

S E C R E T

08 DEC 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: Duane R. Clarridge
Chief, Latin America Division

SUBJECT: Visit of Ambassador to Honduras,
John D. Negroponte

1. Action Requested: None; for your information only. This memorandum is to confirm your appointment at 1530 hours on 8 December 1983 with the Ambassador to Honduras, John D. Negroponte. The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence will also be present at this meeting. The Ambassador also has appointments with the Deputy Director for Operations at 1615 hours and with the National Intelligence Officer for Latin America at 1630 hours on 8 December 1983. Chief, Latin America Division, Mr. Duane R. Clarridge, or Deputy Chief, Latin America Division, will accompany the Ambassador to these meetings. 25X1

2. Background: Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to Honduras, Ambassador Negroponte was Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He also served previously as Counselor for Political Affairs in Quito, Ecuador, and as Consul General in Thessaloniki, Greece.

3. Attached are additional biographic notes on Ambassador Negroponte, a country fact sheet on Honduras, a background sheet on Telgucigalpa Station and a list of talking points.

signed
Duane R. Clarridge

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JOHN D. NEGROPONTE

John D. Negroponte was born on July 21, 1939, in London. He received a B.A. degree from Yale University in 1960.

Ambassador Negroponte joined the Foreign Service in 1960 and was assigned to the Consulate General in Hong Kong. In 1963, he was transferred to the Department of State as the Administrative Assistant in the Bureau of American Affairs. From 1964 to 1968 he served in the Embassy in Saigon as a Political Officer. He was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Paris Peace Talks on Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

In 1970, Ambassador Negroponte was detailed to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for the summer session of the United Nations Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. He served on the National Security Council from 1970 to 1973, first as Deputy Director of the Planning and Coordination Staff and then as Staff Officer in charge of Indo-Chinese Affairs including responsibility for backstopping the Vietnam peace negotiations. During this period, Ambassador Negroponte also attended summit conferences in Moscow and Peking. In 1973 he became Political Counselor at the Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. From 1975 to 1977 Ambassador Negroponte was Consul General in Thessaloniki, Greece.

From July 1977 to December 1979 Ambassador Negroponte served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries Affairs, with the rank of Ambassador, in the Department of State. In this connection, he served as head of United States delegations to numerous bilateral and multilateral negotiations on living marine resources and as Chairman of the 10th bi-annual meeting of the thirteen Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties held in Washington from September 13 through October 6, 1979.

In January 1980 Ambassador Negroponte was named to the Department's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs as Deputy Assistant Secretary. He became Ambassador to Honduras in November 1981.

Mr. Negroponte received the Department's Superior Honor Award in 1975.

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COUNTRY FACT SHEET

NAME: Honduras

CAPITAL: Tegucigalpa

POPULATION: Approximately 3,000,000

AREA: 42,300 square miles

GNP: \$2.8 Billion

PER CAPITA INCOME: US \$733

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY:

Honduras is an economically underdeveloped country with a history of unstable government and coup activity. From 1972 until January 1982, it was headed by the military, under the direction of the Superior Defense Council. On 29 November 1981, Honduras held a presidential election. This election was peaceful and probably honest. Roberto SUAZO Cordova, candidate of the Liberal party, won with a surprisingly large margin over the candidate of the Nationalist Party, Ricardo ZUNIGA Augustinus. The Liberal party also won an absolute majority in the National Assembly. On 27 January 1982, President SUAZO was inaugurated.

To date, the SUAZO Administration has continued the friendly ties which Honduras has traditionally maintained with the United States. Honduras is expected to continue supporting U.S. positions on major issues. The Government, including the president, continues to be strongly anti-communist, despite the appointment of a Minister of Foreign Relations, Edgardo PAZ Barnica, who is known to sympathize with the current Nicaraguan Government. The Honduran military is even more anti-communist than the administration, and it is likely the military would overthrow SUAZO if the latter moved toward the left or proved incapable of dealing with the very serious economic problems facing Honduras.

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The following are three major problems facing the Government:

- 1), increasing unemployment, coupled with increasing inflation, a declining Gross National Product, and a general lack of investor confidence
- 2), increasing Cuban influence in Nicaragua, coupled with the dramatic expansion of the Nicaraguan military and the fear that Nicaragua may invade; and
- 3), use of Honduras as a transit point for arms from Nicaragua to guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala

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