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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: ALFONSO SAPIA-BOSCH *AL*

SUBJECT: Meeting Between President Reagan and
Prime Minister George C. Price of Belize

Attached is a Memorandum of Conversation of the meeting between the President and Prime Minister Price held on May 12, 1983. Also attached is a paper and map the Prime Minister passed to the President (Tab II).

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the memorandum attached at Tab I.

Approve *✓* Disapprove

Attachment

- Tab I Memorandum of Conversation
- Tab II Paper and Map

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DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Sec. 3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006
BY NARA *RW*, DATE *8/29/11*

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UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting Between President Reagan and
Prime Minister George C. Price of Belize

DATE AND TIME: May 12, 1983 -- Private Meeting 11:30-11:45 A.M.;
Plenary Session 11:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

PLACE: Oval Office (Private Meeting); Cabinet Room
(Plenary Session)

PARTICIPANTS FOR PRIVATE MEETING:

United States: The President
The Vice President
Secretary of State Shultz
William P. Clark
Assistant Secretary of State Thomas O. Enders
Ambassador Designate Malcolm R. Barnebey
Alfonso Sapia-Bosch

Belize: Prime Minister George C. Price
David L. McKoy, Minister of Labor and Social Services
Fred Hunter, Minister of Works
Edmund Marshalleck, Financial Secretary and
Ambassador of Belize to the United States

PARTICIPANTS FOR PLENARY SESSION:

United States: same participants as in private meeting plus:
Richard Stone
AID Administrator M. Peter McPherson
Assistant Administrator for Latin America Otto Reich
Charles P. Tyson

Belize: same participants as in private meeting plus:
Florencio Marin, Minister of Natural Resources
Said Musa, Attorney General and Minister of Education,
Sports and Culture
Everal Waight, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Chief Protocol Officer
Robert Leslie, Permanent Representative of Belize
to the United Nations

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NLRR M3711 # 117474
BY RW NARA DATE 6/22/15

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MINUTES, OVAL OFFICE

The President: We are very pleased to have you. We are proud of your democracy, particularly in view of the turmoil that surrounds you. I look forward to your views and suggestions on affairs in the region.

Prime Minister Price: Thanks for the opportunity to come. We, too, are proud of our peace and tranquility, and we intend to keep our house in order. The democratic process should be used to try to avert crises. Your speech on April 27 was well presented and well structured. You suggested economic development and that is correct. With regard to dialogue, you should make public that you have done things to keep the dialogue going. We must do everything possible to make sure that our way of life works.

The President: When we contrast standards of living, the success of democracy is evident. By the way, with regard to the British forces, we have asked the British to heed your request to keep them there.

Prime Minister Price: Thank you, Mr. President. Our number one priority is to keep the British troops in Belize for the necessary time. We intend to use our newly-acquired independence as an instrument to build a new society in which the people have a stake in their country.

The President: Just a couple of days ago, we had a little ceremony in the Rose Garden to honor small business. Several hundred thousand of these small businessmen chose from their ranks someone to be honored, and I presented the award. And, as is so typical of our country, I was so proud--where we derive our heritage from everywhere--a father and son team from Mexico was chosen for the award. They are now American citizens. They came to this country in 1964 and established a food business. Now they are in the frozen Mexican food business; they employ 200 people and have a \$10 million a year business. In Russia you can't do this.

Prime Minister Price: We will have the same opportunity. We want you to be present in Belmopan to share it with us when you build your embassy there.

Secretary Shultz: We are ready to build; we just need to get the money.

Prime Minister Price: Mr. President, we are most grateful for the CBI.

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The President: We are pushing this legislation before Congress.

Judge Clark: They will back it up today in the Senate.

The President: You know, Prime Minister, the House majority is not of our persuasion.

Secretary Shultz: We have a good chance; the House passed it last year. Senator Long now is on board.

Prime Minister Price: Mr. President, you will go down in history as the President most interested in the Caribbean.

MINUTES, CABINET ROOM

The Prime Minister then went through his proposed list (which he presented to the President--see Tab II).

The President: Do you mean farm technicians to help with advice?

Mr. McPherson: We sent an agricultural mission to Honduras.

Secretary Shultz: I am impressed that the Prime Minister has his briefing material so well prepared and that he lays it out so methodically, systematically, and effectively. With regard to the narcotics control program, it is working very effectively, and we are grateful. It is very important.

Prime Minister Price: The first camp cost \$500,000; we need to start the second.

(Speaker ?): The Mexican government supplies the planes and paraquat, but the planes are not available and there has been a delay.

Prime Minister Price: We are ready to go.

The President: Maybe we should ask the question in Mexico?

Secretary Shultz: We will give that a push.

