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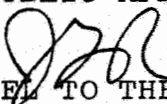
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS F. GIBSON III
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Talking Points on the Contra Aid Vote

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced talking points and finds no objection to it from a legal perspective.

cc: David Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) _____

Name of Correspondent: _____

David Chew

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject: _____

Talking Points on the Contra Aid Vote.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CW HOLL		ORIGINATOR	86/03/21			1/1
CUAT 18		Referral Note: R	86/03/21	S		86/03/21 4:00 pm
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
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DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Comments directly to Tom Gibson, info.
copy to David Chew.

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 3/21/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 pm todaySUBJECT: TALKING POINTS ON THE CONTRA AID VOTE

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	LACY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BALL	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	THOMAS	☒	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	GIBSON	☐	☒
HENKEL	☐	☐		☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐		☐	☐
KINGON	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Could you please direct your comments on the attached to Tom Gibson by 4:00 p.m. today with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1986

RECEIVED
MAR 21 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW

FROM: TOM GIBSON *tg*
SUBJECT: Talking Points on the Contra Aid Vote

Attached, for staffing, are draft talking points on yesterday's House vote against aid to the Nicaraguan democratic resistance. They are intended for use by Administration spokesmen.

I'd like to put these out as soon as possible. Thanks very much.

cc: Pat Buchanan

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

HOUSE VOTE AGAINST AID TO THE NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE

- o The President will continue to work with Congress to reverse the March 20 vote in which the House of Representatives defeated the Administration's request for aid to the Nicaraguan democratic resistance.
- o The American people have begun to awaken to the danger emerging on their doorstep. As President Reagan said, "We are gaining ground; we are winning converts. The next battle will bring us the victory this just and good cause rightly deserves."

Note on Negotiations

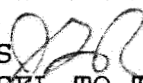
- o The centerpiece of any negotiated settlement would be the unfulfilled promises made by the Sandinistas. In 1979, the Organization of American States extended recognition to the government of Nicaragua based upon assurances that the Sandinistas would: (1) establish a democracy; (2) pursue a non-aligned foreign policy; and (3) adopt a mixed economy. The Sandinistas have reneged on each of these commitments to its Latin American neighbors.
- o Meanwhile, the U.S. supports verifiable and comprehensive implementation of the 1983 Contadora Objectives -- including democratization and national reconciliation in El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- o U.S. pressure on the Sandinistas has been the engine behind the Contadora process, not an obstacle. Ten times the Administration has tried to negotiate peace with the Sandinistas. Ten times we were rebuffed:
 - Secretary of State George Shultz visited Managua in 1984 and offered to begin bilateral discussions.
 - The President's special envoy, Harry Shlaudeman, met eight times with the Sandinistas in Manzanillo, Mexico, and once in Atlanta, Georgia.
- o The President dispatched his new special envoy, Philip Habib, to Central America. This represented the 49th trip by a Presidential envoy to work with Latin American governments in search of peace.
- o Delay in aid to the resistance means delay in the peace process. Delays work to the advantage of the Sandinistas who continue to welcome Soviet Block arms and Cuban pilots.
- o There will never be a Contadora agreement or democracy in Nicaragua without U.S. support for the democratic resistance. The Sandinistas are seeking above all to end that support.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Statement Following
Congressional Meeting on Contra Aid

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1 /Name of Correspondent: Anne Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Remarks: Statement following
Congressional Meeting on Contra Aid

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CH HOLL</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86.03.24</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
<u>CUat 18</u>		Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>86.03.24</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86.03.24</u>
		Referral Note: <u>5pm</u>				<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>

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Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 3/24/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 P.M. TODAYSUBJECT: REMARKS: STATEMENT FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL MEETING ON CONTRA AID
(3/24/86 3:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	LACY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BALL	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	THOMAS	☒	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
HENKEL	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
KINGON	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott,
with an info copy to my office by 5:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Elliott)
March 24, 1986
3:00 p.m.

