

Belize

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

P 281600Z DEC 81
FM BELMOPAN
TO FCO LONDON
BT
CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY
SIC TELNO 161
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 161 OF 28 DECEMBER 1981
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

*See also the attached,
which tends to
confirm this report.*

[Handwritten signature]

*LM
28/12*

BELIZE/GUATEMALA

1. SHORTLY AFTER PAYNE'S VISIT I MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGERS. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS LESS SANGUINE THAN PRICE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A TREATY BASED ON THE AMERICAN TEXTS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INTO NEGOTIATIONS TOO OFTEN BEFORE, AND KNEW HOW EASY IT WAS FOR INITIAL OPTIMISM TO BE DISAPPOINTED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT SEE HOW PRESIDENT LUCAS COULD AFFORD TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY OVER BELIZE, WHEN HIS CANDIDATE (GENERAL GUEVARA) WAS SHOWING SO POORLY IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
2. FITCH, THE ACTING CHARGE AT THE US EMBASSY, SAID TO ME ON 21 DECEMBER THAT, IN HIS VIEW, ONLY A HEAVY COMMITMENT BY THE US TO SUPPLY ARMS TO THE GUATEMALANS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT LUCAS TO SIGN A TREATY.

FCO PASS WASHINGTON

[PASSED AS REQUESTED]

NASH

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

LIMITED
MCAD
DEFENCE D
S AM D
NAD
UND
PUSD
PLANNING STAFF
LEGAL ADVISERS
CCD
NEWS D
INFORMATION D

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR E YOUDE
MR DAY
SIR A ACLAND
MR GILLMORE
MR URE
LORD N G LENNOX
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
BELIZE/GUATEMALA

[NOT ADVANCED]

CONFIDENTIAL