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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1982

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 17

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION DIRECTIVE ON  
CUBA AND CENTRAL AMERICA

U.S. policy toward the Americas is characterized by strong support for those nations which embrace the principles of democracy and freedom for their people in a stable and peaceful environment. U.S. policy is therefore to assist in defeating the insurgency in El Salvador, and to oppose actions by Cuba, Nicaragua, or others to introduce into Central America heavy weapons, troops from outside the region, trained subversives, or arms and military supplies for insurgents. To adequately support U.S. policy, the following decisions have been made by the President based on discussion at the November 16, 1981 meeting of the National Security Council:

1. Create a public information task force to inform the public and Congress of the critical situation in the area.
2. Economic support for a number of Central American and Caribbean countries (estimate \$250 to \$300 million FY 1982 supplemental)
3. Agreement to use most of the \$50 million Section 506 authority to increase military assistance to El Salvador and Honduras. Reprogram additional funds as necessary.
4. Provide military training for indigenous units and leaders both in and out of country.

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Review on December 15, 1987

DRV. CL. by JCS

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BY RW NARA DATE 5/6/13

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5. Enhance U.S. and host country intelligence capabilities and sharing in the Caribbean Basin area.
6. Maintain trade and credit to Nicaragua as long as the government permits the private sector to operate effectively.
7. Expedite measures to tighten the economic sanctions against Cuba.
8. Encourage cooperative efforts to defeat externally-supported insurgency by pursuing a multilateral step-by-step approach.
9. Support democratic forces in Nicaragua.
10. Prepare appropriate military contingency plans for action against Cuban forces should they be introduced into Central America.
11. Improve military preparedness against Cuba and develop contingency plans for action against Cuba.

*Ronald Reagan*

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