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United States Senate

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SR-347 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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file C.A.

Morton,

This paper -- which should be of obvious utility to Whittlesey's Central American task force -- was prepared by one of our post-graduate summer interns under the supervision of Dr. Hilliard of our staff.

I thought it might come in handy for you. Need more copies?

/ Sull

ANTI-RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIE IN AICAMAGOA

Matthew Stjepcevich

Increasingly over the last twenty years, Catholic clerics and lay workers have become more visible and active in revolutionary movements all over Central and Latin America. At the same time, the number of murdered Catholic clerics and lay workers has increased as well. For example, the Church pulled out all remaining priests from the Guatemalan province of El Quiche because the attrition rate due to murder was so high. Why have members of the Church become the targets of this violence? And why is there the perception among policy-makers that the actions of some clergy in Central America seem to dovetail with Marxist ambitions in the area? It is not difficult to draw that conclusion given the fact that four priests, primarily Maryknoll missionaries and 1 Jesuits, serve in the ruling Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. And yet the greatest irony of all is the increasing evidence of religious persecution in Nicaragua despite outside perceptions of Church support for the Sandinista regime.

Sandinista Attack on Catholics

The Catholic Church is by far the largest religious institution in Nicaragua. While it has faced and will continue to face the same problems as the Church in other Central American nations, the Nicaraguan Church has found itself in a unique and dangerous situation, confronting an entirely new set

of problems caused by the revolution and their changing role within that revolutionary situation.

The Catholic Church in Nicaragua has in fact been the target of increasing harassment since Archbishop Obando y Bravo renounced his support for the Sandinistas in 1980.

No supporter of the Somoza regime, Archbishop Obando allowed organizing activities by clerics on behalf of the FSLN (Spanish initials: Sandinist Front for National Liberation) and explicitly endorsed the people's right to revolt after the National Guard had been implicated in the murder of a number of priests in 1979. However, tensions began to develop after he concluded that the goal of the Sandinistas was to establish a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

A major part of his opposition stems from the attempt by the government to encourage the formation of "peoples' churches". During the last decade, clerics and lay workers organized Catholic "base communities" in urban and rural areas throughout Latin America. The base community serves as a locus for certain kinds of grass roots organizing activities (unions, study groups, neighborhood committees, etc.). Small wonder then, with the base communities' grass roots emphasis, that the regime has tried to attach Sandinista Defense Committees to them. These are modelled after Cuban Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. They provide neighborhood surveillance, allocate certain rationed items,

grant internal travel permits and the like. These combinations of base communities and Sandinista Defense Committees are the so-called "peoples' churches". These organizations refuse to accept the authority of the Archbishop and are correctly perceived as a threat to the integrity of the Church. Incidents have been reported that when the Archbishop or his functionaries have attempted to replace priests in "Peoples' Churches" with those who accept his authority the replacements have encountered beatings and other forms of physical and verbal abuse at the hands of mobs. These mobs, organized by the DGSE and the Sandinista Defense Committees are sarcastically referred to as "las turbas divinas" -- the divine mobs. Unnamed officials of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front have alleged specifically that Fr. Ernesto Cardenal is a main organizer of these entities while Edgard Macias Gomez, former Sandinista vice-minister of labor, singles out Interior Minister Tomas Borge. 3

The size and influence of the "peoples' churches" is a matter of debate. Some observers contend that they are primarily concentrated in and around Managua and since they are government affiliated (through the Sandinist Defense Committees) they receive an inordinate amount of (controlled) media attention. Mr. Macias believes, however, that the Sandinistas are attempting to establish a new church, the "Sandino-Christian rite", complete with icons of Sandino, prayers to its own pantheon of martyred Sandinistas

and even the beginnings of a cult of resurrection.

The "peoples' churches" are a direct threat to the authority of the Church hierarchy. Pope John Paul II, during his March visit to Nicaragua, stated that it was "absurd and dangerous to imagine that outside -- if not to say against -- the Church built around the bishop there should be another church, conceived only as 'charismatic' and not institutional, 'new' and not traditional, alternative and as it has been called recently a peoples' church."

Evidence of manipulation of crowds during the Papal visit continues to grow. A recent defector from Nicaragua, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, an intelligence operative with General Directorate for State Security (Sp. initials: DGSE) related how he participated in operations to load the crowds attending Papal visits with supporters of the Sandinistas and prohibiting anti-Sandinista Catholics from attending through the use of mobs to intimidate the faithful. Mr. Bolanos contends that activities against the Catholic Church are part of a broader scheme to neutralize and discredit all forms of democratic opposition before the stage-managed elections in 1985. (This writer uses the 'term "stage-managed" since junta coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra has stated to a Dutch journalist that 'I am convinced that we represent the will of the people and for this reason there is no need to hold elections on that particular point.") It appears, however, the Papal visit was a propaganda flasco for the regime since many

of the faithful felt the shouting of political slogans and constant interruption of the Pope to be a profanation of the Mass.

Personal attacks against the Archbishop and his functionaries have been increased. Last year's attempt to discredit Fr. Bismarck Carballo is a case in point. Fr. Carballo had been chief of the Archdiocese's communications office with responsibility for Catholic radio broadcasts in Nicaragua (since then severely circumscribed). While having lunch at the home of a female "parishioner", they were interrupted by a member of the DGSE claiming to be her husband. Fr. Carballo was forced to strip naked and then paraded before a jeering crowd of preselected demonstrators. There was much media play given to the incident by Nicaraguan broadcasters and the incident led to sporadic rioting, the most severe of which took place in the city of Masaya. The FSLN regime maintains that Fr. Carballo was having an affair with the "married" woman and that their intervention saved his life. However, Mr. Bolanos has indicated that the entire affair was engineered by the DGSE to discredit the Archbishop and has identified the woman "parishoner" as a prostitute in the employ of the security apparatus. The intensity of the Masaya rioting (3-4 dead) seems to indicate that the Fr. Carballo incident was another propaganda failure for the regime. Nevertheless, the Sandinistas continue their harassment of the Catholic Church.

Other areas of contention include increased Sandinista attempts to gain control of the curriculum in Catholic schools, the banning of the Archbishop's Sunday Mass broadcast because of his anti-government statements in sermons, restricted media access in general and the suppression of Pope John Paul II's pastoral letter of June 29, 1982 which reaffirmed the authority of the Archbishop.

Liberation Theology

At the same time, conflicts over theology, specifically the "theology of liberation" have threatened to cause a schism in the Church. The situation is most critical in Nicaragua where liberation theology has been used by the regime to justify Sandinista policies, but it could divide the Church throughout Latin America.

The impetus for increased clerical involvement in radical social change movements in Central America springs from two sources. The first is Vatican II, the shorthand name given to the changes in Church doctrine brought about by the Second Vatican Council. The second source is a theological tract originally published in Peru by Gustavo Gutierrez called The Theology of Liberation.

Under Pope John XXIII, the Roman Catholic Church began a process of tremendous change. What John set in motion was a complete re-examination of the Church's role in the modern world. He felt it necessary to bring the

Church up to date, to make it more able to respond to the problems of the times and to invigorate its admittedly sclerotic bureaucracy and hierarchy. The result, which he did not live to see is known as Vatican II. One of the major changes enacted is the still ongoing process of creating more cardinalates, archdioceses and dioceses in Latin America; Africa, and Asia; the growth areas, if you will, of the Church. Besides the practical political aspect of changing the geographical composition of the College of Cardinals and injecting new blood into the bureaucracy, the move is a symbol of the Catholic Church's determination to identify itself with the poor and what is now referred to as the Third World. Indeed, at the Conference of Bishops held in Medellin, Colombia in 1963, the Latin America Church for the first time, came down firmly on the side of the poor against the status quo.

Tied to the Church's change in identification was
the appearance of a new theological theory first enumerated
by Peruvian scholar Gustavo Gutierrez. His book, The
Theology of Liberation published in 1971, was a summation
and amplification of trends existing in the Church in Latin
America. Liberation theology attempts to redefine the
role of the Church in Latin America in light of Vatican II
and the success of the Cuban revolution. Gutierrez rejects
"reformism" and "developmentalism": "Contemporary man...
has gradually abandoned a simple reformist attitude regarding

the existing social order, for, by its very shallowness
10
this reformism perpetuates the existing system" and
"Developmentalism thus came to be synonymous with reformism
11
. . . that is to say, synonymous with timid measures. . ."

There is an economic component stressing dependence theory that uses both Marxist and anti-American rhetoric. "The dynamics of the capitalist economy lead to the establishment of a center and a periphery, simultaneously generating progress and growing wealth for a few and social imbalances, political tensions and poverty for the many. . . " 12 and . . . underdevelopment can only be understood as a byproduct of capitalist development in the West. . . "13 and ". . . there can only be authentic development for Latin America only if there is liberation from the domination exercised by the great capitalist countries, and especially by the most powerful, the United States of America." A socialist system is favored: ". . . difficulties in reconciling justice and private ownership have led many to the conviction that 'private ownership of capital leads to the dichotomy of capital and labor, to the superiority of the capitalist over the laborer, to the exploitation of man by man. . . The history of private ownership of the means of production makes evident the necessity of its reduction or suppression for the welfare of society. . . . " 15

Even while using the language of class struggle, the author denies his argument is simply Marxism claiming that what elevates his socio-economic arguments to the theological level is his discussion of sin; "Sin is regarded as a social, historical fact. . . Sin is evident in oppressive structures, in the exploitation of man by man, in the domination and slavery of peoples, races and social classes. Sin appears therefore, as the fundamental alienation, the root of a situation of injustice and exploitiation." Gutierrez's theology, which uses Marxist sociological methods and class struggle rhetoric as its points of departure, has had a profound effect not only on the Latin Church, but Protestant ones as well. First, what Gutierrez hoped would be a truly Latin American theology is primarily preached by a foreign clergy (mostly North Americans) due to shortages of native born Central American priests. Second, the activism brought forth by liberation theology has drawn a murderous response from the established powers of many Central American countries who have been horrified at the change of attitude in an old ally. The situation, however, is radically different in Nicaragua where the "established powers" were overthrown with the support of the Church and where the Sandinistas are attempting to manipulate religion for political ends.

