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Wednesday 2 December 1981

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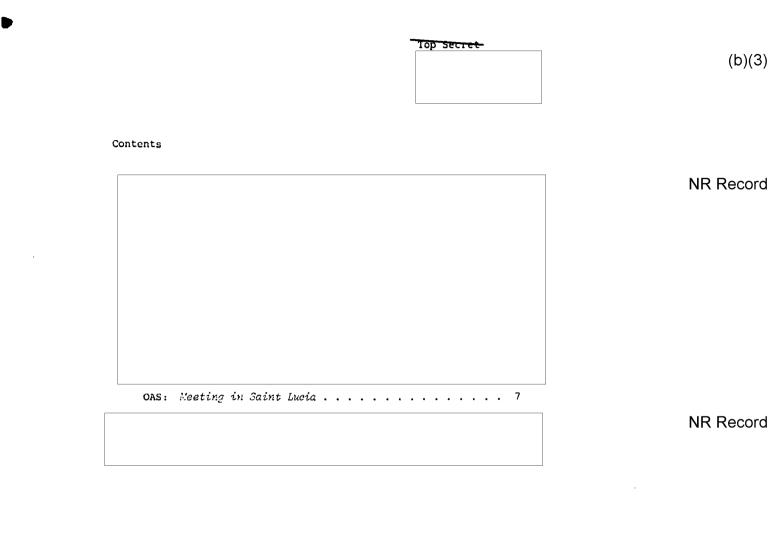
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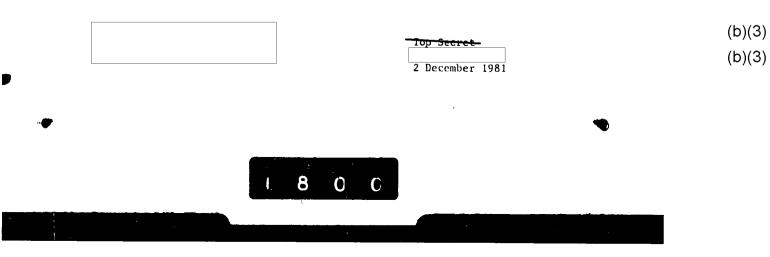


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OAS: Meeting in Saint Lucia

The llth OAS General Assembly meeting opens today in Saint Lucia with basic questions regarding administrative and financial reforms high on the agenda. The large states want to cut back the OAS's burgeoning staff and introduce needed economies. The smaller states are the principal beneficiaries of the OAS's cooperation programs and the current financial arrangements, and they oppose any trimming. They constitute the majority, and they have continued to vote budget increases that have outstripped the willingness of the larger countries to pay. At best, agreement is likely to be reached over a prolonged period of gradual change.

Issues likely to be discussed include open membership--Venezuela and Guatemala oppose the admission of Guyana and Belize, respectively--maritime and border problems, human rights resolutions, and nonintervention in the affairs of other states. The latter issue could be used as a wedge to open debate on El Salvador. (b)(3)

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