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Memo

to JCK

Shortly after the return of President Somoza from his trip to the United States, I was advised by [redacted] that President Somoza had told him in the presence of Somoza's two sons, Anastasio, Jr. and Luis that President Truman had asked Somoza [redacted] situation. This was the first information I had received on the subject, and as customary I orally advised Colonel Welch, first secretary of the Embassy, of the statement.

Welch, who has always been most cooperative, then told me the following story, part of which he had been told by Ambassador Whelan and part of which he had learned directly. At the time President Somoza was showing President Somoza the renovated White House, the two of them entered the kitchen area. [redacted]

Apparently nothing further was said at the time. (This is the version as told by Somoza to Whelan, and in turn by Whelan to Welch). Colonel Vera of President Truman's staff accompanied Somoza on the return trip to Nicaragua, and further news were discussed during the trip. On arrival at Managua, Ambassador Whelan was told of the situation by both Somoza and Vera, and at a cocktail party held at the Ambassador's residence, the Ambassador brought John Ohmans, State Department representative on the Nicaraguan desk who was in Managua at the time, into the discussion. Shortly afterward both Ohmans and Whelan returned to Washington. The Ambassador took Ohmans with him to the office of Mr. Miller to discuss the matter; Miller was very perturbed with Whelan for having discussed the matter with Ohmans and refused to permit him to sit in on the discussion. He was also angry at Vera, apparently because of some independent memoranda which were had written to Truman concerning the proposal. Following Whelan's return to Nicaragua, the embassy refused to have any further connection with the matter; this was on the advice of Welch, who felt that inasmuch as the matter had been initiated in Washington it should be handled there directly between Miller and Somoza's representative in Washington. Since that time, the Embassy has had no direct connection with negotiations.

All of the above was told to me by Welch with considerable reluctance and in the most strict confidence. Welch stated at the outset that he should not tell me about it as Miller had issued instructions that "your organization is not to know about this". Inasmuch as it was logical that I personally should know nothing about it, I specifically asked him whether Miller meant me personally or my headquarters; Welch answered that it was his understanding that my headquarters were not to know. There was an intimation that these instructions from Miller had been received by letter, but it was never made clear whether they were in letter form or passed orally by Ambassador Whelan.

The exact dates involved I do not remember; Somoza returned from the U.S. on July 6, and the cocktail party which is mentioned was shortly thereafter. I learned of the matter on the Friday of the week during which [redacted] was in Managua giving instruction. At this time I reported the information available to me without disclosing what Welch had said, as Welch was certain he would be

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