Harrassment of Protestants

To be sure, Sandinista attempts to harass the clergy are at present far from limited to Catholics.

Activities against Protestant churches have developed along different lines from those directed against Catholics, but the results in many cases have been more devastating.

This is due to the relatively large number and small size of the various denominations.

Many Protestant organizations have been active in Central America for several decades, among them Mormons, Mennonites, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-Day Adventists. In March, 1882 Barricada, the official Sandinist newspaper published a number of anti-Protestant articles under the headline "Invasion of the Sects". The articles alleged that the missionary activities of several Protestant organizations were part of a U.S. rightist conspiracy It was the first salvo of of cultural penetration. a campaign to discredit churches that the regime was at odds with. On July 17, 1982, Interior minister Tomas Borge charged that the Adventists, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses were receiving CIA money to conduct anti-FSLN activities and labelled them enemies of the people. By August 11, 1982, twenty-three Protestant church properties had been seized by mob action (las turbas divinas again). Once again, the time-worn standard line on CIA involvement was trotted out to justify the action (to date, the churches or church groups accused of CIA involvement are: the Lutheran Church, the Christian Reform Church, Church World Service of the National Council of Churches, the Latin

American Mission Program, Church Women United, the Methodist Church, the Mennonite Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormon Church, the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Moravian .19
Church, Catholic Relief and Infact. One reason for Borge's July 17th attack against several of the Protestant Churches is their stated aversion to compulsory military service. Some, but not all of the confiscated properties were returned and only on condition that the ministers refrain from anti-government criticism.

A more tragic case is the devastation of the Miskito Indians and the Moravian Church. Traditionally, the politices of previous Nicaraguan governments with regard to the "costenos" was to "let sleeping dogs lie".

Oriented toward the Atlantic with a large English speaking contingent of Creoles and persons of Black and Indian descent and in an area with few easily exploitable resources, the Pacific-oriented, Spanish-speaking predominantly Catholic governments felt it was not worth the effort to forcibly integrate them into the Nicaraguan nation. As a result, the Miskitos enjoyed a relative autonomy. The few social services available were, by and large, provided by the Moravian Church and its missionaries, who have been active on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast since the middle of the 19th century.

After the Sandinista take over, the regime attempted to "rescue" the coast. Cuban and Nicaraguan personnel began

to flood into the area in 1980 and a heavy-handed attempt to redesign the lives of the Indians along Marxist lines ensued. Resentments were stirred up and rioting broke out which was followed by more Nicaraguan repressive measures. The entire Atlantic coast was sealed off. To travel there special passes must be obtained from the Interior Ministry. Indians were rounded up to bolster the militias. Those who refused were either shot or forcibly relocated. Villages were forcibly abandoned and burned. Miskito Indian leaders were rounded up and jailed. The umbrella organization created by the Indians to represent their interests in Managua after the revolution, Misurasata was shut down by government action. Edgard Macias (Gomez) says that as of July, 1982, 55 Moravian churches had been destroyed by Sandinista action. 20 More recently in January 1983, Sandinista military units launched a punitive raid against Miskito refugees in Honduras killing some 200 people.

Much of the regime's repressive activity has been against Moravian church leaders who they believe incited the Indians against the central government. Those who could not be coerced or co-opted have been jailed or exiled. This is a sad irony since the Moravian Church is historically known for its non-interference in political matters. Unconfirmed reports say that Moravian ministers

are to be shot on sight. Ministers who are still allowed to preach in the region must submit their sermons 23 to local Sandinista censors. Two of the most prominent Moravo leaders, Rev. Norman Bent and Rev. Fernando Colomens have been exiled to Managua and the Moravian Social Action Committee (Sp. initials: CASIM) was 24 closed by FSLN action.

OAS Report on Abuses

The Organization of American States has compiled a report detailing human rights abuses by the Sandinista regime against the Atlantic Indian communities but have not released it because of their own efforts to mediate the situation. But while hemispheric institutions remain silent, Nicaraguans in exile have spoken out forcifully against the Sandinistas' harsh, abusive and repressive tactics. Eden Pastora, the famed "Commander Zero" who resigned from the government to organize a new guerilla movement with the intention of ousting the Managua government said:

With pain I have seen that intranquility, anguish, fear, frustration and personal insecurity reign among my people. I have seen our Miskito Indians ...jailed or assassinated, without a press or radio that can denounce to the world this regime of terror that reigns on the Atlantic Coast and in all of Nicaragua through the feared State Security.

Sandinista Anti-Semitism

Anti-religious and anti-ethnic activities of the Sandinista regime have not been limited to Christians. It is a sad fact of this century that the character of a nation's government can be seen by its treatment of its Jewish population. In this regard the Sandinista regime showed its true colors early. Managua's synagogue was the target of an FSLN firebombing attempt in 1978 before Somoza was toppled. Never very large, Nicaragua's Jewish community went from 200 to 50 when the civil war began. The number is now zero. Death threats, illegal expropriations, jailings and other forms of intimidation have succeeded in driving all Jews from so-called "Nicaragua Libre". Managua's synagogue has been turned into a children's center for the party elite. And even though there are no Jews left in the country, the anti-semitic pronouncements continue.

In a recent Washington Post editorial, Nicaraguan

Interior Minister Tomas Borge claimed there is no antisemitism in Nicaragua and said that if the Managua synagogue
was the "patrimony of the Jewish community, the government
27
will faciliate its return." But as Rabbi Morton Rosenthal,
Latin America director of the ADL said in reference to a
similar Sandinista offer concerning return of the synagogue,

"This is a meaningless promise in a country without Jews."

Mr. Borge went on to state that ". . . full freedom of religious expression exists in Nicaragua for the first time in our history." The record however indicates otherwise.

Anti-religious activities on the part of the Sandinista regime have not been limited to any single group but have cut across many lines. Anti-Sandinista Catholics, Protestant Miskito Indians, evangelical missionaries and Nicaraguan Jews have all been targets of repressive activities. Although the dynamics have been different in each case, the result in all cases has been the same -- repression of religious and ethnic identity.

~ NOTES

- 1. As of June 1, 1983; Fr. Miguel D'Escoto- Minister of Foreign Affairs; Fr. Ernesto Cardenal- Minister of Culture; Fr. Fernando Cardenal- chief, Sandinista Youth Organization; Fr. Edgard Parrales- Nicaraguan Delegate to the OAS. Source-Embassy of Nicaragua.
- 2. Joseph E. Cassidy, "Diverging Catholic Paths in Nicaragua," The Christian Century, (October 21, 1981) p.1063
- 3. Edgard Macias Gomez, "The Sandinista Revolution and Religion," San Jose, Costa Rica, (July 19, 1982) p.10 (mimeographed paper).
- 4. Ibid., p. 11. " The maximum action of this Red-Black Church, which hung on the front of the old cathedral in Managua an enormous picture of General Sandino in his most characteristic pose, but drawn within a white host, which is bordered by the colors red and black of the FSLN flag, is the elaboration of a novena to the Virgin Mary. The Nicaraguan people are very devoted to Mary and each day in this novena the prayers are related to a Front hero. It also requests protection for the Vanguard, the FSLN. The Nicaraguans were not over being surprised by this when on radio and television the campaign for the third anniversary of the revolution was spearheaded by a short ad in which the dead are no longer simply sandinist heroes, but are now "the sandinist saints." One, named Navarrito, it is said "died with worms eating his feet but he arose the same day," thus comparing him with Jesus Christ, who as we all know, took three days to do the same."
- 5. Alan Riding, "Pope Says Taking Sides in Nicaragua is Peril to Church," New York Times, March 4, 1983, p. 1.
- 6. Dan Oberdorfer and Joanne Omang, "Nicaraguan Bares Plan to Discredit Foes", Washington Post, June 19, 1983 pp.1, 14.
- 7. "Netherlands Daily Interviews Daniel Ortega", Interview with Frans Kok, NRC Handlesblad, May 27 1983, trans. by Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Daily Report, Central America, June 14, 1983, p.19.
- 8. Oberdorfer and Omang, op. cit., p.14
- 9. Ibid.
- 10. Gustavo Gutierrez, A Theology of Liberation, trans. and ed. by Sister Caridad Inda and John Eagleson (New York; Orbis Books, Maryknoll, 1973), p. 48.

