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SIC TEL NO 19
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 19 OF 23 AUGUST 1980 (SUBJECT TO CORRECTION)

Belize
Prime Minister
To glance at this
record of Belize/Guatemala
talks. The atmosphere
was good, but there
seems to have been no
movement on substance.

MA

BELIZE/GUATEMALA MEETING

1 PD THE GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY SKINNER-KLEE AND EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ MET THE PREMIER AND COURTNEY IN MIAMI YESTERDAY EVENING AS PLANNED PD PEART WAS PRESENT AS THE OBSERVER PD 2 PD CASTILLO MADE IT CLEAR AT THE OUTSET THAT HE DID NOT WANT NOTES TAKEN BY EITHER SIDE AS HE CLAIMED MR RIDLEY HAD SAID THE MEETING WOULD BE STRICTLY INFORMAL PD HAVING AGREED ON THIS THE TALKS PROCEEDED OVER WHISKY IN A FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL FASHION FOR FOUR HOURS PD 3 PD CASTILLO BEGAN BY SAYING HE WANTED A QUOTE WHOLESOME UNQUOTE SETTLEMENT - I.E. AN ENDURING SETTLEMENT PD PRICE AGREED THIS SHOULD BE THE AIM CMM BUT EMPHASISED THAT IT SHOULD BE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE U.N. RESOLUTION PD BY THIS HE MEANT THAT LAND WAS NON-NEGOTIABLE WHEREAS QUOTE TERRITORY OUTSIDE THE THREE-MILE LIMIT UNQUOTE WAS PD 4 PD PRICE PROPOSED THAT THE GUATEMALANS SHOULD BE GIVEN A PERMANENT SEA CHANNEL PROVIDING MARITIME ACCESS THROUGH BELIZEAN WATERS AND RIGHTS TO THE SEA BED IN THE CHANNEL PD HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE GUATEMALANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BUILD AN OIL PIPE LINE FROM THE PETEN TO BELIZE CITY OR DANGRIGA PD 5 PD CASTILLO DID NOT TAKE UP EITHER OF THESE PROPOSALS DIRECTLY PD HE CONCENTRATED ON THE ADVANTAGES THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO BELIZE FROM SOME KIND OF MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES PD HE EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE CMM WHICH WOULD ENSURE AN ENDURING SETTLEMENT PD HE MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOCGCXVYNRPAMQ

D SKINNER-KLEE'S INTER-
JECTION THAT THE U.N. RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS LEGALLY BINDING PD

6 PD TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO BELIZE HE ASKED HOW BELIZE WOULD PRESERVE HER INTEGRITY ONCE BRITISH TROOPS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN PD PRICE REPLIED THAT BELIZEAN TERRITORY WOULD NEVER BE USED AS A BASE FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY AGAINST GUATEMALA AND SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO GIVE THE NECESSARY ASSURANCES IN A BINDING TREATY PD HE WENT ON TO ASK WHETHER COMMONWEALTH TROOPS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GUATEMALA AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BRITISH

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/ GARRISON

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GARRISON ONCE THE LATTER HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN PD
7 PD CASTILLO SAID GUATEMALA WOULD OBJECT TO ANY FOREIGN TROOPS
IN BELIZE PD THE QUESTION OF GUATEMALAN SECURITY WAS A QUESTION
FOR GUATEMALA PD ONCE FOREIGN TROOPS HAD BEEN INVITED INTO THE
AREA IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE THEM PD
8 PD IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING CASTILLO SUGGESTED THAT THE NEXT
ROUND OF TALKS SHOULD BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 13TH OCTOBER PD
PRICE RAISED NO OBJECTION AND AGREED THAT HE WOULD GO HIMSELF PD
9 PD IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE NEXT TALKS SHOULD LOOK AGAIN AT
THE POSSIBILITY OF UPDATING THE 1859 TREATY PD
10 PD THE MEETING CONCLUDED ON A FRIENDLY NOTE WITH CASTILLO EMPH-
ASISING THE BENEFITS ARISING FROM CLOSER PERSONAL CONTACTS AND
REPEATING THE INVITATION TO PRICE (WHICH PRICE REJECTED) TO MEET
PRESIDENT LUCAS IN GUATEMALA PD
11 PD IT WAS AGREED THAT EACH SIDE WOULD ISSUE A SHORT STATEMENT
ON 25TH AUGUST INDICATING THAT ^{AV BUNRUMEB} L--?24-3?) HAD BEEN TAKEN OF
THEIR JOINT PRESENCE IN THE U.S.A. TO TALK INFORMALLY ABOUT THE
BELIZE DISPUTE PD THE BELIZEAN STATEMENT WILL INCLUDE A REFERENCE
TO THE U.N. RESOLUTION CMM BUT THE GUATEMALANS' STATEMENT WILL NOTPD
12 PD COMMENT PD

THE MEETING DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BROUGHT EITHER SIDE ANY
CLOSER TO AN AGREEMENT PD BUT THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH WERE
ESTABLISHED COULD BE OF BENEFIT IN THE LONG TERM PD
13 PD PRICE PROBABLY FEELS THAT HE HAS ESTABLISHED HIS BONA FIDES
AS A WILLING PARTICIPANT IN THE SEARCH FOR AN AGREED SOLUTION -
SOMETHING WHICH HE REGARDS AS IMPORTANT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEXT
U.N. RESOLUTION PD AT THE SAME TIME HE HAS MADE CLEAR HIS POSITION
ON LAND AND SOVREIGNTY PD HE DID NOT CMM HOWEVER CMM SUCCEED IN
ESTABLISHING THE GUATEMALANS' NEGOTIATING POSITION PD WHILE MAIN-
TAINING A FRIENDLY POSTURE THROUGHOUT THEY GAVE NOTHING AWAY PD
14 PD PRICE HAS NOT YET RETURNED FROM MIAMI PD I WILL SEND
FURTHER COMMENTS WHEN I HAVE SEEN HIM PD
15 PD FULL RECORD OF TALKS FOLLOWS BY BAG PD
HENNESSY [COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

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