Vice President: How did you come out on the small boats you needed?

Prime Minister Price: One was too big; one was suitable but somewhat old; but what we are getting is fine.

(Meeting adjourned at noon; majority of participants moved to the State Dining Room for lunch.)

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SECURITY AND STABILITY OF BELIZE

The government of Guatemala has claimed all Belize. Recently, the claim was reduced to the southern portion - known as the Toledo District and its cayes. The area is about one fifth of Belize's territory.

Guatemala uses two arguments to advance its claim:

(1) in the time of the Spanish Empire, Belize was a part of the captaincy general of Guatemala and

(2) Guatemala needs an outlet to the Caribbean Sea.

Belize (whether the settlement of Belize or British Honduras) was never a part of the republic of Guatemala which attained its independence in 1821. In that year of 1821 Belize was a separate geographic identity.

The logical consequence of argument (1) would require Guatemala also to claim El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua which were parts of the captaincy general of Guatemala during the Spanish Empire.

As regards argument (2), Guatemala has about 60 miles of Caribbean coast and two seaports bigger than Belize City: Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomas.

BELIZE OFFERS GUATEMALA A PASSAGE TO THE HIGH SEAS IN THAT AREA OF SEA BETWEEN THE 3 MILE AND THE TWELVE MILE LIMIT.

THE BRITISH PRESENCE - A FACTOR OF STABILITY

The British military presence is for "an appropriate time".

We would like that to be for the necessary time.

BELIZE OFFERS THREE PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTION:

1. a sea passage.
2. use of a port and access road to port.
3. joint economic projects on either side of the Sarstoon River
4. *mutual security pact.*

We offer the hand of friendship to the people and government of Guatemala and ask for their understanding that our sovereignty and territorial integrity are not for negotiation.

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PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The presence of the United States of America is all important.

We would request an Embassy in Belmopan as soon as possible - in 1984.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT follows stability

Our Manifesto says: The new revolution will promote economic development and social progress by means of the MIXED ECONOMY in which the public sector works in partnership with the private sector for increased production, balanced development and social well-being.

Foreign capital is always welcome and there is a welcome in Belize for the foreign investor and a place where he can join the search for economic growth and personal fulfilment.

THE CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

This is a welcome help for which we are thankful.

