



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 11, 1972

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Treaty Negotiations

I said to General Torrijos that quite frankly I did not understand what he desired with respect to the treaty. Did he want an entirely new treaty as soon as possible or did he prefer to deal with the several issues separately, reach agreement on those that were possible and leave to a later date the more difficult ones? General Torrijos replied that he had usually found in dealing with complex matters, the piece-meal approach was preferable, but with respect to the treaty, he thought an entire new treaty as soon as possible was necessary. He said that any new treaty had to be acceptable to him so that he could endorse it to his people. I said that similarly a treaty had to be acceptable to the USG so that it could endorse it to the Congress with reasonable prospects for approval.

I said that the US negotiators were planning to respond favorably to the Fon Min's request that negotiations continue in Panama. In the light of his expressed preference, it seemed to me that what was needed was a precise understanding on both sides of the distance that currently separated us on each issue. I proposed that the first agenda item of the meeting in Panama be a clear and detailed exposition of Panama's position on each substantive issue, for I believed Panama understood the US position to date. Once both sides understood the dimensions of the separation, both sets of negotiations should be empowered with flexibility to explore possible "bridges" to span the gaps, ad referendum. In that manner perhaps only one or two items might remain outstanding which would require highest level attention in both governments. Torrijos found it a reasonable way to proceed and agreed to so instruct his negotiators.

Torrijos said that his new Ambassador to the U.S. would not be involved in the negotiations.

When I ran down the main substantive issues, Torrijos appeared less than fully familiar and indicated that his experts were working on these.

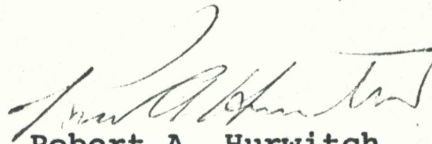
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On November 12, I recounted the substance of the foregoing to President Lakas who said that the Panamanian position in detail was approved and he thought the proposed procedure reasonable.

Note: Ambassador Sayre and Ambassador-designate to the US Gonzalez-Revilla were present throughout the discussion.



Robert A. Hurwitch  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Inter-American Affairs

cc - The Deputy Secretary  
Ambassador Anderson  
Ambassador Ward ✓  
PAN - Mr. Bell  
ARA - Mr. Meyer  
Deputy Under Secretary of the Army - Mr. Koren  
NSC - Mr. Jorden

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