

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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HRN Tegucigalpa, in Spanish to Honduras, June 11, 1954, 1235 GMT--W

(Honduran Government's June 7 rpt 7 reply to Guatemalan Government's May 27 proposal of a friendship and nonaggression pact)

(TEXT)

Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Honduras. Number 34, 390 rpt 34, 390, (Law H Rpt H?). To his excellency, the Minister of the Republic of Guatemala in Honduras. Dear Sir:

I have the honor of replying to the proposal contained in your excellency's cablegram dated May 27, 1954 rpt 1954, which read as follows:

"In emphatic confirmation of our policy of nonintervention, my government is honored to submit for consideration by your excellency's illustrious government--in formal manner, notwithstanding the existence of the multi-lateral antiwar pact of nonaggression and conciliation signed in 1933 in Rio de Janeiro, in effect between our two countries--the advisability of the immediate signing of a treaty of friendship and nonaggression between Guatemala and Honduras, with the purpose of firmly cementing peace and friendship and of removing any and all anxiety from our good and cordial relations."

Permit me, your excellency--as a (fitting preliminary?) to a just reply--that I take note of, and express thanks for--in the name of my government--the reaffirmation you have professed in the preamble to your proposal, to the effect that Guatemala's policies are designed--as you say--to achieve the greatest possible measure of cordial friendship and complete collaboration with the Government of Honduras.

In this regard I have the honor of reaffirming and (emphasizing?) the position of Honduras, which is one of nonintervention--whether individually or collectively--in either the internal or external affairs of other countries. This position, which serves as the foundation of Honduras' foreign policy, is being maintained by my government with special care, and with the zeal that such a position implies, in relations with nations--such as yours--which are limited to Honduras by indestructible bonds of an historical and geographical character.

Your excellency's proposal has elicited close attention on the part of my government, because it presupposes:

A--an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety between our two peoples.

B--strained relations between our two governments.

C--imminent dangers of war (Estado Prebelico) between both countries.

The government of Honduras takes pleasure in declaring emphatically that as far as its relations with the people and government of Guatemala are concerned, there does not exist--on its part--any such strained relations or imminent danger of war (Estado Prebelico). On the contrary; we are trying to maintain unaltered, in Honduras and Guatemala, the harmonious relationship of living together that your excellency speaks of, and the bonds of fraternal amity that--happily--unite us.

However if despite the cordial (relations?) existing between our two countries--any premonition of (difficulties?) should arise, my government believes that there are already in existence agreements signed by us to prevent any abnormal situation that might affect our relations.

Your excellency inopportunately cites the antiwar treaty of nonaggression and conciliation signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1933 by Honduras and Guatemala. This treaty deals with obstacles and threats to peace among the American nations, and provides means to ward off the danger of aggression. In addition to this treaty, there exist other treaties in effect between Honduras and Guatemala that meet your requirements, as follows:

One--the treaty of friendship--and for preventing conflicts among American states--signed in Santiago de Chile in 1923 Rpt 1923 at the fifth International Conference of American States. This treaty condemns the sort of armed peace that leads to the maintenance of military and naval forces beyond the needs of internal security and the sovereignty and independence of nations.

Two--the general convention on inter-american conciliation signed in Washington on Jan. 5, 1929 rpt 1929, which reaffirms the (decisions reached?) concerning the aims expressed in the 1923 Santiago treaty.

Three--the additional protocol to the convention of inter-American conciliation signed at the Seventh International Conference of American States in 1933 rpt 1933.

Four--the treaty relative to the prevention of disputes signed in Buenos Aires on (Dec. 19, 1936?), which was designed to set up a system to study and prevent the causes of future disputes, to establish means for finding peaceful solutions, and to insure and facilitate compliance with all existing treaties as a guarantee of international peace.

We may add to the foregoing instruments the San Francisco Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, by which we enjoy full guarantees of stability in our cordial relations.

In view of the foregoing, my government has concluded that there is no necessity for the signing of the treaty of friendship and nonaggression proposed by your excellency. Consequently, I am obliged to reject the proposition that such a treaty should be signed, inasmuch as--in the spirit of Central American fellowship--(there should also be?) participation by the other Republics of Central America.

May I take this opportunity of again extending to you my best wishes?
signed, J. Edgardo Valenzuela, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Honduras.