

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref. TO 371/67952			84679			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

50

AN
NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT

AN

4351

1948

Registry Number } AN4351/436/8 ✓

FROM Mr. Steptoe,
San Salvador.

No. 113 Restricted.

Dated 30th Nov 1948

Received in Registry } 8th Dec 1948

Central American Unity.

(AN4322/436/8) Refers to San Salvador despatch 107

Considers that the President of San Salvador is considering Central American Unity more seriously than was indicated. Well organised press campaign favours the meeting of the Central American Presidents, and the American Ambassador has been asked officially whether U.S. will despatch an aircraft carrier or some other vessel, in which the meeting could be held.

Copied Washington, Central American posts.

Last Paper.

4322 ✓
AN 4322

(Minutes.)

See.

AN 4354.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

R. 4/2

(Index.)

J 21/3

Next Paper.

AN 4354 ✓

26513 F.O.P.

S. Valle

13/12.

6/1

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref. TO 371/67952			84679			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

No. 113.

HNS/FH

BRITISH LEGATION,

SAN SALVADOR, AN

RESTRICTED.

4351 30th November, 1948.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 107 of November 20th, I have the honour to report that certain recent developments have occurred in connection with the move towards Central American unity and a meeting of the Presidents of the five Central American Republics which tend to show that the project is being more seriously considered than the light hearted attitude of the President of this Republic towards it, as indicated in paragraph 2 of that despatch, led me in the first instance to believe.

2. Apart from the fact that there is a well organised press campaign favouring such a meeting and stressing that the heads of the five Republics have all publicly declared themselves to be in favour of unity, I have learnt from the United States Ambassador that the President of this Republic has officially approached him through the Minister for Foreign Affairs to secure the consent of the United States Government to the despatch of an aircraft carrier, or some other United States war vessel, in which the meeting of the Presidents could be held.

3. The American Ambassador tells me that he was considerably embarrassed by the President's request, and he had felt bound to inform him through the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he could not pass it on officially, although he would do so privately. This he did on November 29th.

4. Mr. Nufer tells me that he considers the President's request exhibited considerable cunning. His plan was that the State Department, in accordance with the "good neighbour policy" and its professed interest in, and support of all moves that might lead to good relations between the Republics of Central America, should agree to the despatch of an American war vessel to Salvadorean waters and that, after its arrival, the President would issue invitations to the other Presidents to attend a meeting to be held on board. Any refusal to attend would be construed as indicating a lack of sincerity towards the policy of Central American unity, and would therefore afford a good guide to the future complexion of the inter-relations of Central American Republics.

5. The American Ambassador tells me that he informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Inability

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref. TO 371/67952			84679			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

2.

inability to support the President's proposals which would lay the United States Government open to many charges, not the least important of which would be that of interfering in the internal political affairs of other friendly countries. He was confident that his Government would not agree to any proposal which placed it in such an invidious position. Nevertheless he would pass the President's request to the State Department unofficially, and as one made merely from an exploratory angle.

6. From the foregoing it would appear that this latest move to explore once again the possibilities of Central American political, economic and social unity is General Castaneda Castro's alone, and that unless he can secure some neutral ground, as it were, on which all the delegates can meet and feel at ease, the chances of such a meeting being held at all remain problematical. It is also reasonably certain that up to November 29th., the President of this Republic had issued no actual invitations to the Presidents of other Republics, although there are grounds for believing that private and unofficial approaches to them have been made.

7. I am sending copies of this despatch to H.M. Ambassador at Washington and to H.M. Ministers at all Central American posts.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

H. W. Suptoe