

UNCLASSIFIED

Cable TAGL  
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TELEGRAM

May 16, 2003

To: AMEMBASSY BELIZE - ROUTINE  
Origin: WNA  
From: SECSTATE WASHDC (STATE 113449 - ROUTINE) *Reull*  
TAGS: FREL, XL  
Captions: None  
Subject: POSSIBLE PUERTO RICAN REQUESTS FOR RECOGNITION  
Ref: 01 STATE 113449

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE FOR SICR CAPITALS (BELIZE, GUATEMALA, MANAGUA, PANAMA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA). FOR ALL OTHER ADDRESSEES THIS IS AN ACTION IF REQUIRED CABLE. ACTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

- SICR POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 AND MAY DRAW ON POINTS IN PARA 5 AS NEEDED.
- NON-SICR ADDRESSEES SHOULD USE TALKING POINTS IN PARA 5 IF APPROACHED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS. POSTS SHOULD NOT INITIATE THE DISCUSSION.
- MARGIN: ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IS PROVIDED IN PARA 7 FOR MARRID'S USE IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS IN PARA 5 SHOULD THE MARRID BE APPROACHED BY THE GOV ABOUT PUERTO RICO. POST SHOULD NOT INITIATE THE DISCUSSION.

2. THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE APPROACHED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN WNA SEEKING TREATMENT NORMALLY ONLY ACCORDED TO A SOVEREIGN STATE. THE TWO MOST RECENT EXAMPLES WERE IN NICARAGUA AND PANAMA WHERE THE PUERTO RICAN PRESIDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WHICH CONTAINS LANGUAGE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR FACTS WITH FOREIGN STATES. IN NOVEMBER 2002, PUERTO RICO ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ELICIT RECOGNITION AS A SOVEREIGN STATE AT THE ISERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE DEPARTMENT REITERATES THAT THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUERTO RICO'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE DEPARTMENT IN A JULY 10, 2002 LETTER INVITED THE PUERTO RICANS TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH PUERTO RICO CAN PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS HAVE YET TO RESPOND.

3. THIS CABLE PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR POSTS' INFORMATION ON PUERTO RICO'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS LANGUAGE THAT POSTS MAY USE SHOULD THEY BE APPROACHED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS REGARDING PUERTO RICAN INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES, OR REQUESTS TO SIGN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND/OR AGREEMENTS.

BACKGROUND

1. PUERTO RICO IS AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH COMMONWEALTH STATUS. THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF ALL AREAS SUBJECT TO UNITED STATES' JURISDICTION, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATES, TERRITORIES, AND POSSESSIONS. ACCORDINGLY, THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS ANY PROPOSED PARTICIPATION BY A U.S. TERRITORY OR POSSESSION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, OR SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING AGREEMENTS) WITH OTHER NATIONS, TO ENSURE THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION OR DOCUMENT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH

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