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Paragraph 5 is
important: I am
sure that the
Americans are
right. ODP

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FM WASHINGTON 262330Z SEP 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2867 OF 26 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, SAN JOSE, ROUTINE MEXICO CITY,
TEGUCIGALPA, HAVANA, PANAMA CITY, BOGOTA, CARACAS.

CENTRAL AMERICA

1. MINISTER SAW MOTLEY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ON 26 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS WHERE MATTERS STOOD IN ADVANCE OF EC MEETING IN SAN JOSE AND THE HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY.
2. MOTLEY CONTINUED TO BE RATHER CONCERNED ABOUT PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE TEN TO ENDORSE THE PRESENT DRAFT OF THE CONTADORA ACT (WASHINGTON TELEGRAM NO 2841) THE MEXICANS IN PARTICULAR WERE BEING ACTIVE IN SEEKING TO DRUM UP INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO THE CONTADORA PROCESS ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT DRAFT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY KNEW THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE AMERICANS OR TO SOME OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED. THE MEXICANS, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE OTHER CONTADORA COUNTRIES, SEEMED NOW TO WANT TO GET SHOT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT (IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE WAY MOTLEY SPOKE THAT US IRRITATION WITH THE MEXICANS AND WITH SEPULVEDA IN PARTICULAR WAS ON A RISING TREND). HANNAY SAID THAT WE HAD NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THE TEN WERE PREPARED TO GET CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TERMS OF THE CONTADOR DRAFT ACT. US CONCERN ON THIS POINT HAD CLEARLY GOT THROUGH TO A NUMBER OF MINISTERS.
4. MOTLEY FORESAW THE 15 OCTOBER MEETING TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT ACT AS PROBABLY ONLY THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING SESSIONS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE CURRENT PROVISIONS IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS. SOME DRAFT IMPROVEMENTS OF HONDURAN ORIGIN WERE ALREADY CIRCULATING AND OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES SEEMED LIKELY TO WEIGH IN IN THE SAME SENSE. MOTLEY WAS QUITE CATEGORICAL THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE PREPARED ITSELF TO ADHERE TO A CONTADORA ACT OR TO A PROTOCOL TO SUCH AN ACT.
5. MOTLEY WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECT FOR COORDINADORA PARTICIPATING IN THE NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS. THE SANDINISTAS LOOKED AS IF THEY HAD SET THEIR FACE AGAINST POSTPONEMENT ON THE GROUND THAT IF THEY HAD NOT COMPLETED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS BY THE DATE OF THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THEY WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO A US ARMED ATTACK IMMEDIATELY AFTER A REAGAN VICTORY. ASSUMING A FINAL DECISION BY THE COORDINADORA NOT TO PARTICIPATE, MOTLEY THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD WISH TO PERSUADE ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES NOT TO SEND OBSERVERS. WHILE A CASE COULD BE MADE OUT FOR HAVING OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS WHO WOULD REPORT THAT THE ELECTION WAS NOT A FREE OR

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FAIR ONE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE RECENT COURSE OF EVENTS AND THE ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON THE QUESTION OF COORDINADORA PARTICIPATION INEVITABLY MEANT THAT A DECISION TO SEND OBSERVERS WOULD ITSELF BE SEEN AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE ELECTIONS THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO HOLD. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE INVITATION TO BE TURNED DOWN BY AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE FAILURE OF THE SANDINISTAS AND COORDINADORA TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REASONABLE CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS INVALIDATING THE PROCESS. THIS WAS AN EASIER LINE TO TAKE NOW THAT THE COORDINADORA HAD DROPPED THEIR EARLIER AIM OF INSISTING THAT THE QUOTE CONTRAS UNQUOTE PARTICIPATE.

6. MOTLEY WAS NOT INCLINED TO TAKE WHAT HUMBERTO ORTEGA HAD SAID ABOUT MIGS TOO SERIOUSLY. THE MAIN EFFECT SO FAR HAD BEEN TO PROVOKE A SHARP RESPONSE IN WASHINGTON FROM SOME CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES WHO HAD HITHERTO CRITICISED US POLICY AS TOO AGGRESSIVE, EG SENATOR KASSEBAUM. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE RUSSIANS PICKED UP THIS STIFFENING OF ATTITUDES ON THE HILL AND TOOK ACCOUNT OF IT. IN ANY CASE MOTLEY WAS SURE THAT SHULTZ WOULD HAVE LEFT GROMYKO IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABILITY TO THE US OF SUCH A MOVE.

WRIGHT

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