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EXDIS
E. O. 12065: RDS-2 4/12/01 (HINTON, DEANE R.) MK-M
TAGS: PINS PINT POGOV ES
SUBJECT: (C) CHAT WITH GENERAL GARCIA

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. GENERAL GARCIA RECEIVED ME A BIT BEFORE NOON APRIL 12. I TOLD HIM THAT SINCE WE WERE BOTH STAYING OUT OF POLITICS AND LEAVING IT TO THE PARTY LEADERS I WANTED HIM TO KNOW HOW I WAS ACCOMPLISHING THIS, SINCE PRETENSIONS APART WE SHARED AN INTEREST IN AN OUTCOME THAT WOULD PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES. HE WAS INTERESTED, TO SAY THE LEAST.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT IN MY JUDGEMENT THE MESSAGE, WITH WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR, I HAD DELIVERED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS ALMOST TWO WEEKS AGO HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN TO HEART BY THE POLITICAL LEADERS. NOR HAD THEY GRASPED WHAT JIM WRIGHT AND HIS CODEL HAD HAD TO SAY. PERHAPS JIM'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN DELIVERED WITH TOO MUCH SUAVIDAD. HE AGREED BOTH MESSAGES WERE CLEAR AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDERSTOOD. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED.

4. THEN I SAID I WAS WORRIED THAT DUARTE AND THE PDC WERE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING GOING INTO FORMAL OPPOSITION, BREAKING OFF TALKS, THAT THE PCN-ARENA OFFER WAS FAR SHORT OF MEETING OUR CRITERIA FOR A BROAD COALITION OF NATIONAL UNITY, AND THAT SOME RIGHTISTS WERE THINKING OF USING THEIR IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO IMPOSE THEIR SOLUTION. ACCORDINGLY, WITH FULL WASHINGTON BACKING (I HOPE) I WAS MAKING ANOTHER, BLUNTER EFFORT, TO GET ACROSS FOUR BASIC POINTS.

(1) THE STAKES ARE SO LARGE THAT NO ONE SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BREAKDOWN. NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO CONTINUE UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED. AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT GARCIA STILL WANTS EARLY SOLUTIONS. THE ARMY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON AND IS WORRIED.

(2) GARCIA RAISED REFORMS, SAYING THEY WERE KEY AND EVERYTHING LOOKED LIKE IT WAS ON TRACK. I AGREED POLITICAL LEADERS ARE SAYING MORE OR LESS RIGHT THING, BUT POINTED OUT WE WOULD WATCH PERFORMANCE. JULY 28 PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION WOULD BE BASED ON WHAT HAPPENED NOT ON PLEDGES. I ALSO SAID HOW HELPFUL IT WOULD BE TO HAVE SOMEONE IN CHARGE WHO WAS BOTH COMMITTED TO PROCESS AND A BETTER ADMINISTRATOR THAN MIGUEL EHRlich. BUT WE NEED MORE THAN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH OUR LAW, WE NEED POLITICALLY DEFENSIBLE OUTCOME.

(3) I SAID CLEAR COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

*Dear:
Can we
get
a clear
copy of
this?*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~