

Belize

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/PUS
MR DAY
MR URE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

HD/M & C D (2)
HD/S AM D
HD/DEF D

DIO CABINET OFFICE

HD/NEWS D
HD/UND

ms

RESIDENT CLERK

GR 220

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 041635Z AUG 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2324 OF 4 AUGUST

INFO PRIORITY GUATEMALA CITY, BELMOPAN (PERSONAL), UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 186 TO GUATEMALA CITY

BELIZE/GUATEMALA: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE AMERICANS WOULD NATURALLY PREFER THE CONCLUSION OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AND THEY MAY WELL HAVE ENCOURAGED THESE LATEST GUATEMALAN OVERTURES. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY WOULD FAVOUR AGREEMENT BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MIGHT FLOW FROM THE POSSIBLE REJECTION OF A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT BY THE BELIZIANS IN A PRE-INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM. WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE AMERICANS IS THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS SHOULD CONTINUE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

2. THUS SEEN FROM HERE THERE IS EVERYTHING TO BE SAID FOR GOING ON WITH THE DIALOGUE. THE MEASURED APPROACH SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE SEEMS RIGHT, THE MORE SO AS THE AMERICANS ARE COMMITTED NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE DETAILED WAY WE PLAY OUR HAND AND ARE UNLIKELY TO PRESS US TOO HARD IF WE TREAT THE GUATEMALAN PROPOSALS WITH PROPER CAUTION.

HENDERSON