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WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Endara of Panama (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
  
Guillermo Endara, President

DATE, TIME April 30, 1990, 11:00 - 11:15am EST  
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Anything sensitive you want to discuss we can do it alone. I was so upset with our Congress on the legislation. It is not Panama, it is petty maneuvering. (S)

President Endara: I and the Panamanian people understand this. It is the price of democracy. (S)

The President: Anything sensitive? (S)

President Endara: Yes. I spoke to Thurman. All intelligence should be under Panama, not the Army or anywhere else. We have been talking about this off and on with Hinton, who is an excellent man. But this leaves a void and I fear it will be filled by the police force. (S)

The President: Brent, will you call Webster and find out where it stands. (S)

President Endara: I will see him this afternoon. (S)

The President: It is important you get it straightened out. It is vital to you and should come directly to you. What have you done with our friends the Cubans and Libyans? (S)

President Endara: We are just waiting to break relations with Cuba. Libya is more difficult. They have been very quiet and to break relations without a reason is tough. (S)

President: No, you can't do that. How are things within the government? The Troika's getting along? (S)

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President Endara: Very well. We have different interests but we work very well together. My party had a conference recently. (Gives the President a party card and button.) (S)

The President: How are you coming with recognition? (S)

President Endara: Very well. CAP is helpful and being a good friend. Garcia is being friendly. Bolivia is a problem because of a leftist environment -- they will be quiet for now. (S)

The President: Any pro-Noriega sentiment? (S)

President Endara: None. There is no opposition. Democracy needs an opposition government. Right now there is none. The government is getting high marks from everyone. (S)

The President: I would like to accept your invitation to visit. I think it would send good signals, both here and in Panama. (S)

-- End of Conversation --

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