

R 17827)1CZCBYLIYC

7PM-PLAN-REGION (3 TAKES)

MEXICO CITY, FEB 24, REUTER -- THE PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA AND EL SALVADOR TODAY PRAISED THE REAGAN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN; WHILE PANAMA'S FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZED ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTENTS.

RODRIGO CARAZO, OF COSTA RICA, DESCRIBED THE PLAN AS 'HISTORIC AND TRANSCENDENTAL' IN A MESSAGE HE ADDRESSED TO MR REAGAN AND DELIVERED TO U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANCIS McNEIL.

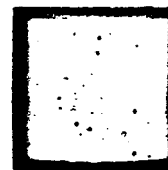
'THOSE WHO KNOW THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THESE (CENTRAL AMERICAN) NATIONS KNOW THE ONLY FORMULA TO SOLVE THEM IS BASED UPON INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE,' MR CARAZO SAID IN HIS MESSAGE.

FOREIGN MINISTER BERND NIEHAUS COINCIDED WITH PRESIDENT CARAZO IN DESCRIBING REAGAN'S PLAN AS A 'HISTORIC...POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TOWARDS CENTRAL AMERICA.'

HE SAID THE PLAN REFLECTED AMERICAN 'CONCERN...ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; AS WELL AS THE URGENT NEED FOR A CLOSER NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.'

THE PLAN MR REAGAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON WOULD HELP THE SALVADORAN CIVILIAN-MILITARY JUNTA'S PROJECTS FOR APOLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO THAT COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS; ACCORDING TO JUNTA HEAD JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE.

MORE 0333 MH



±±±R030

R 17844)2CZCZYRCZC

±±PK-PLAN-REGION 2 MEXICO CITY±

HE SAID THE PLAN ALSO ASSURED THE SUCCESS OF A RECENTLY
CREATED CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY.

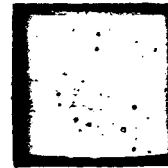
THE CONTROVERSIAL COMMUNITY, SET UP LAST MONTH, IS MADE UP
OF EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS. NICARAGUA HAS
CRITICIZED THE COMMUNITY FOR HAVING LEFT OUT THE OTHER CENTRAL
AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ITSELF.

PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE ILLUECA DESCRIBED
REAGAN'S PLAN AS A "VERY INFERIOR" ONE, AND SAID HE REGRETTED
THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT DID NOT MENTION IN HIS SPEECH THE
MEXICAN PEACE INITIATIVE FOR THE REGION ANNOUNCED LAST WEEKEND
BY PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

"WHAT REAGAN DOES REGARDING ECONOMY IS TO ANNOUNCE HE WILL
TAKE TO CONGRESS HIS PROPOSAL FOR MEASURES TO BE TAKEN....THIS
WILL MEAN LATIN AMERICA WILL HAVE TO WAIT, MR ILLUECA TOLD
REUTERS.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER, REFERRING TO THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF
MR REAGAN'S SPEECH, SAID "LATIN AMERICA'S PROBLEMS CANNOT BE
SOLVED WITH MILITARY AID, WHETHER FROM THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA,
NICARAGUA OR THE UNITED STATES."±

MORE 0336 MH



***R031

R 17861)LCZCZYRZOT

±7PM-PLAN-REGION 3 MEXICO CITY±

IN BELIZE; LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRY REACTED FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH DUTIES ON CARIBBEAN BASIN GOODS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

THEY CLAIMED THAT IF CONGRESS PASSED THE LEGISLATION IT WOULD MEAN A 'VERY SIGNIFICANT BOOST FOR THE CITRUS INDUSTRY' AS WELL AS FOR BELIZE'S ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

IN HAVANA; A CUBAN OFFICIAL; WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED; SAID MR REAGAN'S PLAN WOULD UNILATERALLY IMPOSE AMERICAN VIEWS ON THE REGION.

HE SAID IT WOULD RESULT IN A SITUATION 'WHERE THE UNITED STATES IMPOSES ITS VIEWS WITHOUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIONS THAT MIGHT OPPOSE THEM.'

IN HIS MAJOR POLICY SPEECH IN WASHINGTON; TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) MR REAGAN SAID CUBA; NICARAGUA AND GRENADA COULD BE ELEGIBLE FOR THE INCREASED AID HE PROPOSED ONLY IF THEY RETURNED TO THE HEMISPHERE'S 'TRADITIONS AND COMMON VALUES.'

THE DELEGATES OF NICARAGUA AND GRENADA REJECTED THE PRESIDENT'S ALLEGATION THAT THE REGION IS THREATENED BY CUBA AS WELL AS THOSE TWO NATIONS.±

REUTER 0330 MH