- 11. Ibid., p. 26.
- 12. Ibid., p. 84.
- 13. Ibid., p. 109; quoting "Presence of the Church in Latin American Development". (Itaopan, Brazil 1968).
- 14. Ibid., p. 88.
- 15. Ibid., p. 111; quoting "Private Property", statement of ONIS, IDOC_NA, no. 16, pp. 94-95.
- 16. Ibid., p. 175
- 17. Humberto Belli, " Persecution of Protestants in Nicaragua; the Neglected Story ", p. 5 (mimeographed paper).
- 18. Nina m. Serafino, "Central America-Nicaragua; Conditions and Issues for U.S. Policy", No. IB82115, Congressional Research Service, (Washington. D.C., June10, 1983) p. 22.
- 19. Macias, op. cit. , p. 8.
- 20. Ibid., p. 5.
- 21. Richard Araujo, "Nicaraguan Connection; A Threat to Central America", Heritage Foundation; cited in Congressional Record, 98th Congress, February 14 1983, p. S1132.
- 22. Ibid., p. S1134.
- 23. Richard Araujo, "Sandinista War on Human Rights", Heritage Foundation, Washington D.C., July 19, 1983, p. 2.
- 24. Belli , op. cit. , p. 5.
- 25. Ralph Kinney Bennett, "Nicaraguan Nemesis", New Republic; cited in Congressional Record, 98th Congress, February 14, 1983, p. S1128.
- 26. Araujo, " Sandinista War on Human Rights ", op. cit. , p. 5.
- 27. Tomas Borge Martinez, "An Aggression of Constant Lies, Half-Truths and Accusations", Washington Post, July 31, 1983, p. D8.
 - 28. Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, cited in <u>Congressional Record</u>, June 1, 1983, p. E2631.
 - 29. Borge , op. cit. p. D8.

UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired C. A.

September 6, 1983

Mr. Morton Blackwell Spec. Asst. to the President for Public Liaison 191 Old Executive Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

We've set up an exchange program with other organizations, and I'd like you to get the same information on a regular basis.

Enclosed is the latest package we sent to these organizations. It includes letters sent to the Hill and the latest issue of Defense Watch.

As always, your comments are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther

Executive Vice President

HLW/peb

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired

August 2, 1983

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Downey:

It is hard enough to try to conduct an effective foreign policy with one arm tied behind the back.

Your vote to cut off aid to the anti-Sandinista Freedom Fighters leaves the United States with both arms tied.

Apparently, Congressman, you have overlooked the facts of the situation in Central America.

The reality of the situation is that Nicaragua has become the base from which the Soviets are launching the overthrow of pro-Western governments in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Marxist-Sandinista government has declared that they are building a 250,000 person armed force. Compare this with Honduras' total military force of 20,000, and El Salvador's force of 32,000.

Soon, 1 in 10 Nicaraguans will be in the military or militia.

And, the Sandinistas have already built 36 <u>new</u> military bases in addition to the 13 bases left by the Samozoa government.

Furthermore, there are now over 10,000 "advisors" from Cuba, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, North Korea and the PLO advising the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Advisor for Downlands

Yet, incredibly, you voted to cut off all aid to the "Contra" Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Not only is Nicaragua being used as a base for fomenting Marxist-Leninist revolutions in Central America, the Sandinista government has stolen the revolution from the Nicaraguan people who fought for democracy.

It has imposed a new dictatorship, refuses to hold free elections that it promised -- in writing -- to the Organization of American States, and has initiated heavy censorship of the media.

In short, the people of Nicaragua today are denied the basic human rights of international law by a government sworn to the totalitarian doctrines of Marxism-Leninism.

Your vote on July 28th gives the Soviet leaders a free hand in the internal affairs of Central American Nations and a green light to the Marxist-Sandinista government of Nicaragua to aid leftist rebels in overthrowing the democratic government of El Salvador.

In effect, you are allowing Nicaragua to exist as a sanctuary for international Marxist-terrorists.

If the United States Congress is unwilling to support the cause for democracy in Central America, how can we expect the people of the region to risk their lives for it?

Congressman, you and your colleagues who voted to cut off aid to the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua should hang your heads in shame.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther Executive Vice President

HLW/peb

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UNITED STATES
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired

July 29, 1983

The Honorable Edward P. Boland House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Boland:

On May 12th I wrote you about your vote in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to cut off aid to the anti-Sandinista Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Judging by your vote of July 28th, you continue to ignore the facts of the situation in Central America.

The reality of the situation is that Nicaragua has become the base from which the Soviets are launching the overthrow of pro-Western governments in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Marxist-Sandinista government has declared that they are building a 250,000 person armed force. Compare this with Honduras' total military force of 20,000, and El Salvador's force of 32,000.

Soon, 1 in 10 Nicaraguans will be in the military or militia.

And, the Sandinistas have already built 36 new military bases in addition to the 13 bases left by the Samozoa government.

Furthermore, Cuba now has over 7,000 civilian advisors and 2,000 military advisors in Nicaragua.

And, it is a well known fact that there are numerous Soviet, East German, Bulgarian, North Korean and PLO personnel advising the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Yet, incredibly, you voted to cut off all aid to the "Contra" Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Not only is Nicaragua being used as a base for fomenting Marxist-Leninist revolutions in Central America, the Sandinista government has stolen the revolution from the Nicaraguan people who fought for democracy.

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Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther

Executive Vice President

HLW/peb

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired

July 29, 1983

The Honorable Gus Yatron House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Yatron:

On June 14th I wrote you about your vote in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to cut off aid to the anti-Sandinista Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Judging by your vote of July 28th, you continue to ignore the facts of the situation in Central America.

The reality of the situation is that Nicaragua has become the base from which the Soviets are launching the overthrow of pro-Western governments in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Marxist-Sandinista government has declared that they are building a 250,000 person armed force. Compare this with Honduras' total military force of 20,000, and El Salvador's force of 32,000.

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Sincerely,

Henry L/ Walther

Executive Vice President

Thony Walter

HLW/peb

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UNITED STATES
DEFENSE COMMITTEE (list (thicked))

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired

July 29, 1983

The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hamilton:

Recently I wrote you about your votes in both the House Foreign Affairs Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to cut off aid to the anti-Sandinista Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Judging by your vote of July 28th, you continue to ignore the facts of the situation in Central America.

The reality of the situation is that Nicaragua has become the base from which the Soviets are launching the overthrow of pro-Western governments in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Marxist-Sandinista government has declared that they are building a 250,000 person armed force. Compare this with Honduras' total military force of 20,000, and El Salvador's force of 32,000.

Soon, 1 in 10 Nicaraguans will be in the military or militia.

And, the Sandinistas have already built 36 new military bases in addition to the 13 bases left by the Samozoa government.

Furthermore, Cuba now has over 7,000 civilian advisors and 2,000 military advisors in Nicaragua.

And, it is a well known fact that there are numerous Soviet, -East German, Bulgarian, North Korean and PLO personnel advising the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Yet, incredibly, you voted to cut off all aid to the "Contra" Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Not only is Nicaragua being used as a base for fomenting Marxist-Leninist revolutions in Central America, the Sandinista government has stolen the revolution from the Nicaraguan people who fought for democracy.

It has imposed a new dictatorship, refuses to hold free elections that it promised -- in writing -- to the Organization of American States, and has initiated heavy censorship of the media.

In short, the people of Nicaragua today are denied the basic human rights of international law by a government sworn to the totalitarian doctrines of Marxism-Leninism.

Your vote on July 28th gives the Soviet leaders a free hand in the internal affairs of Central American Nations and a green light to the Marxist-Sandinista government of Nicaragua to aid leftist rebels in overthrowing the Democratic government of El Salvador.

In effect, you are allowing Nicaragua to exist as a sanctuary for international Marxist-terrorists.

If the United States Congress is unwilling to support the cause for Democracy in Central America, how can we expect the people of the region to risk their lives for it?

Congressman, you and your colleagues who voted to cut off aid to the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua should hang your heads in shame.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther

Executive Vice President

HLW/peb

UNITED STATES DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham United States Army, Retired

August 5, 1983

The Honorable Salla Burton House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Burton:

It is hard enough to try to conduct an effective foreign policy with one arm tied behind the back.

Your vote to cut off aid to the anti-Sandinista Freedom Fighters leaves the United States with both arms tied.

Apparently, Congresswoman, you have overlooked the facts of the situation in Central America.

The reality of the situation is that Nicaragua has become the base from which the Soviets are launching the overthrow of pro-Western governments in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Marxist-Sandinista government has declared that they are building a 250,000 person armed force. Compare this with Honduras' total military force of 20,000, and El Salvador's force of 32,000.

Soon, 1 in 10 Nicaraguans will be in the military or militia.

And, the Sandinistas have already built 36 <u>new</u> military bases in addition to the 13 bases left by the Samozoa government.

Furthermore, there are now over 10,000 "advisors" from Cuba, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria, North Korea and the PLO advising the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Yet, incredibly, you voted to cut off all aid to the "Contra" Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Not only is Nicaragua being used as a base for fomenting Marxist-Leninist revolutions in Central America, the Sandinista government has stolen the revolution from the Nicaraguan people who fought for democracy.

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Sincerely,

Henry L. Walther

Executive Vice President

Zenny Volten

HLW/peb

Defense

VOL. 2 NO. 4 JULY/AUGUST 1983

Wortch



USDC Sponsors Congressional Fact Finding Trip to El Salvador

Cuts in El Salvador Aid Jeopardize Monroe Doctrine

As Defense Watch goes to press, President Reagan's plan to uphold the Monroe Doctrine and help El Salvador hold the line against Communist aggression has been delayed by Congress and remains in deep trouble on Capitol Hill.

