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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 335273

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SUBJECT: XIII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOVEMBER 14-18

- 1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: THE US WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE ALL OF ITS OBJECTIVES AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED XIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS. GRENADA TURNED OUT TO BE A NON-ISSUE. SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD RESIGN EARLY IN 1984, AGREEMENT BY BOLIVIA AND CHILE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON THEIR DISAGREEMENT OVER BOLIVIA'S CLAIM TO ACCESS TO THE SEA, AND DEBATE ON CONTADORA AND CENTRAL AMERICA WERE SEVERAL OF THE NOTEWORTHY THEMES OF THE WEEK. NICARAGUA PLAYED A RELATIVELY LOW-KEY ROLE AT THE GA. SECRETARY SHULTZ PARTICIPATED IN A VERY PRODUCTIVE "INFORMAL DIALOGUE" WITH MOST OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN ATTENDANCE. DEPUTY SECRETARY DAM'S PLENARY SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED. THE GA APPROVED BUDGETS FOR 1984-1985 AT THE SAME LEVEL AS 1982 AND 1983 -- A

SINGULAR ACHIEVEMENT. THE US WAS ABLE TO JOIN CONSENSUS ON ALL RESOLUTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SESSIONS. US CANDIDATE WAS ONE OF FOUR ELECTED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

3. BY COMMON AGREEMENT AMONG USOAS, OAS SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS OTHER DELEGATIONS, THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED XIII GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND FOR THE US. THE MEETING, HELD IN WASHINGTON, NOV. 14-18, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A MOOD OF COMPROMISE AND HARMONY. THE U.S. WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE ALL OF ITS OBJECTIVES -- OVER AND ABOVE WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IN GRENADA AND THE CONTINUING CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES BEING CARRIED OUT IN HONDURAS. AMONG THESE

OBJECTIVES WERE: 1, TO PREVENT ANY RESOLUTION ON GRENADA; 2, TO ISOLATE NICARAGUA TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; 3, TO ENCOURAGE A RESOLUTION ON THE CONTADORA PROCESS THAT WE COULD SUPPORT; 4, TO WORK WITH ARGENTINA TO GET A MODERATE RESOLUTION ON FALKLANDS/MALVINAS; AND 5, TO ELECT THE US CANDIDATE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL ALEJANDRO ORFILA THAT HE WOULD RESIGN EARLY IN THE YEAR AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT BOLIVIA AND CHILE HAD ACCEPTED THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT TO BEGIN DIRECT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE LONG-SIMMERING PROBLEM OF BOLIVIA'S CLAIM FOR ACCESS TO THE SEA.

4. GRENADA TURNED OUT TO BE ALMOST A NON-ISSUE. DESPITE INDICATIONS THAT FORMER GRENADAN OAS AMBASSADOR DESSIMA WILLIAMS WAS PREPARED, UP TO THE LAST MINUTE, TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY AND TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE CARIBBEAN-U.S. ACTION, SHE DID NOT DO SO AND THE GRENADAN CHAIR REMAINED EMPTY. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, THERE WAS SOME CRITICISM LEVELED AT THE U.S. FOR ITS ACTIONS IN GRENADA, MOST NOTABLY BY MEXICO, NICARAGUA, AND THE BAHAMAS. EVEN THIS CRITICISM, HOWEVER, WAS MORE RESTRAINED THAN IT HAD BEEN SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER. THERE WERE PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT BOLIVIA, MEXICO AND NICARAGUA WERE GOING TO INTRODUCE

A RESOLUTION SPECIFICALLY CASTIGATING THE U.S. OR, FAILING THIS, REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION. IN THE END, NO RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED. SEVERAL POSTS, BUT ESPECIALLY AMBASSADOR CORR IN LA PAZ, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING REFUSE THIS ISSUE.

5. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER THE U.S. GENERAL STATEMENT, SECRETARY SHULTZ DID HOST A VERY SUCCESSFUL LUNCH FOR THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AND PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN A SUBSEQUENT LENGTHY "INFORMAL DIALOGUE" WITH THE ATTENDING MINISTERS, WHERE DEBT QUESTIONS AND OTHER ECONOMIC SUBJECTS, INTRODUCED BY THE SECRETARY, DOMINATED THE DISCUSSION. HIS COMMENTS WERE EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED. DEPUTY SECRETARY DAM DELIVERED THE U.S. GENERAL STATEMENT STATE 328169, WHICH WAS ALSO WELL RECEIVED. -- EMPHASIZING US SUPPORT OF THE CONTADORA PROCESS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY AND TO THE PROMOTION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WHILE EMPHASIZING NICARAGUA'S FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS 1979 PLEDGES TO THE OAS ON THESE AND RELATED ISSUES. HE ALSO EXPLAINED AGAIN THE BASIS FOR THE ACTION IN GRENADA.