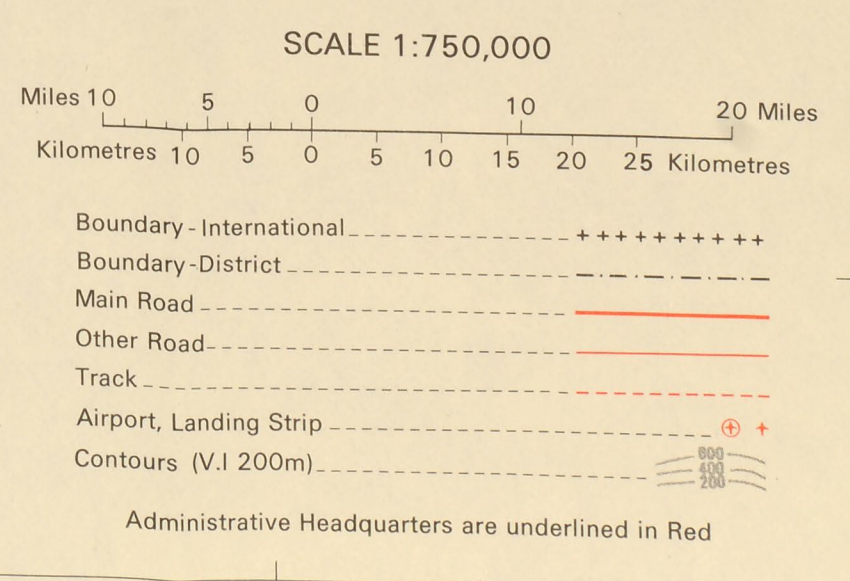
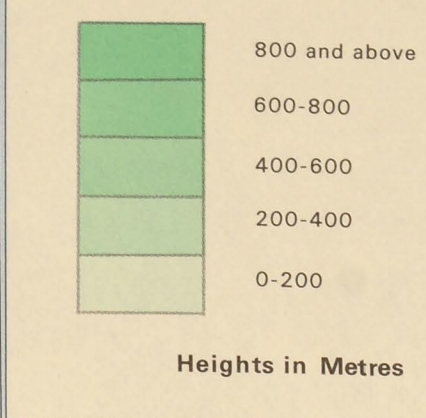
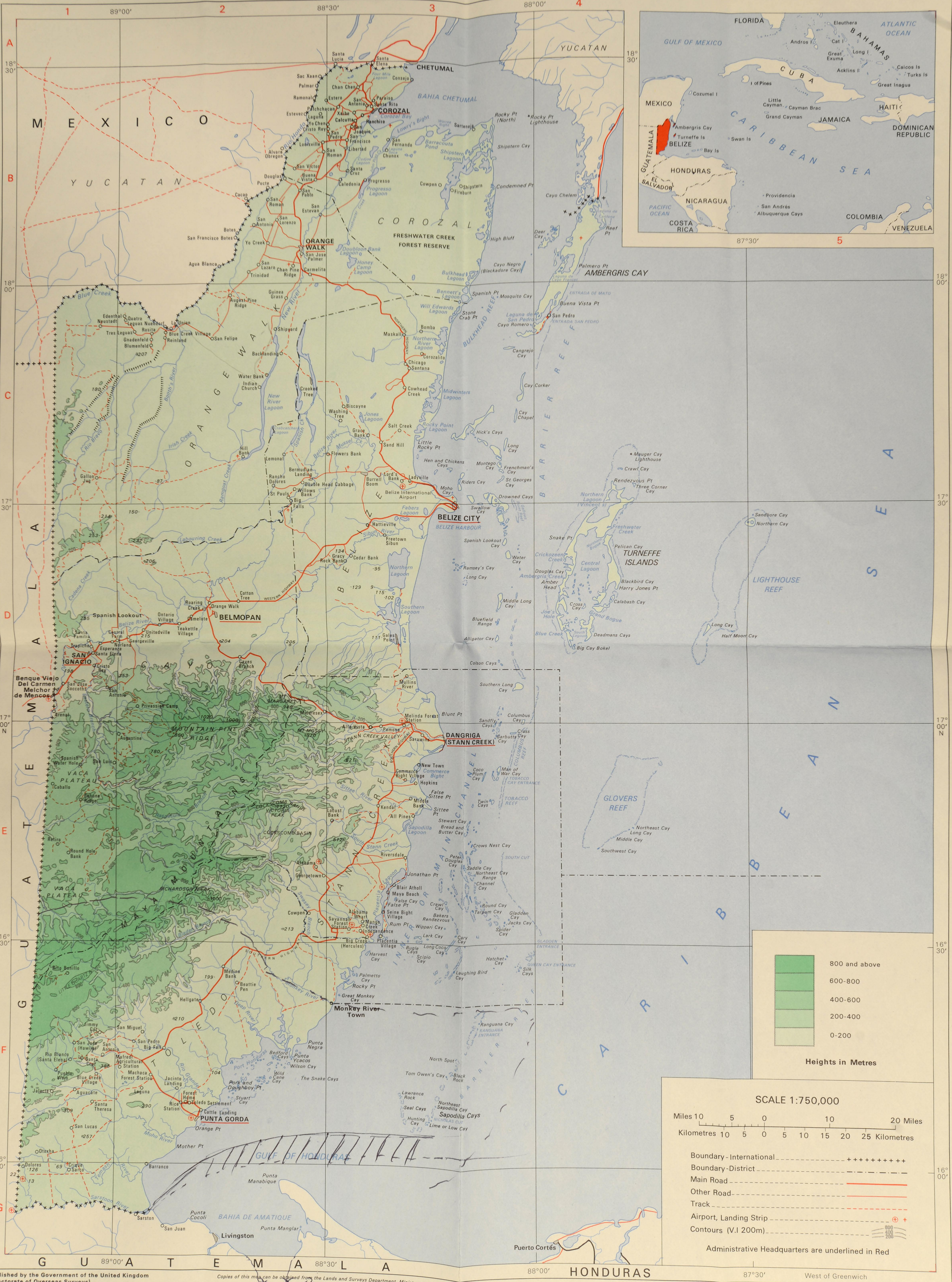
There is scope for more to offset the low prices of commodities: sugar, citrus, bananas.

*global quota for
CARICOM*

WE SHALL HAVE TO DO MORE FOR HOUSING AND WATER SUPPLIES.

send agricultural mission to Belize

BELIZE



SANTO TOMAS
PUERTO BARRIOS

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

RBW 8/29/2011

File Folder MEMORANDUMS OF CONVERSATION - PRESIDENT
REAGAN (MAY 1983)

FOIA

M10-351/M10-371

Box Number 51

JAUVERT/BROWER

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
117473	MEMCON	RE. PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION PRESIDENT GASTON THORN [PG. 3 IS COPY OF PG. 7] <i>R 6/22/2015 M371/</i>	5	4/21/1983	B1
117474	MEMCON	RE. MEETING BETWEEN RR AND PRIME MINISTER GEORGE C. PRICE OF BELIZE <i>R 6/22/2015 M371/</i>	3	5/12/1983	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.