

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01807 282148Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 224

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1807

EXDIS

FOR BUNKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFRO,PN

SUBJECT: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: PANAMANIAN WORKING PAPER

1. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS GIVEN TODAY IN CONFIDENCE BY LUIS CARLOS NORIEGA, PRESIDENT OF ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL, A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL 48 PAGE WORKING PAPER UPON WHICH THE PAPER "PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS RELATING TO THE EIGHT PRINCIPALES" WAS BASED. A TWO PAGE INTRODUCTION INCLUDES COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISERS AND TREATY NEGOTIATORS CONCERNING THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND WORKING PROCEDURE.

2. THEIR COMMENTARY MAKES IT CLEAR THAT FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAD ASKED THEM TO PREPARE QUESTIONS, SOME OF WHICH WERE TO BE DIRECTED TO HIM AND "OTHERS WOULD BE WRITTEN TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE TWO DELEGATIONS OF NEGOTIATORS, IF THIS IS THE INTENTION THAT THE MINISTER HAS." A COPY OF THE PAPER IS BEING POUCHED.

3. LUIS CARLOS NORIEGA SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED HIS BROTHER OF THE MATTER ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM COSTA RICA. LUIS CARLOS EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN INFORMED THAT NO ONE FROM THE MINISTRY HAD MADE CONTACT AS YET WITH BELL ON CONTADORA ISLAND. HE SAID THAT THE EL PANAMA AMERICAN OF THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 27) WOULD HAVE A VERY FAVORABLE EDITORIAL CONCERNING THE U.S. ATTITUDE IN

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THE NEGOTIATIONS. NORIEGA SAID THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER,

LT. COL. MANUEL NORIEGA WERE SEEKING TO DETERMINE THE FULL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE TRASMISSION OF THE DOCUMENT AND WOULD KEEP US INFORMED.

4. COMMENT: WE STILL DO NOT KNOW OF THE MOTIVE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ORDERING THE TRANSMISSION OF THE WORKING PAPER TO THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED NO INDICATION CONCERNING WHY AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA OR OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE NOT APPEARED ON CONTADORA. WE HAVE SHROT-SAVE CONTACT WITH BELL TWICE DAILY AND EMBASSY OFFICERS CARRIED MESSAGES TO BELL MARCH 26 AND 27.
DANIELS

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