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1986
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: STATEMENT FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL
MEETING ON CONTRA AID
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1986

I have just completed a discussion of the growing crisis in Central America with two of our leading Senators -- Richard Lugar of Indiana, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sam Nunn of Georgia, ranking Democrat of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They agree that now is the time for a bipartisan solution to this threat -- and they agree that solution begins with U.S. help for all those struggling for a free and democratic Nicaragua.

We recognize that America faces no more pressing challenge than to turn back the powerful Soviet-led drive to destroy democracy in our hemisphere and undermine the security of the United States.

I know some insist we must not act until we have proof that the Soviets are establishing a beachhead in this hemisphere.

Forgive me, but with Nicaragua's hands already soiled by subversion, terrorism, and internal repression, with Nicaragua's armed forces already stronger than all its neighbors combined, already led by crack Cuban advisers and equipped with Soviet tanks and sophisticated helicopter gunships, and with Nicaragua already building the longest military airstrip in Central America and a new deep water port -- the reality is as vivid and clear as fireworks in the sky: the Soviets already have a beachhead and they're moving to fortify that beachhead as fast as they can.

The democratic resistance is a security shield for the entire region. Supporting these brave young men and women is more than a moral duty, it is a national security imperative. But the House vote has left them to face alone the assaults of Soviet weaponry, left them to be struck down like helpless young trees in the path of a raging hurricane. Every day that passes, more freedom fighters will be murdered; every day that passes, the dangers from this menace of Soviets, Cubans, East Germans, Bulgarians, North Koreans, Libyans and PLO camped on our doorstep will grow.

The question is, will we continue to do nothing, risking a far more dangerous confrontation down the road, or will we unite for responsible and effective bipartisan action now to secure our safety and protect our future?

Diplomacy is one tool, but diplomacy alone is not the answer. We should have learned this by now. The Communists in Nicaragua negotiated an agreement with the OAS in 1979 that promised everything our critics suggest new negotiations should achieve today. They agreed, in return for replacement of Somoza and diplomatic recognition of their new regime, that they would hold free elections as soon as possible leading to a genuine democracy, that they would maintain a mixed economy and they would conduct a peaceful, non-aligned foreign policy.

The Communists lied. The truth is, they have broken every promise, broken every solemn commitment they made to the OAS. And despite all of our diplomatic efforts, they continue to refuse to honor their commitments to this day. The truth is, the

Communists have made a prison and called it peace, and they brag of how easily they dupe the West.

I would ask all those who believe our policy should be restricted to negotiations to ponder the words of Sergio Ramirez, the "Number 2" man of the Communist Junta. When the Catholic Church offered, in April 1984, to mediate a dialogue between the pro-democracy groups and the Communists, Ramirez replied: We will only negotiate under the barrel of a gun.

It is time we stop making excuses and start providing real help, real weapons to those struggling for a democratic outcome in Nicaragua. The understandings we have reached today reflect the consultations we have had with responsible Members of Congress, the leaders of the democratic resistance, and concerned leaders in the region. I am convinced that the proposal we have worked out with Senator Lugar and Senator Nunn can lead to the democratic outcome in Nicaragua we all want.

Prompt, effective support for the freedom fighters is key. We know that the Communists' strategy is to block aid to the freedom fighters in the belief that they will soon be able to deal them a mortal blow. That's why the time for help is now -- not later. That's why what we do this week is crucial.

I have asked these Senators to work with their colleagues and to urge them to cast a positive vote this week. And just as soon as the Senate acts, I expect that this measure will be promptly taken up by the House of Representatives as Speaker O'Neill promised. Given the urgency of this matter of national security, all those like Senators Lugar and Nunn, who are willing

to work for a truly bipartisan solution, deserve the Nation's tribute. When it comes to us responding to danger reaching ever closer to our borders, it is not right versus left; it is right versus wrong.

With men like Senators Lugar and Nunn by our side, America will make the right decision; democracy will be defended and our future can and will be secure.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Revised Presidential Remarks: Statement
Following Congressional Meeting on Contra Aid

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1Name of Correspondent: David Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Revised Remarks: Statement Following
Congressional Meeting on Contra Aid**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUHOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86/03/25</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>CUAT/8</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>86/03/25</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86/03/25</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>12:00 noon</u>
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
	Referral Note:				

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Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

Comments to Ben Elliott, Info copy to
David Chew.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/25/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 noon TODAY

SUBJECT: REVISED REMARKS: STATEMENT FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL MEETING
ON CONTRA AID.

