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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 102356Z JULY 81
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 614 OF 11 JULY.
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, OTTAWA, MEXICO CITY, BELMOPAN (PERSONAL)
GUATEMALA CITY.

MIPT: BELIZE/GUATEMALA NEGOTIATIONS.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

QUOTE

JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED ON MONDAY 13 JULY AT 7PM (BST).

TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GUATEMALA, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BELIZE, WERE RESUMED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL FROM 6-10 JULY IN NEW YORK TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION ON A TREATY OR TREATIES TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT SIGNED IN LONDON ON 11 MARCH THIS YEAR. THE DELEGATIONS WERE LED BY MR NICHOLAS RIDLEY, MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, ING RAFAEL E CASTILLO VALDEZ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA AND THE HON. GEORGE PRICE, PREMIER OF BELIZE.

ALTHOUGH THE TALKS DID NOT LEAD TO FINAL AGREEMENT ON ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL.

THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT EXISTING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OPEN NEW ONES. FURTHER STUDY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE MANY IDEAS DISCUSSED AT RECENT MEETINGS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE HEADS OF AGREEMENT.

IN PARTICULAR THE THREE MINISTERS IDENTIFIED AREAS OF COOPERATION, FOR EXAMPLE IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE USES OF ENERGY, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN OTHER FIELDS, WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND TRUST.

THE MINISTERS REAFFIRM THEIR DESIRE TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE PEACE IN THE REGION AND ARE DETERMINED TO BUILD UPON THE UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT WHICH HAVE BEEN CREATED AT THIS AND EARLIER MEETINGS.

UNQUOTE
PARSONS

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 613 OF 10 JULY

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON OTTAWA MEXICO CITY BELMOPAN (PERSONAL)
GUATEMALA CITY.

BELIZE/GUATEMALA NEGOTIATIONS.

1. THE ROUND OF TALKS WHICH OPENED ON 6 JULY CLOSED ON THE EVENING OF 10 JULY WITH AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF A PRESS COMMUNIQUE (ENGLISH TEXT IN MIFT) TO BE ISSUED IN LONDON, GUATEMALA CITY AND BELMOPAN ON MONDAY 13 JULY AT 7PM BST (NOON CENTRAL AMERICAN TIME).

2. THE COMMUNIQUE REFLECTS THE REALISATION OF THE BELIZEANS AND GUATEMALANS, IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON 10 JULY, THAT NEITHER SIDE WAS ABLE TO MOVE SUFFICIENTLY FAR TOWARDS THE OTHER TO MAKE AGREEMENT POSSIBLE ON EITHER A FULL ANGLO/GUATEMALA/BELIZE TREATY OR ON THE ALTERNATIVE OF AN ANGLO/GUATEMALA TREATY LEAVING OPEN FOR LATER NEGOTIATION MATTERS THAT COULD NOT NOW BE CONCLUDED.

3. THE GUATEMALANS AND BELIZEANS AGREED THAT THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP, THOUGH IT WOULD FALL SHORT OF GUATEMALAN RECOGNITION OF AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE, WOULD BE MARKED BY FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN THE HOPE THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AN EVENTUAL FORMAL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE. THIS RESULT, ALTHOUGH NOT AN AGREED SETTLEMENT, AVOIDS THE NEED FOR A REFERENDUM IN BELIZE AND LEAVES OPEN A FUTURE OF LIMITED BUT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND BELIZE. THIS IS A BETTER OUTCOME THAN WE MIGHT HAVE FEARED, EVEN IF LESS THAN WE MIGHT HAVE HOPED FOR.

4. THE TEXT OF A UK/BELIZEAN STATEMENT (SEE MY SECOND IFT) FOR PUBLICATION AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ANGLO /GUATEMALAN/BELIZEAN COMMUNIQUE WAS ALSO AGREED. THE CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON ARE ENVISAGED FOR 20 JULY.

5. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LINE TO TAKE FOR POSTS WHEN THE COMMUNIQUE IS PUBLISHED WILL FOLLOW.

PARSONS

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