6. NICARAGUA WAS A TIMID ACTOR DURING THE ASSEMBLY. BOTH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER TINOCO AND AMBASSADOR PARRALES DELIVERED LENGTHY ATTACKS ON THE U.S., PARRALES CONCENTRATING ON A DETAILED DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOYO WAS IN THE U.S. BUT NEVER APPEARED AT THE OAS., NICARAGUA WAS OBVIOUSLY IN AN ISOLATED POSITION, HOWEVER, AND UNABLE TO TURN ITS FRUSTRATION INTO ANY CONCRETE ANTI-U.S. ACTIONS.

7. THE BATTLE TO SUCCEED ORFILA AS SECRETARY GENERAL IS ALREADY JOINED. DURING THE ASSEMBLY BRAZIL FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THE CANDIDACY OF IONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL BAENA SOARES, AND OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL VAL MCCORMIE THREW HIS HAT INTO THE RING.

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OTHER ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES ARE AMBASSADOR-LUIS MARCHEAND OF PERU AND AMBASSADOR MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBAR OF PARAGUAY, BOTH PRESENTLY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENT TO THE OASGA, FORMER COSTA RICAN FORMER GONZALO FACIO ENTERED HIS CANDIDACY. AFTER SEVERAL CLOSED MEETINGS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A SPECIAL GENERAL

ASSEMBLY SESSION DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH TO ELECT THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL.

8. PEACE EFFORTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA: AT THE INITIATION OF THE CONTADORA COUNTRIES, AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM ON CENTRAL AMERICA WAS ADDED AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE GA. THE US JOINED IN APPROVING A RESOLUTION THAT SUPPORTS CONTADORA AND THE DOCUMENT OF 21 OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES. THE INITIAL DRAFT, SPONSORED BY ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FAILED TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO DEMOCRACY AND PLURALISM. AFTER ANOTHER PROPOSAL WAS CIRCULATED BY HONDURAS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER CORE FOUR STATES, A COMPROMISE WAS REACHED WHICH INTERJECTED THE KEY REFERENCES TO DEMOCRACY. THOUGH LANGUAGE FORMALLY CALLING FOR REPORTS TO THE OAS COULD NOT BE AGREED TO, VARIOUS SPEAKERS, INCLUDING THE US, NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OAS ROLE.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IAHRC), COUNTRY SPECIFIC REPORTS ON GUATEMALA AND SURINAME, AND THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. NICARAGUA ATTEMPTED TO REBUT, POINT BY POINT, THE IAHRC'S CRITICISM CONTAINED IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT. THE GRN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE FOR ALMOST AN HOUR AND A HALF WITHOUT CONVINCING ANYONE THAT THE VALIDITY OF THE COMMISSION'S CHARGES WAS IN DOUBT. CORRIDOR COMMENTARY GENERALLY REFLECTED THE OPINION THAT THE GRN PRESENTATION DID MORE HARM THAN GOOD. THE DUTCH OBSERVER EXPRESSED THIS VIEW AND CLAIMED THAT, CONTRARY TO A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF NOV. 16, THE NETHERLANDS IS NO LONGER PRIVATELY DEFENDING THE SANDINISTAS. BOTH GUATEMALA AND SURINAME OFFERED WEAK DEFENSES FOR THE CRITICISMS LEVELED AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND SOUGHT TO EXCLUDE SPECIFIC MENTION OF THEIR COUNTRIES IN ANY RESOLUTION. A SINGLE RESOLUTION NOT NAMING ANY STATES WAS APPROVED AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE. THE ONLY US DISAGREEMENT WITH THE FINAL RESOLUTION IS ITS DESCRIPTION OF FORCED DISAPPEARANCES AS A "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY," A FORMULATION THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED.

10. THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS: A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE 1982 UN RESOLUTIONS

CALLING FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR A LACK OF PROGRESS PASSED THE GA WITH LITTLE DEBATE. THE US WORKED CLOSELY WITH ARGENTINA TO PRODUCE A RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE ASSEMBLY TAKING OUT PROVOCATIVE LANGUAGE IN ADVANCE. EIGHT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ABSTAINED IN COMMITTEE BUT WENT ALONG WITH THE CONSENSUS IN PLENARY.

11. EXISTING MECHANISMS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES: A US SPONSORED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE STUDY OF EXISTING MECHANISMS FOR RESOLVING DISPUTES, INCLUDING THE PACT OF BOGOTA, WAS ADOPTED. THIS INITIATIVE ORIGINATED IN SECRETARY SHULTZ' ADDRESS TO THE XII GA IN 1982.

