

BELIZE/GUATEMALA

ADVANCE COPIES

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FROM UKMIS NEW YORK 130034Z FEB 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 119 DATED 12 FEBRUARY 81

INFO BELMOPAN (PERSONAL), GUATEMALA CITY, WASHINGTON.

**BELIZE/GUATEMALA: NEW YORK TALKS**

1. BECAUSE OF LAST MINUTE BELIZEAN DECISION TO INCLUDE COURTENAY, WHO DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL LUNCHTIME, TALKS DID NOT RESUME UNTIL AFTERNOON.
2. BELIZEANS BROUGHT WITH THEM A MEMORANDUM ON THE 16 POINTS (COPY FOLLOWS BY BAG) WHICH OFFERED REASONABLY FORTHCOMING STANCE ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL IDEAS INCLUDING ROAD FROM PUNTA GORDA TO THE BORDER VIA SAN ANTONIO, FREE PORT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES AT PUNTA GORDA AND BELIZE CITY, PIPELINES, BUT RULING OUT ALTOGETHER ANY QUESTION OF MAINLAND LEASING.
3. AFTER AN OPENING STATEMENT IN WHICH SKINNER KLEE REHEARSED ONE BY ONE THE POINTS OF HIS OPENING STATEMENT OF LAST WEEK, HE MADE A STRONG COMPLAINT ABOUT REPORTS IN GUATEMALAN PRESS BASED ON EFE (SPANISH) NEWS AGENCY ITEM DATED LONDON. THERE FOLLOWED AN EXCHANGE IN WHICH WE AND THE BELIZEANS REFUTED CHARGES OF DELIBERATE LEAKS TO THE PRESS IN LONDON OR BELMOPAN, SKINNER

DELIBERATE LEAKS TO THE PRESS IN LONDON OR BELMOPAN, SKINNER KLEE THEN GOT DOWN TO SOME CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGES ON THE ROAD AND MAINLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

4. ON SECURITY, (POINT 16 OF 16 POINTS), SKINNER KLEE MADE AN ATTEMPT TO RESURRECT DISCUSSIONS AT BERMUDA AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DEBATE. DAY AND SHOMAN TOGETHER VERY FIRMLY PLAYED THIS BALL INTO THE LONG GRASS AND SKINNER KLEE APPEARED TO ACCEPT THAT ASSURANCES FROM THE BELIZEAN GOVERNMENT ALONG THE LINES ENVISAGED IN POINT 16 MIGHT, IN THE EVENT OF A SETTLEMENT, BE ADEQUATE PROVIDED THEY WERE SET OUT IN MORE PRECISE DETAIL.

5. LEASING OF ONE OR MORE OF THE SOUTHERN CAYS WAS NOT REACHED UNTIL TOWARDS THE CLOSE. COURTENAY SAID THAT BELIZE COULD AGREE TO LEASING OF LIME CAY AT INDEPENDENCE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A SETTLEMENT. THEY PROPOSED THAT THE LEASE SHOULD BE TO THE UK ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CAY WOULD THEN BE SUB-LET TO GUATEMALA. AN ECONOMIC RENT WOULD BE REQUIRED. NONE OF THE RANGUANA RANGE COULD BE CONSIDERED. A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE CAY WOULD BE AGREED BUT USE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. LENGTH AND TERMS OF LEASE WERE NOT DISCUSSED. AFTER A BRIEF EXCHANGE IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GUATEMALANS WOULD REFLECT ON THE BELIZEAN STATEMENT AND MEET AGAIN ON 13 FEBRUARY.

6. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS AS CORDIAL AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE GUATEMALANS REASSERTING THEIR DESIRE FOR A SETTLEMENT AND THE NEED TO AVOID DELAY. NO DOUBT THE BELIZEAN STATEMENT ON THE CAYS WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE GUATEMALANS, THOUGH THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE OR NEGATIVE REACTION. HOWEVER, HERRERA AND RODRIGUEZ PRIVATELY SEEMED NOT TO REGARD THE LEASING OF ONE CAY AS A BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THEIR TERRITORIAL CLAIM (THOUGH THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE POINT).

7. THE BELIZEANS PERFORMED WELL. WE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN PRESENTING A UNITED FRONT AND THE GUATEMALANS WERE FRIENDLY IN THEIR WELCOME TO BOTH ROGERS AND SHOMAN WHO MADE FIRM BUT CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS. SKINNER KLEE SEEMED ALSO TO ACCEPT OUR CONCEPT OF BUILDING ON AREAS OF AGREEMENT WITH THE AIM OF NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES WHICH STILL EXIST. NEVERTHELESS, HE SEVERAL TIMES REPEATED THAT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WERE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SATISFACTION ON THE CRUCIAL QUESTION OF TERRITORY.

8. PLEASE SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

FARSONS