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FM BELMOPAN
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Belize

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 493 OF 27 AUGUST 1981
INFO IMMEDIATE GUATEMALA CITY, WASHINGTON,
INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK, MEXICO CITY

BELIZE/GUATEMALA
MIPT. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:-
BEGINS

GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAFAEL CASTILLO VALDEZ WAS IN WASHINGTON 24 AUGUST TO HANDLE PERSONAL AFFAIRS. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS VISIT FOR A QUOTE TOUR D'HORIZON UNQUOTE IN WHICH THE QUESTION OF BELIZE CAME UP. I OFFERED FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH BELIZE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I SUGGESTED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE PRIVATELY AND AT A LOWER LEVEL WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF OUTLINING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA WHICH WOULD BE PUT TO A REFERENDUM IN BELIZE SOON AFTER YOUR INDEPENDENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO APPEARED TO BE RECEPTIVE AND I BELIEVE HE WILL PURSUE THE QUESTION WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT UPON HIS RETURN TO GUATEMALA.

I ALSO DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO OUR VIEW THAT BELIZE MIGHT ADHERE TO THE RIO TREATY SOON AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND THAT PERHAPS THE UNITED STATES AND BELIZE, AND POSSIBLY GUATEMALA, MIGHT HOLD TALKS ON SECURITY ISSUES PRIOR TO THIS.

IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN BELIZE-GUATEMALA DISPUTES WE DID NOT DISCUSS ANY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER MY DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO WILL PRECIPITATE ANY ACTION ON THE PART OF GUATEMALA. IF IT DOES, HOWEVER, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE WILLING TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO ANY OFFER TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS.

I FOUND OUR DISCUSSIONS IN PANAMA TO BE MOST USEFUL. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON.
ENDS

FCO PASS ALL
HENNESSY

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GUATEMALA CITY TELNO 392: BELIZE/GUATEMALA

1. THE PREMIER BROUGHT ME TODAY A LETTER FROM ENDERS DATED 26 AUGUST WHICH HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HIM YESTERDAY BY THE US CONSUL GENERAL. THE TEXT IS IN MIFT.
2. THIS MOVE BY THE AMERICANS MAY BE THE PRESSURE REFERRED TO IN TUR. IF SO, CASTILLO'S MESSAGE (GUATEMALA CITY TELNO 392) SUGGESTS THAT IT HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN VERY FRUITFUL. IN ANY CASE I WOULD HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW (SEE MIPT). FOR HIS PART PRICE REITERATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER TALKS, EVEN BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, PROVIDED ANY RESULTING TREATY WAS NOT SIGNED UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE.
3. PRICE SAW THE SUGGESTION IN PARA 2 OF THE MESSAGE AS AN INDICATION OF AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO COMMITMENTS ON BELIZE'S SECURITY. HE HOPES TO PURSUE THIS WITH ENDERS AT A MEETING HE HAS ASKED BARNEBY TO ARRANGE IN WASHINGTON ON 14/15 SEPTEMBER.

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