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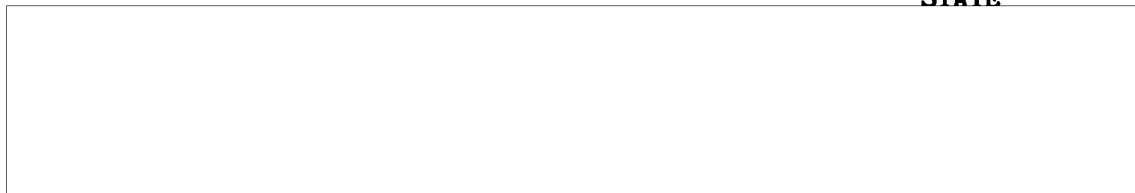
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CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO RUEHLL/CONTADORA COLLECTIVE  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 06129

EZ2:

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PREL, HO, NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AZCONA DEFINES FURTHER HIS POSITION  
ON NICARAGUA AND THE CONTRAS

1. (LOU) SUMMARY: IN A SERIES OF PRESS INTERVIEWS  
OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, PRESIDENT AZCONA HAS BEEN CONFRONTED  
WITH REPEATED QUESTIONS ABOUT NICARAGUA AND THE ANTI-  
SANDINISTAS. HIS ANSWERS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT, AND  
PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS BEYOND HIS APRIL 4 SPEECH  
ABOUT HIS CURRENT VIEWS ON THE ISSUES. HE HAS GONE  
BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGING A CONTRA "PRESENCE" IN HONDURAS TO  
ADMIT THE EXISTENCE OF "PROVISIONAL CAMPS," WHICH  
HONDURAS CANNOT CONTROL. HE BELIEVES U.S. AID TO THE  
CONTRAS IS MORALLY JUSTIFIED. HE THINKS PASSAGE OF THE  
U.S. \$100 MILLION DOLLAR AID BILL IS ADVISABLE FOR  
HONDURAS, AND WILL PROVIDE USEFUL PRESSURE FOR A  
DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION IN NICARAGUA. HE BELIEVES THAT  
SANDINISTA NICARAGUA IS "FASCIST" AND "ANOTHER CUBA";  
THAT IT IS EXPANSIONIST AND EXPORTS SUBVERSION; AND

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THAT THE SANDINISTAS HAVE DISREGARDED THEIR OAS COMMITMENTS AND HELD ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE "FSLN HAD TO WIN."

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2. (LOU) ON THE OTHER HAND, AZCONA HAS PLACED SOME MARKERS THAT ARE CLEARLY INTENDED TO LIMIT HIS ENDORSEMENT OF THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS. HE STRESSES OFTEN THAT THEY SHOULD BE IN NICARAGUA RATHER THAN HONDURAS, AND THAT U.S. AID TO THEM "NEED NOT" FLOW THROUGH HONDURAS. HE DENIES COOPERATION BETWEEN HONDURAN ARMED FORCES AND THE CONTRAS. HONDURAS IS NEUTRAL, AND WILL NOT BE USED AS A PLATFORM FOR FOREIGN FORCES TO INVADE NICARAGUA. FINALLY, HONDURAS WILL SEEK TO REMOVE THE CONTRAS WITH SIGNATURE OF A CONTADORA AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) IN A SERIES OF PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRESS OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, PRESIDENT AZCONA HAS GIVEN FURTHER SHAPE TO THE POLICY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH REGARD TO NICARAGUA AND THE ANTI-SANDINISTA INSURGENCY. SOME OF HIS POINTS WERE ALREADY COVERED IN HIS APRIL 4 SPEECH (REFTEL), BUT OTHERS ARE NEW. SUMMARIES OR QUOTES OF HIS REMARKS IN VARIOUS INTERVIEWS ARE ORGANIZED BELOW INTO FURTHER PUBLIC ADMISSIONS OF ANTI-SANDINISTA USE OF HONDURAN TERRITORY; FAVORABLE STATEMENTS ABOUT ANTI-SANDINISTAS; CRITICISMS OF THE SANDINISTAS; AND THE LIMITS OF HONDURAN POLICY, INCLUDING WHAT HONDURAS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DO FOR THE CONTRAS.

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4. (U) CONTRAS IN HONDURAS:

- --THE CONTRAS ARE USING HONDURAN TERRITORY AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS AND HAVE SET UP CAMPS ON THE BORDER WITH NICARAGUA.

- --HONDURAS CANNOT CONTROL ITS VAST BORDER NOW AND WOULD REQUIRE MORE FUNDS THAN IT HAS TO DO SO, AND HAS NO WAY TO PREVENT THE CONTRAS ACCESS TO THEIR "PROVISIONAL CAMPS.

