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Ref: <b>TO 371/67952</b>			<b>84679</b>			
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AN4298

CENTRAL AMERICAN

Registry Number **AN4298/436/8**

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Steptoe,  
No. San Salvador.  
SO

Dated 3rd Dec 1948

Received in Registry 7th Dec 1948

Conference of Central American Presidents to be held in San Salvador on 13th December.

Refers to San Salvador despatch 107, *US and*

U.S. Ambassador has been informed that Salvadorean President has issued invitations to President of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras to attend conference to be held in December. Invitations were taken by aides in U.S. Air Mission aircraft. U.S. Ambassador has telegraphed countries concerned that this does not signify U.S. agreement. Considers significance of nonissue of decree authorising local elections.

*Rptd Washington. Tequeigalpa, Matagua, Guatemala, San Jose.*

AN4221 x

References

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*This M. will have to be considered with the despatches referred to. Pl resubmit when they are received.*

*Flippin*  
9/12

*S.F.*  
6/1.

*PAID*  
*FOR*

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

*APC*  
*21/2*

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Next Paper.

*AN 4312*

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DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM SAN SALVADOR TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Steptoe.  
No. 40.

D: 12.10 p.m. 3rd December, 1948.

3rd December, 1948.

R: 9.10 p.m. 3rd December, 1948.

Repeated to: Washington Saving,  
Tegucigalpa Saving,  
Managua Saving,  
Guatemala Saving,  
San José Saving.

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 40 of  
3rd December repeated Saving to Washington, Tegucigalpa,  
Managua, Guatemala and San José.

My despatches Nos. 107 and 113: Central American  
Unity.

Presidents' conference.

United States Ambassador informs me that Minister for  
Foreign Affairs told him in strict confidence that the  
President of the Republic has issued personal invitations  
to Presidents of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras  
attend the conference to be held San Salvador December 13th.  
These invitations were being taken by three aides who left  
this morning December 2nd in United States Air Mission  
aircraft. It is not known by what means invitation has  
been sent to Guatemala.

2. United States Ambassador was not informed that the  
aircraft was to be used for this special purpose and has  
therefore telegraphed to his colleagues in the countries  
concerned requesting them to inform the Governments con-  
cerned that use of United States aircraft is not to be  
construed to mean that United States Government is officially  
in favour of the conference.

3. Fact that decree authorising local elections on  
January 9th next has not yet been issued may be  
significant. Circle close to President of the Republic  
considers it will not be issued in view of the proposed  
conference, at which President of the Republic will  
propose he should remain in office in order to further  
the cause of Central American Unity. His intention to  
remain is strongly supported by other evidence (see also  
Tegucigalpa despatch No. 83).

4. Conference may not materialise since it seems unlikely  
that President of Honduras will attend and presence of  
General Figueres from Costa Rica is the problem.

5. If the President of the Republic should attempt to  
remain in office local internal trouble would appear  
unavoidable. It is known that the Minister of Defence,  
who is official candidate in the next election is quietly  
taking precautions.

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