Yet despite the danger of Central America becoming a time bomb ready to explode northward through Mexico up to the Rio Grande, anti-defense forces in Congress are continuing their furious assault on aid to El Salvador in an attempt to tie President Reagan's hands and keep

him from effectively resisting Marxist/ Leninist expansion.

In fact, an urgent supplemental appropriations bill for 1983 proposed by President Reagan to rush additional aid to El Salvador was only acted on by Congress on July 29th, and resulted in deep cuts, slashing President Reagan's aid request for El Salvador in half.

Meanwhile, with the fiscal year ending on September 30th, neither House of Congress has yet approved aid requests for El Salvador in 1984-85.

Louise Tate, Secretary-Treasurer of the United States Defense Committee, confers with American military advisors on tactics used during a recent push by the Salvadoran Army against Marxist terrorists in San Vicente Province.

The faces of the advisors have been blacked out in response to the U.S. policy that American advisors in El Salvador not have their pictures published.

What initial action has taken place, however, on aid for El Salvador by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee point to further deep cuts in aid for El Salvador

Despite Congressional Action, Salvadoran People Eager to Defend Democracy

Fortunately, Congressional foot dragging and attacks on military aid has not dampened the spirit of the Salvadoran people in their fight against Cuban and Soviet inspired terrorism.

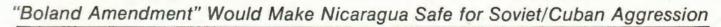
The Salvadoran army is already as large as funding will allow and has thousands of young men on waiting lists eager to join the fight in defense of their democratically elected government.

El Salvador, a land of fertile farm areas and intense pride only asks of Congress and the American people a chance to learn how to defend themselves from Marxist/Leninist aggression and enough support to feed and equip their army.

The Salvadoran military is also a bargain, because it costs more to field one Marine in the United States than fifteen Salvadoran soldiers who are in the front line against Marxist aggression.

The government also enjoys widespread good will among the people, and unlike Marxist dictatorships does not seize crops or homes to support the army, even though it is strapped for funds.

El Salvador cont. on pg. 6



House Vote Would Cut Off Aid to Anti-Marxist Forces in Nicaragua

The House of Representatives on July 28th, in a setback for President Reagan's plans to stop the spread of Soviet and Cuban inspired terrorism throughout Central America, voted 228 to 195 for the so-called "Boland Amendment" (H.R. 2760), originally introduced by Congressman Edward Boland (D-MA) to stop aid for anti-Marxist forces in Nicaragua fighting to free their country from the grip of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The action by the House would concede Nicaragua to the Soviet Union and Cuba, as a safe base for the export of Marxist/Leninist revolution throughout Central America.

Clearly, even the vote by the House to give 80 million in aid to other threatened pro-American governments in Central America to stop Nicaraguan export of Marxist/Leninist terrorism will not have the same effect in stopping terrorism that Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters have had in tying down the Sandinista Junta.

Fortunately, consideration of the socalled "Boland Amendment" now goes to the Senate, where the United States Defense Committee and other pro-defense forces have a good chance of shortstopping the House passed bill.

Boland Amendment Would Cripple Fight Against Marxist/Leninist Expansion

The House vote on the so-called "Boland Amendment" (H.R. 2760), came after months of hectic debate on both the House floor and in the House Foreign Relations Committee.

Pro-defense Members of the Foreign Relations Committee, during consideration of the "Boland Amendment" in June, recognized the necessity of supporting the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters and several emphatically warned the Committee of the grave implications which would result if the "Boland Amendment" were passed.

Congressmen Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-NY) stated in Committee that antidefense forces in favor of the "Boland

Amendment" were "about to sell the United States down the drain, and aid . . . in the spread of Communism in Central America."

Pounding the table during committee debate, Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL) warned, that if the United States cut off aid to the Freedom Fighters, the Congress will in effect,"make it safe to be a Communist guerrilla . . . and death to be fighting for freedom in the hills of Nicaragua."

Pro-Defense Amendments Rejected by Foreign Affairs Committee

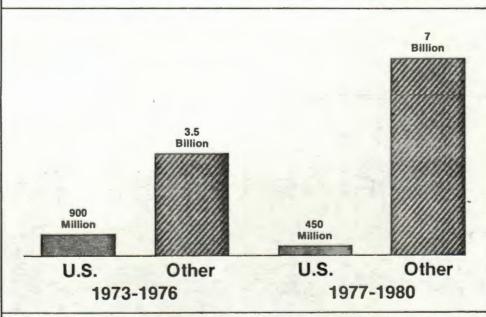
Recognizing the need to stop Communist advances, several pro-defense Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee introduced three amendments that would have significantly improved the "Boland Amendment," only to have the Committee reject all three amendments.

Unfortunately, it seems that many anti-defense Congressmen are more concerned with forcing pro-American governments to share power with Marxist/ Leninists, than with stopping the expansion of Soviet backed totalitarianism in Central America.

Sadly, should the Senate not block the "Boland Amendment," and if the efforts of these anti-defense Congressmen succeed, it would not only abandon the Freedom Fighters but could result in a major blood bath, as the Sandinistas begin to persecute rural supporters of the Freedom Fighters, as well as threaten the regional security of the United States.

"Boland Amendment" cont. on pg. 3

U.S. Influence Declines as Other Countries Arm Latin America



Soviet inspired Marxist/Leninist terrorism in El Salvador, and the fall of Nicaragua has paralleled a period of declining American influence in Latin America, as other nations including the Soviet

Union rush in to arm anti-American governments.

The weakening of American influence in Latin America has in

part been the result of an intentional aid cutback to pro-American governments, including El Savador by the Carter Administration. As a result, the Monroe Doctrine is now under siege as foreign powers try to carve out spheres of influence right on America's

"Boland Amendment" cont. from pg. 2

Anti-Defense Congressmen Ignore Marxist/Leninist Oppression in Nicaragua

Also, many Members of the House Foreign Relations Committee have gone out of their way in refusing to recognize or acknowledge Marxist/Leninist oppression in Nicaragua.

In fact, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, a recent Nicaraguan defector and former Sandinista official has provided U.S. intelligence sources with the most valuable information to date on the Sandinista's oppressive government, and yet Hunter has not been invited to speak before any Congressional committee.

Hunter has verified examples of Nicaraguan oppression, noting that Nicaragua, "is the major focus of subversion in this hemisphere," and is the chief supplier and promoter of insurrection in El Salvador, aided by the Soviets, who have promised the Sandinistas two AK-47 machine guns for every one sent to the Marxist terrorists in El Salvador.

Soviets Back Military Threat in Central America

There are presently, 5,000 Cuban "teachers" in Nicaragua, in addition to 2,000 undercover military advisors, 4,000 state security advisors and 70 Soviet advisors who, Hunter admits, have the real power.



Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL) an outspoken supporter of the anti-Marxist Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua stated that if the so-called "Boland Amendment" passed by the House became law, it would in effect "make it safe to be a communist guerrilla . . . and death to be fighting for freedom in the hills of Nicaragua."

The Soviets have supplied Nicaragua with bazookas, machine guns, armored personnel carriers, SAM missiles, and 200,000 AK-47's, along with several underground missile bases.

Also, the state security system is a direct copy of the KGB down to the handguns used which are identical to those used by the Soviets.

And the Nicaraguans continue to refuse to hold long promised elections,

while controlling the press, persecuting free religious practice, stifling private business, and exiling the Miskito Indians.

Yet some Congressional leaders still turn their backs on the flagrant, rule-byterror government in Nicaragua that continues to export violence, on our own doorstep.

USDC Actively Opposes the Boland Amendment

Brad Palmer, Legislative Director of the United States Defense Committee stated: "In our effort to defeat the 'Boland Amendment,' the Committee contacted every member of the House, and repeatedly warned them of the implications that the 'Boland Amendment' would have on American interests in Central America.

By not allowing the Nicaraguan people to confront their Soviet and Cuban masters, the House has pushed that responsibility onto the shoulders of the governments in Central America, who are hardly a match for the Soviets, to handle that task.

Hopefully, with an all out effort by the United States Defense Committee, the Senate will see the light, and come out in strong support of the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters.

This fight is far from over and will require the efforts of all our members to contact their Senators and tell them that America must support the people of Central America in their stand against Marxist terrorism."

Anti-Defense Forces Dominate Budget Process

Defense Authorization Falls Short in Meeting Defense Needs

Congress, in a move that will seriously undermine President Reagan's effort to rebuild American military strength against Soviet aggression, passed in late July, a defense authorization bill for 1984 slashing 17 billion from President Reagan's original defense request.

The defense authorization bill passed by the Senate on July 26th in an 83 to 15 vote, and by the House several hours later 305 to 114, not only calls for 17 billion in defense cuts in 1984, but schedules drastic defense cuts in each of the next three years.

Meanwhile, Congress has passed a budget increasing non-defense spending in 1984 by over 21 billion, with further increases of 34 billion in 1985 and 32.1 billion in 1986.

Pro-defense forces had hoped to take a stand in favor of a full defense budget in the Senate to counter anti-defense elements in the House, only to be undercut by Senators Peter V. Domenici (R-NM) and Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-TN).

