

# TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

INCOMING

INCOMING TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

~~Declassified~~

E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.3

NND 20018005

By ~~MP/PB~~, NARA Date 8/11/2014

Control: 258520

Recd: 10/19/68

FROM: DEPARTMENT 258520, OCTOBER 19, 1968

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO CINCSO POLAD

USUN FOR CATER AND AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

PANAMA WORKING GROUP SITUATION REPORT 0800 HOURS EDT  
OCTOBER 19, 1968

A CURFEW WAS AGAIN APPLIED IN PANAMA DURING THE NIGHT OCTOBER  
18-19 AND, REPORTEDLY, CALM PREVAILED GENERALLY.

U. S. OFFICIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO CARRY ON CONVERSATIONS  
WITH ARNULFO ARIAS, IN AN EFFORT TO ARRANGE FOR HIS DEPARTURE  
FROM THE CANAL ZONE. STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT  
THE VARIOUS PANAMANIAN WHO ACCOMPANIED ARIAS INTO THE ZONE  
OR ENTERED IN RECENT DAYS ARE NOT ENGAGING IN POLITICAL  
ACTIVITIES. ADDITIONALLY, A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO EXTEND THE  
LIMITATIONS ON ARIAS' ACTIVITIES, EFFECTIVELY BUT INCONSPICUOUSLY,  
IS BEING CARRIED OUT. AT THE SAME TIME A SURFACE CORDIALITY  
BETWEEN HIM AND U. S. OFFICIALS IS BEING MAINTAINED.

FOLLOWING THE EFFORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PANAMA'S PROVISIONAL  
GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENTS OF NICARAGUA, HONDURAS AND EL  
SALVADOR HAVE CONFERRED AND HAVE GIVEN INDICATION THAT RECOGNITION  
WILL PROBABLY BE ACCORDED PANAMA'S JUNTA GOVERNMENT EARLY NEXT  
WEEK. SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE HEMISPHERE (ARGENTINA,  
BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, URUGUAY, BARBADOS) HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT  
THEY HAVE NOT YET FORMED A POSITION ON RECOGNITION AND THAT  
A DECISION IS NOT IMMINENT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PANAMANIAN  
JUNTA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD WITHIN A YEAR  
AND THAT, PRIOR TO THE NEXT ELECTIONS, ELECTORAL REFORMS  
ARE TO BE INSTITUTED; HE HAS SAID THAT A NEW ELECTORAL BOARD  
WILL BE NAMED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THAT IT WILL SET  
A DATE FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

GP-1. RUSK

ACTION: POL INFO: AMB DCM S A ECON USIS CHRON

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Classification

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★ GPO : 1967 O - 305-214 (81)