



Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /066 W

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R 141732Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6611
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS CARACAS 11294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON OAS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO QUITO OAS MEETING

SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY (COPEI) HAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOV'S HANDLING OF OAS MEETING, PARTICULARLY APPARENT FAILURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT TO ENSURE FAVORABLE RESULTS BEFORE SPONSORING SUCH A MEETING. COMMENTS FROM MOST OTHER PARTIES HAVE ALSO BEEN CRITICAL OF GOV AND OF U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOVEMBER 13 COPEI LEADERSHIP ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZING THE GOV'S HANDLING OF OAS MEETING. COMMUNIQUE CHASTIZED FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT FOR ENCOURAGING A SPECIAL MEETING OF OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS ON CUBAN SANCTIONS WITHOUT ENSURING IN ADVANCE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE FAVORABLE. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT "TO SUPPORT A MEETING WITHOUT THIS GUARANTEE IS IRRESPONSIBLY TO EXPOSE THE COUNTRY TO THE DISHONOR OF A DEFEAT AND THE SUBSEQUENT REDUCTION OF ITS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE." DOCUMENT ALSO CRITICIZED PEREZ GOV. GOVERNMENT FOR "MANIFEST TACTLESSNESS AND EVIDENT INDISCRETION," PARTICULARLY FOR PROPOSING MAJOR REFORMS IN THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM WITHOUT A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE QUITO MEETING WOULD BE.

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2. IN A MEETING WITH NEWSMEN TO GIVE THE PARTY'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE QUITO CONFERENCE, COPEI PRESIDENT GODOFREDO GONZALEZ AND ARISTIDES CALVANI, FOREIGN MINISTER IN FORMER GOVERNMENT, ACCUSED GOV OF "MAKING A PROCEDURAL ERROR." IN NOT ENSURING BEFOREHAND THAT MEETING WOULD BE A SUCCESS. CALVANI COMMENTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "PROFOUND CHANGE" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT THE OAS ITSELF HAD ENDORSED THE IDEA OF TOLERATING IDEOLOGICAL PLURALITY AMONG ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT COPEI HAD NOT BELIEVED THAT THE CUBA QUESTION WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. SURVEY BY "EL NACIONAL" OF REACTIONS BY VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS REFLECTED STRONG CRITICISM OF BOTH GOV AND U.S. POSITIONS. PEDRO PARIS MONTESINOS, POLITICAL SECRETARY OF PRESIDENT PEREZ'S ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY, SAID THAT THE OPTIMISM OF COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, AND VENEZUELA HAD BEEN UNJUSTIFIED AND LACKED CAREFUL PRIOR EXAMINATION OF THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WARNED THAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE U.S. IN GUATEMALA IN 1954 AND IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN 1965 AND THE U.S.'S CONSTANT REFUSAL TO GIVE REAL SUBSTANCE TO THE NOTION OF CONTINENTAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY CALLED FOR A REVISION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE. PARIS ADDED THAT THERE WERE NEITHER JURIDICAL NOR PRACTICAL OBSTACLES PREVENTING VENEZUELA FROM UNILATERALLY ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

4. SENATOR PONPEYO MARQUEZ OF FAR-LEFT MAS PARTY STATED THAT THE U.S. DECISION TO ABSTAIN AND THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER DEMONSTRATED THE USELESSNESS OF THE OAS. URO SPOKESMAN BRITO VILLARREAL FAVORED RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA, WHILE INDEPENDENT HERMOGENES LOPEZ COUNSELLED AGAINST CLOSE RELATIONS WITH DICTATORSHIPS INCLUDING THAT OF CASTRO. MEP PRESIDENT PRIETO FIGUEROA SAID THAT THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ABSTAINED FROM VOTING DEMONSTRATED THEIR "SERVILITY" TO THE U.S. NATIONAL CIVIC CRUSADE (PRO-PEREZ JIMENEZ) SENATOR HURTADO DIAZ CLAIMED THAT "ANARCHY" NOW REIGNED IN THE OAS.

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