

GRS 300
CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON 070156Z APR 84
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1146 OF 6 APRIL
INFO ROUTINE PARIS, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO CITY, BOGOTA
INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK

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Mr. Ruler. NK 9/4
We shall need to cover the
mining of Nicaraguan water a
Trendy.

WOL 7/4

PARIS TELNO 440 TO FCO: NICARAGUAN PORTS.

1. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US THAT INITIALLY THE FRENCH LED THE AMERICANS TO BELIEVE THAT BETANCUR HAD HIMSELF PROMPTED THE FRENCH OFFER ON MINE-SWEEPING (AS SUGGESTED BY EARLIER PRESS REPORTS). NOW THAT THE POSITION SEEMS SOMEWHAT CLEARER, THE ADMINISTRATION ARE INFURIATED BY THE FRENCH ACTION. THE US EMBASSY MADE A STRONG DEMARCHE IN PARIS ON THE EVENING OF 5 APRIL. THE FRENCH WERE UNMOVED, INDICATING THAT THEY TOO FELT VERY STRONGLY. EAGLEBURGER WILL NOW CALL IN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOMORROW.
2. THERE IS A WIDESPREAD RUMOUR HERE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UK HAS MADE A STRONG FORMAL PROTEST ABOUT CONTRA MINING ACTIVITIES AND/OR THAT THE UK IS IN SOME WAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRENCH MINE-SWEEPING PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS A PRODUCT OF UK PRESS COVERAGE OR THE RESULT OF EG A STATE DEPARTMENT LEAK OF THE ACTION WE TOOK HERE (MY TELNO 1096 REFERS). WE HAVE OF COURSE REFUTED SUCH SUGGESTIONS: THE STATE DEPARTMENT LEND THME NO CREDENCE AND ON THE RECORD ARE SAYING ONLY THAT WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN.
4. TODAY'S WALL STREET JOURNAL ALLEGES THAT A CIA-CONTROLLED VESSEL OFF NICARAGUA'S PACIFIC COAST HAS BEEN SUPERVISING THE MINING OPERATIONS AND THAT THESE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY NON-NICARAGUANS. SENATOR GOLDWATER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID DURING THE WEEK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DIRECTLY AUTHORISED THE MINING, ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WASHINGTON POST IS PLANNING A FURTHER EXPOSE THIS WEEKEND OF ADMINISTRATION INVOLVEMENT IN CONTRA ACTIVITIES.

WRIGHT

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THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
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