12. MECHANISM FOR INSPECTION OF WEAPONS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL: A COLOMBIAN SPONSORED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE STUDY OF THE ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR INSPECTING WEAPONS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS ADOPTED. MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THIS PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL IN PREPARATION OF A REPORT TO THE NEXT GA.

13. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED ANNUAL BUDGETS IN 1984-85 AT THE SAME LEVEL -- \$64.5 MILLION -- AS IN 1982 AND 1983. THIS IS A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT IN BUDGETARY AUSTERITY AMONG INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE 1982-83 REORGANIZATION REDUCED OVERHEAD COST IN PERSONNEL BY 20 PERCENT, ENABLING THE ORGANIZATION TO INCREASE DIRECT SERVICES TO MEMBER COUNTRIES BY \$3.5 MILLION IN 1984-85 WITHOUT INCREASING BUDGETS. THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A SOLUTION TO THE LONGSTANDING ISSUE OF OVER-DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S. TO FINANCE THE OAS. THIS WAS A STATESMANLIKE POSITION WHICH FORESHADOWS FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVES IN THE COMING YEAR. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR U.S. INSISTENCE ON A BUDGETARY FREEZE HAS BEEN FRUSTRATION IN NEGOTIATING A GRADUAL REDUCTION IN THE U.S. QUOTA OF 66 AS MANDATED BY CONGRESS. WHEN THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN SETTLED TO U.S. SATISFACTION, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO EVENTUAL INCREASES IN THE ORGANIZATION'S BUDGET AND MORE DIRECT SERVICES.

14. IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SESSIONS COMMITTEE II, THE U.S. JOINED THE CONSENSUS ON ALL RESOLUTIONS.

WE MADE EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS ON THREE: PANAMA CANAL TOLLS, COPPER, AND THE GSP. THE STATEMENTS MARKED THE FACT THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSENSUS DID NOT IMPLY U.S. CONCURRENCE WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE RESOLUTIONS. THE U. S. INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, DELEGATED THE TOPIC OF COERCIVE ECONOMIC MEASURES TO A LEGAL COMMITTEE STUDY, MET ALL OUR OBJECTIVES ON PROGRAM/BUDGET MATTERS, KEPT FINANCE AND TRADE MATTERS UNDER CONTROL AND MOVING FORWARD, AND SUCCESSFULLY DERAILED SEVERAL OBJECTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS. THE ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE SATISFACTORY AGREEMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREA HELPED TO ESTABLISH A FAVORABLE CONFERENCE ENVIRONMENT. TO THE DEGREE U.S. RESPONSIVENESS CHANNELS THESE ISSUES TO THE OAS, WE MAY WEAKEN MORE STRIDENT ANTI-U.S. EFFORTS IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE U.N., ECLA AND SELA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE WEST COAST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE LESS INCLINED TO ATTACK U.S. PANAMA CANAL POLICIES DURING THE JANUARY ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN QUITO.

15. THE U.S. CANDIDATE BRUCE MCCOLM, FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ELECTED WITH 25 VOTES. THERE WERE FIVE CANDIDATES FOR FOUR VACANCIES NICARAGUA'S CANDIDATE DIED A FEW WEEKS AGO. THE OTHERS ELECTED WERE BRAZIL WITH 29 VOTES UNANIMOUS; COLOMBIA, 24 VOTES, AND BOLIVIA, 20 VOTES. THE CANDIDATE FROM EL SALVADOR RECEIVED 15 VOTES. IN OTHER ELECTIONS, CANDIDATES FROM COSTA RICA AND PERU WERE ELECTED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE AND BRAZILIAN CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL.

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16. SINCE THE BULK OF THE WORK IN THE EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AREA WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE MEETING OF EDUCATION MINISTERS IN SEPTEMBER, RESOLUTIONS IN THIS AREA PASSED WITHOUT MUCH DEBATE. THE BUDGET FOR 1964-65 WAS APPROVED WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS; THE STATUTES WERE CHANGED TO COMPLY WITH A GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATE CALLING FOR ALTERNATE MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS, AND A STUDY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE OAS MUSEUM. A RESOLUTION WAS ALSO PASSED THAT

SET UP AN AD HOC GROUP TO DEVELOP THE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA. NATIONS ARE ALREADY VIEWING THIS COMMEMORATION AS SOMETHING BEYOND A MERE CULTURAL CELEBRATION. CHILE, COLOMBIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ARE CALLING FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND VISA AGREEMENTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS. THE CULTURAL CLASHES THAT HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT FORESHADOW A DIFFICULT COMMEMORATION FOR ALL.

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