

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SAN JO 05375 00 OF 02 051724Z
ACTION ARA-00

5951

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 INR-10 DODE-00 H-01 PM-10 PA-02
PRC-01 /025 W

-----251611 051725Z /41 38

O 051034Z JUN 86
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0550
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0228
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO GUARRY HTS PH

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 05375

FOR AR/JEWELL, P/RM, P/FL, VOA/BRL, P/PPL
SECSTATE FOR ARA/CRN, S/LPD
POSTS FOR PAO

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, CC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION- CODEL MCCURDY.

1. LOCAL MEDIA GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO 6/2-3/86
VISIT OF THIRTEEN U.S. CONGRESSMEN, HEADED BY
DEMOCRAT DAVE MCCURDY OF OKLAHOMA. AFTER A
MORNING MEETING WITH COCR PRESIDENT OSCAR
ARIAS AND CABINET OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN,
REPRESENTED BY MCCURDY, SPOKE TO PRESS.
FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTED INCLUDED WESTLAND
TV OF BRITAIN, CBS, ABC, VOA ENGLISH, AP,
UPI, AND MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE OF CANADA.

2. TWO MAIN MORNINGS, CENTRIST "LA NACION" AND
CONSERVATIVE "LA REPUBLICA," RAN ARTICLES NEAR THE
FRONT OF THE PAPER ON THE CODEL'S VISIT. "LA NACION"
ARTICLE WAS HEADLINED: "REPRESENTATIVES RESERVED
ON AID TO CONTRAS; THEY MET YESTERDAY WITH ARIAS."
"LA REPUBLICA" STORY WAS HEADED "U.S. CONGRESSMEN
SATISFIED WITH ARIAS."

3. "LA NACION" (CIRC. 75,000) PIECE BEGAN,
"A GROUP OF THIRTEEN U.S. CONGRESSMEN HEADED BY
DAVE MCCURDY OF OKLAHOMA SHOWED THEMSELVES
RESERVED YESTERDAY ON THE MATTER OF RENEVED
U.S. AID TO THE CONTRAS. ... MCCURDY AVOIDED
ANSWERING THE QUESTION DIRECTLY, BUT SAID
THAT WHEN THE DEBATE RESUMED IN LATE JUNE,
HE WOULD SUBMIT AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL UNDER
CONSIDERATION. HE PROVIDED NO OTHER DETAILS."

4. "THE DELEGATION LEADER SAID THAT ALL THE
LEGISLATORS WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ANALYSIS
OF THE REGIONAL SITUATION PRESENTED BY COCR
PRESIDENT OSCAR ARIAS IN A MEETING OF MORE THAN
AN HOUR. 'THE ONLY PEACEFUL ROUTE TO SOLVING
THE AREA'S PROBLEMS IS DEMOCRATIZATION,' STRESSED
MCCURDY."

5. "HE SAID THAT THE NEW CHARGES ON MISUSE
OF U.S. FUNDS BY THE CONTRAS GAVE CAUSE FOR
CONCERN. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE
ARE SPECIFIC CONTROLS IN THE LEGISLATION AND
THAT ANTI-DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY
STATED THAT SUCH CHARGES ARE FALSE."

6. "SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE DEPARTURE
OF THE DELEGATION, PRESIDENT ARIAS SAID THAT WITH
RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF CENAM, "THE IMPORTANT
THING IS TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT NICARAGUA HAS
TO CHANGE." HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE
CONGRESSMEN THAT IF REAL PEACE IS NOT ACHIEVED ON
THE ISTHMS, "THEN VIOLENCE COULD ARRIVE EVEN AT
YOUR OWN BORDERS." END EXCERPTS.

7. "LA REPUBLICA" (CIRC. 55,000) ARTICLE BEGINS,
"NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN VISITING PRESIDENT
OSCAR ARIAS YESTERDAY SAID THROUGH THEIR
SPOKESMAN, REPRESENTATIVE DAVE MCCURDY, THAT 'WE
ARE VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR PRESIDENT, WHO 'POKE
CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY ABOUT CENAM.' AMBASSADOR
LEWIS TAMBS SAID THAT 'ARIAS CAPTIVATED THE
CONGRESSMEN. ... SPEAKING ENGLISH, ARIAS PRESENTED
HIS ANALYSIS OF THE REGION, ESPECIALLY ON CONTADORA
AND THE ESQUIPULAS MEETING.'"

8. "ON LEAVING THE MEETING, REPRESENTATIVE ROD
CHANDLER (REPUBLICAN OF WASHINGTON), SAID THAT
'THE PRESIDENT IS A MAN OF PROFOUND DEMOCRATIC
CONVICTIONS.'"

9. "FOR HIS PART, ARIAS TOLD THE PRESS, 'IT WAS
AN ENJOYABLE AND USEFUL INTERVIEW.'"

10. "MCCURDY ALSO REVEALED THAT THE CONGRESSMEN
HAD MET WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE NICARAGUAN
OPPOSITION GROUPS." END EXCERPTS.

11. ELECTRONIC MEDIA PLAY, FEATURING REPORTS
ON LEADING TV CHANNELS 7 AND 6 (PRIME-TIME
AUDIENCES 250,000 AND 200,000, RESPECTIVELY),
AND MAIN RADIO STATIONS RELOJ, COLUMBIA, AND
MONUMENTAL (COMBINED ESTIMATED LISTENERSHIP
500,000), FEATURED SIMILAR TREATMENT OF CODEL VISIT.

STANLEY

UNCLASSIFIED