Defense Authorization cont. on pg. 4

Defense Authorization cont. from pg. 3

Domenici, Baker Push Deep **Defense Cuts Through Senate**

Republican Domenici, as Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, and Republican Howard Baker, as the orchestrator of floor action in the Senate, along with anti-defense Republican and Democrat Senators are largely responsible for the defense authorization bill which cuts President Reagan's defense requests while allowing non-defense spending to constantly increase.

In an often tense and acrimonious Senate atmosphere, pro-defense Senators spent months fighting sell-outs by Domenici in the Senate Budget Committee and maneuverings by Howard Baker on the Senate floor.

Yet despite the efforts of pro-defense Senators Bill Armstrong (R-CO) on the Budget Committee and John Tower (R-TX) Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the duo of Domenici and Baker allied with anti-defense forces have been a hard combination to beat.

In fact, most pro-defense observers agree that both the defense authorization bill for 1984 and the budget process have been temporarily taken over by antidefense forces intent on thrusting the burden of reducing national deficits squarely on the back of the defense department.

U.S. Military Preparedness Jeopardized by Inadequate Funding

As a result of the defense authorization, the procurement schedules of dozens of weapons have been delayed, including the M-1 Abrams tank designed to counter Soviet and Warsaw Pact supremacy in tank forces, as well as frontline jet fighters including the Air Force's F-15 and the Navy's F-14 combat planes.

In practical terms, what Baker and Domenici have done is to allow a stretchedout or delayed deployment of America's best frontline weapons, giving American forces some weapons, but not enough to fully counter the Soviet threat in Europe and on the high seas.

The Defense Department, because of the defense authorization, is now faced with the task of drastically scaling back

plans for weapons modernization and the number of commitments America is able to maintain throughout the world.

Anti-Defense Forces Control **Budget Process**

The actions by both Senators Baker and Domenici, do however, highlight how defense spending has been sacrificed in recent years.

Today because of so-called "reforms" anti-defense forces on both the Senate and House Budget Committees have seized control of defense spending from the highly knowledgeable and experienced Armed Services Committees.



Howard Baker (R-TN) orchestrated floor action in the Senate allowing a coalition of anti-defense forces to undercut full funding of the defense budget in 1984. While slashing President Reagan's defense request by 17 billion, antidefense forces increased non-defense spending by over 21 billion in 1984 with further massive increases scheduled in the years ahead.

Budget Committee Chairmen, like Domenici, can now impose spending limits on national defense without careful consideration of what America's defense requirements entail - and at the same time continue to fund the spiralling nondefense part of the budget that now consumes almost three out of four budget dollars.

Senator John Tower, however, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is an outspoken opponent of the current budget process, which has stripped defense of adequate funding, and voted against the budget resolution.

Defense Responsibilities Demand Return to Armed Services Committees

Senator Tower strongly believes that America's defense requires Congress to first closely examine defense needs before setting spending priorities.

Currently, instead of first determining America's defense needs, the Budget Committees in Congress chaired by Pete Domenici in the Senate and James Jones (D-OK) in the House engage in political gamesmanship to establish budget figures for defense before either the House or Senate Armed Services Committee have had a chance to seriously examine national defense requirements.

The Budget Committees then propose spending figures for defense which often do not address new or urgent security needs.

The Armed Services Committees meanwhile are forced to wait and see what funds are available and then tailor America's defense to what the Budget Committees allow, rather than America's true defense needs.

USDC Urges Pro-Defense Reform in Budget Process

Brad Palmer, Legislative Director of the United States Defense Committee, praised those Senators who voted against the chicanery in the 1984 defense authorization, stating; "The whole budget process, as it now works, is skewed against a careful examination of defense needs.

It seems that the defense authorization is just about the only place in which

Congress is willing to sacrifice.

In fact, anti-defense forces are using the budget process as a sacred cow to deflect attention away from run away nondefense spending in order to end-run efforts by the Congressional Armed Services Committees to bolster America's defense.

Further, it is important for members of the United States Defense Committee to remember that the battle over the defense budget is an ongoing struggle with the 1984 defense appropriation bill yet to be voted on by either chamber of Congress.

Members should do all that they can to contact their Congressmen and set them straight on America's urgent need to have a fully funded defense budget."

New Book on High Frontier Written by General Graham Now Available

High Frontier Vision Moves Closer to Becoming Reality

Across America, people are hearing about High Frontier, and supporting the new strategy for national survival developed by Lt. General Daniel Graham, USA (Ret.), President of the United States Defense Committee.

Various efforts in support of High Frontier are currently underway, ranging from legislative activity and speeches to the production of books and films.

Because of the message heard coming from the American people, more and more national leaders are rallying around the vision of a space-based defense system.

USDC Continues Fight for **High Frontier Defense System**

Congress is currently reviewing two contradictory sets of resolutions which are of crucial importance to America's national defense.

One set, S. Res. 100 and H. Res. 215, encourages the placement, in space, of non-nuclear weapons that can defend the United States against incoming nuclear

These resolutions are encouraging steps toward General Graham's High Frontier system.

Unfortunately, the other set, S.J. Res. 28 and H.J. Res. 120, would prohibit such a defense system and push the United States closer to a position of total inferiority and vulnerability to Soviet forces.

Convinced that the implementation of a High Frontier defense system is vital to ensuring the existence of a free America, the United States Defense Committee has continued to actively lobby Congress.

In addition, personal visits to all Senate offices have proved extremely valuable in determining which Senators support High Frontier, and also those who oppose defending America from space.

The United States Defense Committee has mailed a series of letters to all Congressional offices in support of High Frontier related legislation.

High Level Support

On June 3rd, President Ronald Reagan sent a personal letter to Lt. General Graham, commending him for "invaluable service" to our country.

The letter is further confirmation of strategy. High Frontier cont. on pg. 6

High Frontier Flooded With

President Reagan's commitment to the vision of seeing a High Frontier type system implemented as America's defense

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1983

Dear Dan:

It was very kind of you to dedicate your book to me. I appreciate the important work that you and your colleagues have done to prepare the way for a more secure America.

You -- and all those who have made the High Frontier project a reality -- have rendered our country an invaluable service for which all future generations will be grateful. I value greatly your continuing efforts to help us build a national consensus and to find the difficult answers for the profound strategic problems that face all of us in this nuclear age.

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Rould Reagan

Lt. General Daniel O. Graham, USA, Ret. High Frontier Suite 1000 1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

The above letter to Lt. General Graham, USA (Ret.), by President Reagan on June 3rd, is another sign of the importance that High Frontier has already had in helping to frame a new national strategy to defend America.

Now, members of the United States Defense Committee and other concerned Americans must contact the politicians on Capitol Hill and convince them to follow the lead of both President Reagan and General Graham.

High Frontier cont. from pg. 5

Admiral James D. Watkins, Chief of Naval Operations, shares President Reagan's vision and stated in a recent speech, "I fully support and am entirely committed to the comprehensive and intellectually sound strategic vision enhanced by the President."

Former National Security Advisor Richard Allen told *USA Today*, "Dan Graham has labored long and hard . . . I think we will one day look back on his work with gratitude, wondering why we did not get on with it sooner."

And Vice President George Bush, in praising the High Frontier system, said "an awful lot of good thinking has gone into the High Frontier approach."

High Frontier Promoted Across USA

General Graham has followed a hectic speaking schedule that has taken him back and forth across the United States and to other nations calling for wide ranging support for High Frontier.

Grass roots support is rapidly forming thanks to the work of the dedicated Americans led by General Graham.

In addition, a new book written by General Graham, High Frontier: A Strategy for National Survival, has been published by TOR books and is receiving extremely favorable reviews across the country.

And we have learned that a feature length entertainment film, dealing with the High Frontier system, is currently being handled by major film producers and is set to be released sometime next year, which should garner even more support from concerned Americans.

Pro-Defense Supporters Continue Fight For a Strategy of National Survival

The United States Defense Committee will not stop lobbying efforts until the day that High Frontier actually becomes the official defense policy of the United States

As Henry L. Walther, Executive Vice President of the United States Defense Committee, has repeatedly stated, "We must be vigilant in our fight for a strong defense, if America is to remain free and prosperous."



El Salvador cont. from pg. 1

Ironically, much of the debate in Congress has been on whether to allow the El Salvadoran government to receive loans for military equipment which would be paid back.

So, unlike other recipients of American military aid, the Salvadorans do not ask for endless give away programs but instead are willing to provide for themselves if Congress will give them a chance.

Refugee Tidal Wave Into U.S. if Marxist/Leninists Seize Power

Clearly, it is in America's interests to support El Salvador not only because it is pro-American, but because of El Salvador's strategic position as a frontline state against Soviet and Cuban inspired adventurism, and to protect the Panama Canal from aggression.



Congressman Bill McCollum (R-FL) confers with Roberto d'Aubuisson, President of El Salvador's Constituent Assembly and leader of the National Republican Alliance Party (ARENA).

Roberto d'Aubuisson decried the suffering imposed on El Salvador's people by Soviet and Cuban supported terrorists.

Further, the collapse of El Salvador could sweep away the remaining pro-American governments in Central America and send millions of refugees across the Rio Grande.

Salvadorans, like most other Central Americans, do not want to leave their homes and land, but will be forced to if Marxist/Leninism continues to sweep northward.

Many experts predict that up to 10 million refugees could stream into the United States taking jobs and overcrowding school systems.

