The United States in Honduras, 1980–1981

An Ambassador's Memoir

by

JACK R. BINNS

McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
Jefferson, North Carolina, and London
(2000)
Contents

Acknowledgments v
Abbreviations ix
Introduction 1

1. Getting There Was Half the Fun 5
2. Learning the Ropes 24
3. The Circus Begins: Challenges and Diversions 58
4. New Administration Brings Confusion, Interagency Conflict 92
5. Improving Environment Sours Quickly 119
6. Damage Control, Honduran Schemes and Covert Plans 145
7. Policy Vacuum Continues as Troubles Mount 186
8. Transition Crisis Reached as My Replacement Is Named 213
9. Efforts to Block Elections and Conflict with U.S. Military 284
10. Coup Attempt Fails as I Wind Up 279
11. Tying Up Loose Ends: Some Important Later Events 300
12. Summing Up 309

Notes 319

Appendices

I. Instructions for New Ambassador 349
II. Honduran Armed Forces, Strength and Structure, 1980–1981 357
III. Concerns About Regional Policies and Objectives 359

Bibliography 367
Index 383