

UNCLASSIFIED

CABLEGRAM
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TELEGRAM

May 16, 2003

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

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

- SIGA POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 AND MAY DRAM ON POINTS IN PARA 5 AS NEEDED.
- NON-SIGA ADDRESSEES SHOULD USE TALKING POINTS IN PARA 5 IF APPROACHED BY MOST GOVERNMENTS. POSTS SHOULD NOT INITIATE THE DISCUSSION.
- MADRID: ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IS PROVIDED IN PARA 7 FOR MADRID'S USE IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS IN PARA 5 SHOULD THE EMBASSY 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 WHA SEEKING IMPROVEMENT 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 CONTAINED 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 REITERATED THAT THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUERTO RICO'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE DEPARTMENT IN A JULY 10, 2002 LETTER INVITES 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 MOST 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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