The cost of relocating, and educating the refugees would of course be many times more than present aid requests for El Salvador submitted by President Reagan to Congress.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Slashes Aid for El Salvador

Ignoring the danger of a Central American time bomb, the House Foreign Affairs Committee moved in June to brush aside President Reagan's reasoned request for additional aid in 1984-85 to help the democratically elected government of El Salvador counter a Soviet and Cuban inspired terrorist invasion.

Instead, the House Committee, after heated and prolonged debate, issued House Report 98-192 which not only slashed President Reagan's request in half,

El Salvador cont. on pg. 7

El Salvador cont. from pg. 6

approving only 65 million in aid, rather than 136 million, but also imposed a set of conditions on aid that are so restrictive and comprehensive that they in effect straightjacket the Salvadoran government in combatting the Marxist/Leninist terrorists.

Of the 65 million dollars allowed by the House Committee, 15 million has been arbitrarily siphoned off into special projects, leaving the Salvadoran government only 50 million dollars with which to oppose the Marxist/Leninist terrorists.

El Salvador Government Handcuffed by House in Fight Against Terrorists

The conditions imposed upon the aid package as a whole, are the most detailed ever written by Congress, and fill up over 10 pages of fine print.

In fact, sweeping aside Cuban and Soviet inspired terror, Congressman Stephen J. Solarz (D-NY) and other antidefense elements are trying to force the Salvadoran government into unconditional negotiations to share power with the Marxist terrorists.

What the action by Solarz does, is to ignore the Salvadoran elections held last March in which over 80% of Salvadorans voted, and instead pander to the Marxist terrorists who have shunned the electoral process and who are trying to shoot their way into power.

The President of El Salvador, Alvaro Magana in Washington, in mid June, expressed shock at the Congressional conditions stating: "I have no authority to share power, because it comes from a very full democratic process."

Ironically, Congressmen like Solarz talk about the importance of democracy, and yet are the first to impose undemocratic conditions on the people of El Salvador.

USDC Familiarizes Congressmen With Fight for Democracy in El Salvador

As readers of Defense Watch know, the United States Defense Committee, is in the forefront of the battle to draw a line against further Communist advance in Central America.

In an effort to highlight the importance



While the national media refused to give coverage to the Congressional fact finding trip sponsored by the United States Defense Committee; the local media in Miami and Orlando turned out in force.

of American commitment to the pro-American government in El Salvador, the United States Defense Committee sponsored a fact finding tour for three Congressmen.

The Congressmen, Stan Parris (R-VA), Eldon Rudd (R-AZ), and Bill McCollum (R-FL) were accompanied by two senior staff members of the United States Defense Committee and, inspected efforts by the Salvadoran army to halt Communism, and visited hospitals and teeming dis-

Pictured above during the press conference are (left to right), Congressmen Eldon Rudd (R-AZ), Bill McCullom (R-FL), and Stan Parris (R-VA).

placed persons camps in San Vicente and San Francisco Gotera.

Upon return to the United States, Congressmen Parris, McCollum, and Rudd held a press conference in Miami with local affiliates of the three national television networks to support President Reagan's efforts to stem the spread of Communism in Central America.

Congressman McCollum then flew to Orlando, Florida to hold an additional

El Salvador cont. on pg. 8



Right to left, Congressmen Stan Parris (R-VA), Eldon Rudd (R-AZ), the President of El Salvador Alvaro Magana, Congressman Bill McCollum and Ken Bleakley, Charge d'Affaires of the American Embassy in El Salvador.

President Magana pointed out that El Salvador is not asking for handouts from Congress, but instead wants to be allowed to buy enough military equipment to defeat the Marxist terrorists.



Congressman Stan Parris (R-VA), on a visit to a displaced persons camp in San Vicente is surrounded by the children of farmers who have been forced from their land by Marxist terrorists.

The Salvadorans do not want handouts, they only ask for the means to defeat the Marxists

El Salvador cont. from pg. 7

Unfortunately, the national media only chose to cover a group of Congressmen sympathetic with the Marxist/Leninists in Nicaragua, including Congressmen Don Edwards (D-CA), and George Miller (D-CA), who arrived in the United States on the same day as the United States Defense Committee's pro-defense delegation.

American Interests Require More Aid for Central America

It will take a concerned effort by all pro-defense groups in Washington, how-

and the opportunity to return to their land and work.

The face of the American advisor has been blacked out in response to U.S. policy that American advisors in El Salvador not have their pictures published.

ever, to stem an anti-defense mood in the House of Representatives over full funding of aid for El Salvador.

The aid package itself is facing opposition completely out of proportion with the small amounts President Reagan requested.

The same House Committee which slashed 92 million dollars of aid for El Salvador has also approved a general military package aid for other American allies of 7.2 billion dollars.

The full El Salvador aid package, if it had been approved would have constituted only 2 percent of overall military aid given by the United States for 1984.

It is thus hard to understand why so

many Congressmen have gone out of their way to undermine a frontline state in the battle for democracy right on America's doorstep.

USDC Mounts Campaign to Defend Monroe Doctrine

The United States Defense Committee, in other activities in behalf of full aid to El Salvador, has conducted an exhaustive survey of every Member of the House asking their position on aid.

Even though a Congressional vote on aid by both Houses of Congress will not take place until after the August Congressional recess, the United States Defense Committee and other pro-defense groups already are gearing up for the battle ahead.

Henry L. Walther, Executive Vice President of the United States Defense Committee stated: "The coming vote over aid will be one of those decisive moments watched by Moscow and the world to see if America is still willing to maintain her commitments throughout the Americas.

If the Congress chooses, because of lack of resolve, not to uphold the Monroe Doctrine, and stop the pernicious spread of foreign totalitarianism, then our entire defense structure throughout the world will be undermined.

Members of the United States Defense Committee are urged to contact their Congressmen on this important issue and make them feel the heat.

Only the wrath of angry constituents will turn around many politicians either afraid or unwilling to take a decisive stand for democracy in Central America."

Editor, John R. Crane

Defense Watch is published by the United States Defense Committee, 3238 Wynford Drive, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031, Phone (703) 281-5517.

President Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham USA (Ret.)

Executive Vice-President Henry L. Walther

Secretary-Treasurer Louise Tate

Legislative Director Bradley D. Palmer

Director of Research and Publications John R. Crane



file

COSTA RICA

CUBA

EL SALVADOR

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

MEXICO

NICARAGUA

PANAMA

COSTA RICA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: San Jose.

Land: 51,000 sq km; 60% forest, 30% agricultural, and 10% waste, urban and other.

People: 2,599,000 (1983); average annual growth rate 2.6%. Ethnic Divisions: 97% white (including mestizo) and 3% Negro.

Religion: 95% Roman Catholic.

Language: Spanish. Literacy: About 90%.

Labor Force: 770,000 (1980 est.); 26.9% agriculture, 23.3% service (government, education, social), 18.1% commerce, 16.2% manufacturing, 7.9% construction, 6.4% transportation and utilities, 0.2% other, and 14% unemployment (1982 est.)

- 2. <u>POLITICAL OVERVIEW</u>: Costa Rica is a democratic republic with separate executive, legislative and judicial branches. Executive power is vested in a president and two vice presidents. The leading political party in Costa Rica since 1948 has been the social democratic National Liberation Party (PLN), whose candidate, Luis Alberto <u>Monge</u> is the current president.
- 3. MILITARY OVERVIEW: The 1949 constitution abolished the military per se. Responsibility for the country's security, public order and external defense is shared by the Civil Guard, subordinate to the Ministry of Public Security and the Rural Assistance Guard, subordinate to the Ministry of Government and Police.

<u>Civil Guard</u>: 4,000; principal elements: 6 company-size (approximately 200) detachments in San Jose; one company-size detachment in the capitals of Costa Rica's six other provinces. Presidential Guard and Military Police Company: principal weapons: pistols, rifles, and submachineguns.

Rural Assistance Guard: 3,200; principal elements: 3-to-10 man-size detachments throughout the country; weapons are the same as those of the Civil Guard.

Naval Element: Approximately 50; 5 river/coastal patrol boats.

Air Element: Approximately 100; 8 utility aircraft and 3 helicopters.

Mobilization at M+30: 7,200.

4. <u>ECONOMIC OVERVIEW</u>: Years of deficit spending by a burgeoning public sector, coupled with a massive debt, have caught up with economic realities. Despite some optimistic signs, San Jose's economic crisis is far from over, and the worst still lies ahead, exacerbated by increasing political tensions. Real GDP has decreased by 12.6% since 1980, and per capita income is down by 41%, resulting in over 75% of Costa Rican families now living below the poverty line. The economy remains in depression as a result of severe reductions in imports, lack of credit and depressed commodity prices. It is not anticipated that Costa Rica will improve economically in 1983.

CUBA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Havana.

Land: 114,478 sq km; 35% cultivated, 30% meadow and pasture, 20% waste,

urban or other, and 15% forest.

People: 9,852,000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 0.8%. Ethnic Divisions: 51% mulatto, 37% white, 11% Negro, and 1% Chinese.

Religion: Religion actively discouraged. Language: Spanish.

Literacy: 96%.

Labor Force: 2.9 million in 1978; 33% agricultural, 32% services, 17% industry, 9% construction, 7% transportation, and 2% unemployed.

POLITICAL OVERVIEW: Cuba is a communist state controlled by Fidel Castro. The Teadership is dominated by the "guerrilla elite," those who fought with the Castro brothers during 1956-58. Although there is no real threat to President Castro, his government is facing widespread but unorganized dissatisfaction, principally because of serious economic difficulties. An effective security apparatus and surveillance system helps to prevent the emergence of any anti-Castro movement.

MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: Regular and ready reserves: 238,000. Defense expenditure (1980) \$1.126 billion.

Army: 200,000, including 100,000 ready reserves. Principal elements: 9 infantry divisions, 16 reserve divisions, some artillery brigades, and 2 airborne/air assault brigades. Principal equipment: 750 tanks, 450 armored personnel carriers, armored reconnaissance vehicles, 1,400 plus air defense artillery and unknown towed field artillery.

Navy: 12,000 (includes naval infantry) plus unknown ready reserves. ships: I frigate, 2 submarines, and 26 missile attack boats.

Air-Air Defense Forces: 16,000 plus unknown ready reserves; 250 combat aircraft, including MiG-21s and MiG-23s, and 100 helicopters. Missile forces have SA-2, SA-3 and SA-6 missiles.

Forces Abroad: Angola 25,000, Ethiopia 10,000, Congo 750, Mozambique 750, other Africa 500, South Yemen 300, Nicaragua 1,800, and Grenada 30.

Paramilitary Forces: Ministry of Interior: State Security 15,000 and Border Guards 3,500. Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces: Youth Labor Army (civic action) 100,000, civil defense 100,000, and territorial militia 600,000.

Mobilization at M+30: 1,500,000.

4. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW: Cuba has had a growing dependency on the Soviet Union for economic support and has found that it has had to severely restrict its imports from the West because of a lack of hard currencies. As a result, Cuba has had to request rescheduling of a large part of its foreign debt to Western creditors. Castro has publicly informed the Cuban people that they will face continued austerity for a number of years.

EL SALVADOR

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: San Salvador.

Land: 21,400 sq km; 32% crop, 31% nonagricultural, 26% meadow and pasture, and 11% forest.

People: 4.685.000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 2.7%. Ethnic Division: 92% mestizo and 8% Indian and white minorities.

Religion: 97% Roman Catholic. Language: Spanish, Nahuatl (among some Indians).

Literacy: 63%.

Labor Force: 1.7 million (est. 1982); 50% agriculture, 29% services, 14% manufacturing and construction, 7% commerce, shortage of skilled labor and large pool of unskilled labor.

2. POLITICAL OVERVIEW: Since the reformist military coup of October 1979, El Salvador has been transitioning from a government controlled by the military, to a democratically elected civilian government. In March of 1982, 1.5 million voters elected a Constituent Assembly, which in turn voted in a provisional government to replace the ruling junta. The leaders of the provisional government are: Alvaro Magana, President; Raul Molina, 1st Vice President; Mauricio Gutierrez, 2nd Vice President; Mauricio Alvergue, 3rd Vice President. Direct presidential elections are scheduled for early 1984.

MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 35,000. Defense expenditure (1982) \$147,400,000.

Army: 25,000; principal elements (currently undergoing reorganization): 7 brigades, 33 battalions, 4 US-trained immediate reaction battalions, a cavalry regiment, and an airborne battalion. Principal weapons: armored personnel carriers, 105-mm howitzers, 20-mm air defense artillery guns, mortars, and machineguns.

Navy: 500; 12 craft plus 8 40-hp zodiac boats.

Air Force: 500: 85 aircraft.

Paramilitary Forces: 9,000 (National Guard, National Police, Treasury Police).

Mobilization at M+30: 46,000.

4. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW: El Salvador's short term prospects are discouraging due to a variety of difficulties, including repeated guerrilla attacks on the economic infrastructure. The backbone of the economy has traditionally been agriculture. Thus, an almost 10% drop in production has had a negative impact on both domestic food supplies and on export earnings. Imports needed for manufacturing have declined, resulting in reduced production. While economic prospects for 1983 are not bright, El Salvador has managed to service its foreign debt, which requires about 40% of export earnings.

GUATEMALA

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Guatemala City.

Land: 108,880 sq km; 57% forest, 14% cultivated, 10% pasture, and 19% other.

People: 7,714,000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 2.6%. Ethnic Divisions: 44% Indian and 56% ladino, mestizo, and white.

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic--all creeds tolerated; traditional Mayan forms of worship.

Language: Spanish (official); but over 40% of the population speaks an

Indian language as a primary tongue.

Literacy: 47%.

Labor Force: 2.2 million (est. 1980); 53% agriculture, 22% services, 10% manufacuturing, 8% commerce, 4% construction, 2% transport, .5% mining, .5% utilities, and 5% unemployed.

2. <u>POLITICAL OVERVIEW</u>: Until the March 1982 coup which placed Brigadier General Efrain <u>Rios</u> Montt as Chief of State, Guatemala had been a functioning republic with a president and legislature. The Constitution is now suspended. Broad resentment and dissatisfaction with Rio's authoritarian rule and frequent invocation of divine inspiration, combined with Rio's failure to set an early date for elections, led to his political demise after a 16-month tenure. In August 1983, Brigadier General Oscar Humberto <u>Mejia</u> Victores replaced Rio's in a nearly bloodless, military coup. During his initial month as Head of State (concurrently Minister of Defense) Mejia has moved cautiously on all policy matters.

3. MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 28,600. Defense expenditure (1981) \$1,280,000.

Army: 26,900; principal elements: 26 infantry battalions and 11 special purpose battalions. Principal weapons: M-41 light tanks, M-113 and M-113 Al armored personnel carriers, and 105-mm howitzers.

Navy: 970; ships: 15 (12 coastal patrol and 3 auxiliaries).

Air Force: 740; aircraft: 72 fixed wing and 32 helicopters.

Paramilitary: 11,000; police and border guards.

Mobilization at M+30: 45,000.

4. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW: Guatemala maintained respectable rates of economic growth for three decades before the onset of a slow down in 1980 leading to a recession in 1982. Real growth in 1982 was a negative 3.5% and may not be any better in 1983. Scarcity of foreign exchange has become the chief constraint on the economy, due to losses in foreign markets for coffee and sugar; large fiscal deficits; guerrilla insurgency, and the inability to borrow in private capital markets. The success Guatemala has in containing insurgency will be one of the main determinants of how the country will emerge from the current economic doldrums.

HONDURAS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Tegucigalpa.

Land: 112,150 sq km; 36% unproductive, 30% pasture, 27% forest, and 7%

cropland.

People: 4,103,000 (July 1982); annual average growth rate 4%. Ethnic Divisions: 90% mestizo, 7% Indian, 2% Negro, and 1% white. Religion: About 97% Roman Catholic and small Protestant minority.

Language: Spanish, Indian dialects, and English.

Literacy: 60%.

Labor Force: 1,000,000 (est. 1981); 58% agriculture, 12% manufacturing, 10% other services, and 20% unemployed.

2. POLITICAL OVERVIEW: Honduras is a constitutional republic with a freely elected civilian government. More than a decade of military rule was ended in 1982, when Liberal Party head Dr. Roberto Suazo Cordova was sworn in as president. At the same time, Brigadier General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez assumed the office of Chief of the Armed Forces. Suazo and Alvarez have developed a good working relationship. While Alvarez appears to be the senior partner, democratic institutions and political stability have been enhanced. Public order has been disrupted by terrorist acts and an incursion of insurgents from Nicaragua. Relations with Nicaragua are poor due to Nicaraguan support for radical elements in Honduras, continued arms shipments through Honduras to guerrillas in El Salvador, and increased incidents of violence along the borders. There has been increased cooperation with El Salvador to limit arms infiltration. Recently, Honduras authorized establishment of a Regional Military Training Center for its and Salvadoran troops. Honduras is a strong supporter of US efforts to bring peace and stability to Central America.

3. MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 16,000; defense expenditure (1983 est.) \$45.2 million.

Army: 13,500; principal elements: 3 infantry brigades, 6 infantry battalions, 1 engineer battalion, 1 special forces group, 1 armored cavalry regiment, and a logistics center. Principal weapons: 16 Scorpion armored reconnaissance vehicles (ARC), 12 RBY Mk I ARCs, 120-mm and 160-mm mortars, recoilless rifles, and 20-mm cannons.

Navy: 600 (including 450 Marines); 16 patrol craft.

Air Force: 1,200; 14 Super Mysteres, 11 A-37Bs, and 6 F-86Es.

Paramilitary Forces: 5,000 (Public Security Forces, Territorial Forces).

Mobilization at M+30: 26,000.

4. <u>ECONOMIC OVERVIEW</u>: The sharp economic downturn since mid-1980 continued into mid-1983. Little improvement is expected in the near term. Real growth in the GDP last year was a negative 1.1%. Coupled with an estimated increase in population of 4%, the real decline in GDP represents a severe drop in the standard of living. Both imports and exports declined in 1982. Imports were off by 19.4%, while exports dropped 12.4%. The outlook for an improved economic picture in 1983 is not bright. The continuing lack of foreign exchange allows little room for growth in much needed imports. Moreover, political uncertainties from unrest in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua continue to have a dampening effect on business activity.

MEXICO

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Mexico City.

Land: 1,978,000 sq km; 40% pasture, 22% forest 12% crop, and 26% other,

including waste, urban areas and public lands.

People: 75,702,000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 2.6%.

Ethnic Divisions: 60% mestizo, 30% Indian or predominantly Indian, 9% white

or predominantly white, and 1% other.

Language: Spanish. Literacy: 74%.

