. HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO MEXICO TO EXPLAIN GUATEMALAN REALITIES TO THE NEW MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND GENERALLY WOUND UP ACCEPTING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SUGGESTION.

11. PRESIDENT REAGAN THEN ASKED SECRETARY SCHULTZ WHETHER HE HAD ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. SECRETARY SCHULTZ ASKED PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT FOR A CLARIFICATION OF HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS ABOUT A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. AT THIS POINT, PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT BACKED AWAY FROM THE CLEAR COMMITMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN 1983 AND REFERRED MORE GENERALLY TO THE START OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS FOLLOWING THE PROMULGATION OF THE ELECTORAL LAWS ON MARCH 23, 1983.

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12. DURING THE MEETING PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT
GAVE PRESIDENT REAGAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS
DELEGATION AN EXTENSIVE FOLDER ENTITLED "ESTE
GOBIERNO TIENE EL COMPROMISO DE CAMBIAR"

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(THIS GOVERNMENT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CHANGE)
CONTAINING (A) MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT
TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS, (B) GENERAL EXPOSITION,
(C) TRUTH AND JUSTICE, (D) BEANS AND RIFLES,
(E) ECONOMIC PLAN, (F) THE LAST TERRORIST'S ACTIONS,
(G) TERRORIST'S DOCUMENT (TRANSLATION), (H) THE
FOUR IMPORTANT SPEECHES OF THE PRESIDENT RIOS
MONTT, AND (I) GENERAL RIOS MONTT'S CURRICULUM
VITAE.

13. AFTER A FEW CONCLUDING COMMENTS, THE TWO
PRESIDENTS, THE SECRETARY AND THE GUATEMALAN FOREIGN
MINISTER LEFT TO MEET WITH THE PRESS IN ANOTHER
BUILDING.
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