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GRS 289
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PERSONAL

FM FCO 041030Z AUGUST 1981
TO IMMEDIATE BELMOPAN
TELEGRAM NUMBER PERSONAL 111 OF 7 AUGUST
INFO MODUK GUATEMALA CITY WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK
MEXICO CITY OTTAWA.

YOUR TELNO 425: BELIZE: SECURITY SITUATION

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR RIDLEY TO PREMIER PRICE: BEGINS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE WHICH THE GOVERNOR TRANSMITTED TO ME ON 3 AUGUST. I AM GLAD TO HEAR OF YOUR CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MOINTAINING BELIZE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN THE UTMOST FLEXIBILITY ABOUT THE METHODS OF ACHIEVING THIS AND I HOPE THAT YOU AND THE GOVERNOR CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ABOUT THIS.
2. THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO REPORTED TO ME YOUR CONCERN THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE SECRET MINUTE ABOUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AFTER INDEPENDENCE MIGHT LEAD TO A PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GARRISON. AS YOU KNOW THE WORDING OF THE MINUTE WAS AGREED BY THE BRITISH CABINET AND IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SEEK ANY CHANGE AT THIS JUNCTION. BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR THE CONSULTATIONS MENTIONED IN THAT MINUTE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WILL OF COURSE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

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BOTH THE SECURITY SITUATION AT THE TIME AND THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLAY ANY CONCERNS WHICH YOU AND YOUR CABINET COLLEAGUES MIGHT HAVE. ENDS

2. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, WE WOULD NOT WISH AT THIS STAGE TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO 12 MONTHS IN THE MINUTE BECAUSE THIS WOULD GIVE US NO FLEXIBILITY WHATSOEVER TO EXTEND THE PERIOD IN THE LIGHT OF LATER CIRCUMSTANCES GIVEN THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE CABINET.

GILMOUR

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