2. <u>POLITICAL OVERVIEW</u>: Mexico is a constitutional republic with a popularly elected president and bicameral Congress. Despite acceptance of the principle of federalism, the government in actual operation is centralist. Each successive president is the leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which dominates Mexican political life. The party encompasses almost the entire spectrum of political ideology, maintaining a balance between its numerically and economically strong moderate wing and its smaller but influential left wing. No other party is strong enough to threaten its hegemony. The present president, Miguel <u>de la Madrid</u> Hurtado, was inaugurated on 1 December 1982 for a 6-year term.

3. MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 122,000; defense expenditure (1982) \$922 million.

Army: 94,000; principal elements: 5 brigades, 2 armored regiments in or near Mexico City, 90 separate battalion-sized infantry and cavalry units dispersed throughout the remainder of Mexico.

Navy: 23,000; approximately 100 surface units.

<u>Air Force</u>: 5,000; 250 assorted aircraft in operational units.

<u>Paramilitary Forces</u>: 54,000; Rural Defense Force.

Mobilization at M+30: 220,000.

4. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW: The current economic climate reflects 4 years of excessive government spending, which generated an average economic growth rate in excess of 8% during 1978-81. However, this same excessive government spending created strong inflationary pressures, an over reliance on imports, and a rapid increase in foreign borrowing. President de la Madrid's Adjustment Program is aimed at reducing the public sector budget deficit in relation to GDP, correcting balance of payments and exchange rate disequilibria and establishing the basis for sustainable economic growth. Mexico reports an increase in oil exports of 31.4% during the first quarter of 1983, resulting in an increase of 19.6% in export earnings. At the same time, Mexico reduced imports some 40% in 1982. As a result, Mexico is doing well in handling its large foreign debt payments, but at a considerable expense in terms of the country's domestic economy.

NICARAGUA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Managua.

Land: 147,900 sq km; 50% forest, 7% arable, 7% prairie and pasture, and 36% urban, waste or other.

People: 2,812,000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 3.6%. Ethnic Division: 69% mestizo, 17% white, 9% Negro, and 5% Indian.

Religion: 95% Roman Catholic.

Language: Spanish (official); English and Indian speaking minorities on the Atlantic Coast.

Literacy: 87%.

Labor Force: 850,000 (1981 est.); 42% agriculture, 23% service industries, 14% commerce, 13% industry, 3% construction, 5% other, and 25% unemployment.

2. <u>POLITICAL OVERVIEW</u>: Since the July 1979 revolution, executive and administrative government responsibilities formally reside in the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction (GRN) The junta is headed by Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega. In reality, however, the real power is in the hands of the FSLN's nine-member directorate--one member of which is Daniel Ortega. In May 1980, a quasi-legislative Council of State was established but the majority of its 51 members are either Sandinistas or pro-Sandinista. Nicaragua's foreign policy usually sides with the Soviet Union and its allies.

MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 81,000; defense expenditure slightly over \$100 million (1982).

Army: 20,000; Reserves 25,000. Principal elements: 10 infantry battalions, 3 armored battalions, 1 field artillery brigade and 1 engineer battalion. Principal weapons: T-55 medium tanks, armored cars, mortars, antitank guns, 152-mm howitzers, 122-mm howitzers, 122-mm multiple rocket launchers and armored reconnaissance vehicles.

Navy: 300; 13 patrol boats (2 more on order from France).

Air Force: 1,500; 22 aircraft: 1 antiair artillery group, 100 guns, and some SA-7 surface-to-air missiles.

Paramilitary Forces: 34,000; (Border Guards, Militia, Police and Ministry of Interior).

Mobilization at M+30: 64,000

4. <u>ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:</u> After 2 years of solid economic growth, the Nicaraguan economy declined in real terms in 1982, and faces continued difficulties in 1983. With economic growth for 1983 estimated at 1%, Nicaraguans will once again suffer a decline in real per capita income to about \$900 per person. Nicaragua, faced with growing shortages in foreign reserves, has had to curtail its imports from the free world. Credit is generally difficult to obtain because of the political situation. As a result, it is expected that Nicaragua will have to rely more heavily on Cuba and some of its regional trading partners for financial help in 1983.

PANAMA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital: Panama City.

Land: 75,650 sq km; 24% agricultural, 20% exploitable forest, and 56% other

forest, urban or waste.

People: 2,059,000 (July 1983); average annual growth rate 2.4%. Ethnic Divisions: 70% mestizo, 14% Negro, 9% white, and 7% other. Religion: Over 90% Roman Catholic; remainder mainly Protestant.

Language: Spanish (official); about 14% speak English as native tongue;

many Panamanians bilingual.

Literacy: 82%.

Labor Force: 625,000; 29% agriculture, 45% commerce/finance/service, 10% manufacturing and mining, 5% construction, 5% transportation and communications, 4% canal related, 1% utilities, 1% other, and 20% unemployed.

2. <u>POLITICAL OVERVIEW</u>: On 11 October 1968, the National Guard (GN), Panama's combination police/military, overthrew the constitutionally elected president, establishing itself as the <u>de facto</u> government. In 1972, a GN-imposed constitution designated Panama a centralized/unitary republic naming GN Commander Omar Torrijos as Chief of State until 1978. On 11 October 1978, the National Assembly, at the direction of the GN, named Aristides Royo as President of Panama. He was subsequently replaced by Ricardo de la Espriella, the current president. Although the GN has reduced its involvement in politics over the past few years, it remains the final arbiter of major decisions. The constitution will permit national elections in 1984, ostensibly returning the country to civilian rule.

3. MILITARY OVERVIEW:

Total Armed Forces: 12,000; National Guard Force of which some 2,590 perform military duties; defense expenditure (1983) \$1.806 billion.

National Guard Force: 11,500; principal elements: 7 rifle companies, 6 platoon-size elements, police/traffic force, cavalry squadron, engineer company, and presidential guard. Principal weapons: some 16 V-150 armored cars.

Naval Element: 200; some 20 patrol boats and utility craft.

Air Element: 300; 1 executive jet; approximately 20 fixed wing, civilian type small aircraft, and equivalent number of UH-1 helicopters.

Mobilization at M+30: 12,000.

4. <u>ECOMONIC OVERVIEW</u>: After modest gains in 1982, the Panamanian economy will probably ride out 1983 at a zero real growth rate as it awaits world economic recovery. Commerce, industry, and tourism showed declines in 1982. Substantial gains were registered in agriculture. Panama's foreign debt rose by 21% in 1982, and repayment requires about 62% of the country's export earnings, and about 30% of public sector expenditures. Panama continues to be a major banking center, and its Colon Free Zone provides a growing portion of the Gross Domestic Product. Revenues from the canal set a record in 1982, and as world economic recovery progresses, income from the canal will provide an important injection in the economy.

file in Tile

THE WHITE HOUSE

washington October 3, 1983

PROJECT MEDIA MARKET CITIES CENTRAL AMERICAN BRIEFINGS

Objective:

One day media market city briefings on Central America by the highest level White House/Executive Branch four person teams (National Security Council/UN; State, DOD, AID) in each of the major media market cities (Boston, Washington-Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Houston, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle) including a 2,000 person invited attendance at an auditorium presentation, plus spin-off radio, TV, newspaper editorial boards, magazine interviews, college campus activities, service organizations i.e. Rotatry, Kiwanis, Elks, Lions, Jaycees and other similar targets of opportunity.

Sponsorship:

A quartet of service organizations have been asked to create the foundation of local sponsorship so essential to success in this effort. As of this date the American Security Council, the American Conservative Union, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion have been asked to coordinate the local community base of support. The ASC and ACU The VFW is awaiting have confirmed their agreement. a letter requesting the participation, and the American Legion wants to have more information about the covering of local community effort expenses involved. With that question resolved they also agree to join in the effort. Each organization will coordinate three or four of the cities involved. Invitation lists and media spin-off opportunity schedules will be generated by these four major coordinators. Local sponsors lined up by them will ensure a wide spectrum of attendees and groups participating from all sectors of community activity: political, social, religious, educational, business, and professional organizations, labor, ethnic, and federal, state, and local government employee groups. (See Attachment A for list of cities to be coordinated be each of the four organizations.)

Briefing Terms:

Four briefings teams, each one headed by a Cabinet-level Executive Branch officials (Weinberger, Shultz, Clark, McPherson) will use the best speakers of the foreign affairs related agencies. Each team will cover three or four cities. Before and after the main briefing centerpiece appearance with 2,000 in attendance, the team members will fan out individually to carry out the media and organizational opportunities mentioned above. (See Attachment B for tentative composition of teams roster.)

Attachment A

COORDINATOR LIST OF CITIES

AMERICAN LEGION

Cleveland Chicago San Francisco New York

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Washington/Baltimore Dallas Boston

AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL

Houston St. Louis Los Angeles

AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION

Detroit Denver Seattle Atlanta
Milomat

N. O

K. C.

Phoenix

Des Moines

Charlotte

Omaha

Albuguerque

Attachment B

CENTRAL AMERICA WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING TEAMS

TEAM A

Weinberger Reich Fontaine Romero

TEAM B

Shultz Lehman Reich Fontaine

TEAM C

Clark Marsh Walters Reich

TEAM D

McPherson Kirkpatrick Stillwell Douglas

RESERVE BRIEFERS

Ikle Middendorf Vice President