5. (U) ATTITUDE TOWARD ANTI-SANDINISTAS:

- --PRESIDENT REAGAN'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR THE INSURGENTS IS "NOT AMORAL" IF BASED ON THE VIEW THAT THE GON IS A THREAT TO U.S. SECURITY AND SEEKS TO SPREAD MARXISM IN THE REGION.

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- --"I THINK THAT IT IS MORE ADVISABLE FOR HONDURAS THAT THE \$100 MILLION DOLLARS BE APPROVED (RATHER THAN DEFEATED IN CONGRESS)."

- --U.S. ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON THE SANDINISTAS TO LOOK FOR A POLITICAL END TO THE CIVIL WAR. THIS PRESSURE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THE GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA SUPPORTED THE U.S. IN INSISTING THAT THE SANDINISTAS CREATE A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

- --THE CONTRAS HAVE THEIR OWN GENESIS; "WE DIDN'T

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CREATE THEM."

- --"THE SOLUTION TO THE NICARAGUAN PROBLEM IS IN THE HANDS OF THE NICARAGUANS AND NO ONE ELSE."

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6. (U) CRITICISMS OF THE SANDINISTAS:

- --"I AM GLAD THAT THE NICARAGUAN REGIME HAS NOT CONSOLIDATED, BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON A DOGMATIC SYSTEM AND BECAUSE IT IS AN EXTRANEIOUS BODY--THE SAME AS CUBA--  
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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AZCONA DEFINES FURTHER HIS POSITION IN LATIN AMERICA."

- --"IN VIEW OF THE MARXISTS EXPANSIONISM THEY MAY WANT TO EXPAND THEIR DOCTRINE TO HONDURAS THROUGH SUBVERSION, TRAINING, AND SO FORTH. THAT IS THE DANGER LOOMING OVER US BECAUSE HERE IN THIS COUNTRY WE WANT TO LIVE IN DEMOCRACY."

- --"LET THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE DECIDE INTERNALLY IF THEY AGREE WITH THE SANDINISTA SYSTEM OR IF THEY ARE AGAINST THAT SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN FULL FREEDOM AND NOT LIKE IN THE PAST ELECTIONS WHERE THE FSLN HAD TO WIN."

- --"THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESPECT THE COMMITMENTS IT HAS WITH THE OAS, AND SHOULD GIVE FREEDOM TO THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE. WE ARE SURE THAT IF THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT ADOPTS THESE DECISIONS IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE THE PACIFICATION OF NICARAGUA. THEY SHOULD TALK WITH THE ARMED OPPOSITION AS WELL AS THE UNARMED OPPOSITION. THEY SHOULD PROMISE TRUE ELECTIONS."

- --"WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED IN CUBA AND WE ARE SEEING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN NICARAGUA. THE COUNTRY OR GOVERNMENT, THAT NEGLECTS ITS CITIZENS WITH ITS ACTIONS IS NOT A GOOD GOVERNMENT. THAT IS FASCISM."

- --"THE PROBLEM IS THE NICARAGUANS. WHY DO THE CONTRAS EXIST? WHY DO THE REFUGEES EXIST? BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THAT GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IS VERY CLEAR, AS WAS THE CASE WITH SOMOZA. WHY DID THEY OUST SOMOZA? WHY DID THEY DISAGREE WITH SOMOZA? WHAT ABOUT US? IS IT OUR DUTY TO GUARD THEIR REAR WHILE THEY ARE DOING AS THEY PLEASE IN NICARAGUA? THAT IS NOT MY DUTY."

- --"ON OUR PART THERE CAN BE NO CO-EXISTENCE. IS THERE ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE MARXISM HAS NOT MADE ATTEMPTS TO EXTEND ITS REACH?"

7. (U) LIMITS OF HONDURAN POLICY:

- --WITH SIGNATURE OF THE CONTADORA ACTA, HONDURAS WILL SEEK TO REMOVE THE CONTRAS FROM ITS TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY.

- --HONDURAS IS "NEUTRAL," THOUGH IT HOPES FOR A

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DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION IN NICARAGUA.

- --HONDURAS DOES NOT WANT A WAR WITH NICARAGUA, NOR WILL IT LEND ITS TERRITORY FOR FOREIGN FORCES TO INVADE THAT COUNTRY.

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- --IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THERE IS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CONTRAS AND THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES. "WE WILL NOT HAVE OUR FORCES FACE A SITUATION LIKE THAT."

- --THE ANTI-SANDINISTAS SHOULD BE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. "THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEM TO BE IN HONDURAS."F

- --U.S. AID DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO PASS THROUGH HONDURAS. THE U.S. COULD WELL USE ANY AIRPORT IN CENTRAL AMERICA OR OTHER MEANS TO HAVE SUPPLIES DELIVERED. (DRAFTED-POL:PLANTO/TSWILKINSON) FERCH  
END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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