

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 7, 1977 L

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY SCHECTER
JODY POWELL

FROM: ROBERT A. PASTOR *RA*

SUBJECT: Statements by Foreign Governments About
the Panama Canal Treaties

I requested a short summary from the State Department on the responses by leaders in the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world to the signing of the Canal Treaties. It is not very good, but it is attached for your use.

Document 7

(Note: Robert Pastor was Latin American specialist on the National Security Council during the Carter administration. Jody Powell was Press Secretary. This report was to provide further support for treaty negotiations.)



S/S 7722821

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

UNCLASSIFIED

September 6, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ZBIGNIEW BREZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Statements by Foreign Governments about the Panama
Canal Treaties

Yesterday, Mr. Robert Pastor requested information
on statements made by world leaders regarding the Panama
Canal Treaties. Attached is a report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Tarnoff", written in a cursive style.

Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

As stated.

Most public statements made by foreign governments or leaders about the Panama Canal agreements have come from the hemisphere. Moreover, many governments and their leaders have thus far refrained from committing themselves to support the treaties. They prefer to read the documents first. The following is a digest for the statements which have been made to date.

General Torrijos of Panama has called the treaties "a triumph". The Panamanian people are accepting the treaty "with satisfaction" and "because it is a treaty which decolonizes and does so rapidly." Finally, "it is a treaty which will strengthen our personality as Panamanians and will give Panamanians more dignity everywhere in the world."

Foreign Minister Forde of Barbados welcomed the agreement saying, "I hope that the Congress of the United States will react favorably to this settlement. It has the support of the Caribbean nations in particular..."

Bolivia issued one of the strongest statements. The government declared August 11, the day after the conceptual agreements were announced, to be a "day of national rejoicing". The Bolivian press release stated, "The Panamanian and U.S. governments have reached an agreement which is an important step toward final solution of one of the problems affecting Latin America, which shows that the good will of nations can always overcome the unjust situations still existing in this continent." The announcement went on to declare that the time had come for a solution of Bolivia's problem, i.e., access to the sea.

President Pinochet of Chile sent President Carter a telegram which said in part, "I fully agree with Your Excellency that such treaties represent an historic benchmark in Inter-American relations. I also share your hope that the same spirit of alliance and of mutual respect will guide relations among all nations of the Hemisphere."

Costa Rican President Oduber issued a strongly supportive statement and followed it up with a letter to President Carter. He says the "U.S. is showing the Third World that in this hemisphere the relations between the most powerful nation and the small countries are conducted

in an atmosphere of equality and mutual respect." He says that the agreement with Panama fortifies this theory, and that President Carter can "count on the enthusiastic support of Costa Rica."

A statement was released to the press in Washington by the Dominican Embassy. Speaking for the Dominican government, the statement expressed its happiness that the negotiations resulted in a new agreement between the two governments. The Dominican Republic believes "that the new treaty with Panama opens a new era in Inter-American relations and that President Carter's decisive and inspired action in seeking a treaty between the two countries has done a service of far-reaching scope to the ideal of Washington and Bolivar about the unity of destiny and the indestructable solidarity of the nations of this Western Hemisphere."

Guatemala instructed its Embassy in Washington to express "the satisfaction of the people and Government of Guatemala with the agreement in principle concluded between the United States of America and the Republic of Panama on the Panama Canal, and transmit our congratulations to President Carter for finding a solution to this problem of great importance to the hemisphere." The Guatemalan note also remarked that the agreement with Panama "proves that negotiations are an appropriate and effective means of settling disputes between States" and expressed the hope that negotiations could also solve the Belize problem.

An Agence France Presse report quoted Guyanese Foreign Minister Fred Wills as calling the agreement a "just document." The report stated that the treaty "will eliminate the last remains of neo-colonialism in Panama and will contribute to the dignity of the Latin American and Caribbean countries."

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry received the news of the conceptual agreements "with great satisfaction, since the agreement that has been reached will have a most favorable impact on hemispheric relations."

Peruvian Ambassador Carlos Garcia Bedoya, speaking for his government, characterized the agreements as a stimulant for the future of Washington's relations with Latin America." The accords "acquire even greater importance because they have been reached by means of dialog and direct negotiations between the parties."

In a press conference, President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela made the following remarks: "I wish to congratulate President Carter, very sincerely, for his great sense of justice and for the way he has brought his great sense of ethics to his great country by facilitating these negotiations, as it has done, by which Panama may recover sovereignty over an important part of its territory. I am convinced that this basic element of U.S. policy is going to change for the better relations between North America and Latin America."