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October 5, 1982

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 59

CUBA AND CENTRAL AMERICA (TS)

At a meeting of the National Security Planning Group on September 24, 1982, current policy and prospects in Central America were reviewed and the basic elements of the policy as described in NSDDs 17, 21, and 37 were reaffirmed. In addition, given the need for a sustained and adequately funded effort, and the need to take into account the possibilities of escalation of the conflict in the region, the following decisions were taken: (S)

1. That contingency plans for dealing with escalation possibilities, as listed below, be reviewed and updated as necessary. Those plans dealing with US air/sea assistance should include provisions for basing/deployment outside of Central America.

- A. Introduction of advanced weapons, including MIG aircraft.
- Discrete combined planning with regional democracies.
  - Deploy US fighter aircraft to Honduras on "in and out" basis.
  - Budget supplement of \$150 million to fund Honduras fighter aircraft.
  - Prepare plans for further action should that prove necessary.
- B. Introduction of Cuban Fighting Units.
- Invoke Rio Treaty.
  - Notify Congress under War Powers.
  - Impose air/sea blockade under multilateral framework.
  - Prepare plans for further action should that prove necessary.

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C. War with Honduras/Costa Rica.

- Call for Nicaraguan withdrawal.
- Notify Congress under War Powers.
- Provide Hondurans with air, sea and materiel support.
- Deploy US air units to support Honduras.
- If above fails, use US forces to engage and repel Nicaraguan units. (To maximum extent possible, any direct use of US military force should be confined to use of air and sea support for Honduras forces.) ~~(TS)~~

2. That the Soviet Union be warned that we will act should either MIGs or Cuban fighting troops be introduced into Nicaragua, and that Cuba be informed through routine diplomatic channels of these warnings. ~~(TS)~~

3. That efforts be accelerated to establish a multilateral framework for any required US military action in the region. ~~(TS)~~

4. Implement steps necessary to carry out anti-Cuba actions, approved in NSDDs 17, 21, and 37 with particular attention to the continuing need to develop public and Congressional support for US policies toward the region. ~~(TS)~~

5. That FY 83 funding of security and economic assistance to Central America be maintained at levels provided in FY 82 (including CBI and 506a). This should be accomplished, to the extent possible by reprogramming and use of section 506a authority as appropriate. However, if these methods prove inadequate, a supplemental appropriation would be sought for FY 83. ~~(S)~~

*Ronald Reagan*

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