(3/25/86 10:45 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	LACY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BALL	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
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DANIELS	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
HENKEL	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
KINGON	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott,
 with an info copy to my office by 12:00 noon today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Elliott)
March 25, 1986
10:45 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: STATEMENT FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL
MEETING ON CONTRA AID
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1986

I have just discussed the growing crisis in Central America with two of our leading Senators -- Richard Lugar of Indiana, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sam Nunn of Georgia, ranking Democrat of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They agree that now is the time for a bipartisan solution to this threat, and that the solution begins with U.S. help to those struggling for a free and democratic Nicaragua.

I know some insist we must await proof the Communists are establishing a beachhead of aggression. Well, the proof is as clear as the Communist gunfire now exploding in Honduras. The Nicaraguan beachhead already exists -- the strongest armed force in the region equipped with Soviet tanks, helicopter gunships, led by Cuban advisers -- and part of that force has moved north.

Within 48 hours of the "no" vote in the House last week, the Communists sent 1,500 of their best troops deep into neighboring Honduras. Their mission? A military solution. Move in for the kill and finish off the freedom fighters once and for all.

The democratic resistance has been a security shield for the entire region. But the "no" vote in the House emboldened the Communists and left the freedom fighters to face alone the assaults of Soviet weaponry -- left many to be struck down like young trees in the path of a hurricane. We simply cannot deny that with each day of delay, more 19- and 20-year-old young men are going to die, and the menace of Soviets, Cubans, East

Germans, Bulgarians, North Koreans, Libyans and PLO camped on our doorstep is going to grow.

The government of Honduras has requested our help and I have authorized that \$20 million in emergency military assistance be provided to Honduras immediately. But this will not solve the problem. These events of recent days confirm what we have warned against all along. The Communists' strategy is to block aid to the freedom fighters in the belief that they will soon be able to deal them a mortal blow. That's why the time for help is now -- not later. That's why what we do this week is crucial.

Relying on diplomacy alone is not enough. Six years of experience in dealing with the Communists should have taught us that by now. The Sandinistas negotiated an agreement with the OAS in 1979 that promised everything our critics suggest new negotiations could achieve today. They agreed to hold free elections, to create a genuine democracy, to maintain a mixed economy, and to conduct a peaceful, non-aligned foreign policy.

They have, quite simply, broken every promise, broken every commitment they made to the OAS. And despite our diplomatic efforts, they refuse to honor their commitments to this day. The truth is, the Communists have made a prison and called it peace, and they brag about how they duped the West.

When the Catholic Church offered, in April 1984, to mediate a dialogue between the pro-democracy groups and the Communists, Sergio Ramirez, the Number 2 man of the Communist regime, replied: "We shall only dialogue through the barrel of a gun."

Mr. Ortega says bluntly: "We will never negotiate with the Contras."

If the conditions for entering negotiations are to disarm and acquiesce in the defeat of our allies -- a grim outcome that could be unfolding before our eyes -- what possible motive will the Communists ever have to negotiate real peace? It is time we stop making excuses and start providing real help -- real weapons to those fighting and dying for liberty and democracy. The understandings reached today reflect our consultations with responsible Members of Congress, the leaders of the democratic resistance, and concerned leaders in the region. The proposal we have worked out with Senator Lugar and Senator Nunn can lead to the democratic outcome in Nicaragua we all want.

I have asked these Senators to urge their colleagues to cast a positive vote this week. And just as soon as the Senate acts, I expect that this measure will be promptly taken up by the House of Representatives, as Speaker O'Neill promised. When it comes to responding to danger reaching closer to our borders, our choice is not right versus left; our choice is right versus wrong.

With men like Senators Lugar and Nunn by our side, America will make the right decision; democracy will be defended and our future can and will be secure.

Thank you very much.