

III. 20 Nov 84 U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
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U.S. DECISION TO MINE NICARAGUAN PORTS RECALLED

LD191649 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 19 Nov 84

["Washington's Course of Intervention" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 19 TASS -- TASS commentator Ruslan Knyazev writes:

Next Wednesday it will be a year since the President of the United States signed a directive allowing the use of CIA funds for the mining of the approaches to Nicaraguan ports. The White House has thus officially sanctioned the United States' violation of the fundamental principles of international law, specifically the freedom of navigation. The United States, as a result, caught a new indelible stain of disgrace, as Senator Edward Kennedy said.

Over the time that has passed since the "piracy directive" of the head of the U.S. state, the Washington administration aggravated the situation in Central America still more. It is now clear to the whole world that the White House set the course at outright military interference in the affairs of the region, at a large-scale military intervention to overthrow the lawful government of Nicaragua and restore in that country's a regime that would suit Washington.

In the framework of that adventurist policy the United States has been escalating hostile actions against Nicaragua. This refers not only to the piratic action, the mining of the approaches to Nicaraguan ports, but also to systematic intrusions of U.S. mercenaries -- Somozamen into Nicaraguan territory, acts of subversion against Nicaragua's economic facilities. The Pentagon is concentrating large forces in neighbouring Honduras. Dozens of U.S. warships have been sent to the Nicaraguan coasts.

Meanwhile Washington diplomacy has frustrated the signing of the "Peace Act" in Central America prepared by the Contadora Group. Bilateral U.S.-Nicaraguan talks in Mexico have not yet achieved any positive results because of the United States obstructionist policy.

The threat of the United States outright military intervention against Nicaragua heightened in the recent weeks. After the failure of the attempts to disrupt or discredit the general elections in Nicaragua, Washington provoked a new crisis by spreading lies about purchases of Soviet-made warplanes by the Nicaraguans. According to Nicaragua's Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, the anti-Nicaraguan campaign of the Reagan administration is aimed at affecting Americans by the hysteria whipped up by the official circles and thus facilitating the unleashing of an aggression against Nicaragua.

In this situation the Nicaraguan Government has been compelled to take additional measures to strengthen the country's defence potential, to put all its armed forces on a high alert. Rallied around its Sandinist government the Nicaraguan people is prepared to wage the struggle for the motherland's freedom and independence.

U.S. 'REASONING' ON NICARAGUA CRITICIZED

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[From the Vremya newscast -- commentary by Genrikh Borovik]

[Text] Hello, comrades! In the mornings as the sun rises, American reconnaissance planes fly over Managua.

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They fly very low over the city breaking the sound barrier. The boom is deafening and resembles the explosion of a gigantic bomb. This is how they are trying to wreck people's nerves. Armed bands, trained in special camps in Florida, California, and Honduras blow up bridges, oil tanks, and electric power stations, set fire to cotton and coffee, and kill people. They are assisted by American Air Force planes armed with missiles. At night, gigantic Hercules aircraft take off from aerodromes at U.S. Air Force bases in the Panama Canal Zone and set course for the Nicaraguan region. Incessant maneuvers of American and Honduran troops are being carried out along the country's border in the north. Hundreds of American servicemen from the 82d Airborne Division have been transferred there. American war ships cruise along Nicaragua's shores. In short, shameless preparations are under way for an invasion. These have been going on for a long time, but this is the first time they have been on such a gigantic scale.

About 2 years ago, I had occasion to talk to the American ambassador to Nicaragua in Managua. I asked him what right the United States has to terrorize a peaceful sovereign country. The ambassador replied: They live in the wrong way, undemocratically; they have no free elections. I was astounded not by the cynicism of this position, but by the level of argument. Washington knows that on 4 November this year, free elections were held in Nicaragua for the first time in the country's history. The Sandinists won a convincing victory. A farce, Washington answers. If the Sandinists had lost, however, the elections would have been right. And these are not empty words. You remember what happened after the elections in Chile that Salvador Allende won.

Washington is told: It is not true that Nicaragua constitutes a threat for the United States. The reply comes: Nicaragua is closer to the state of Texas than Texas is to Washington. They are told: It is a lie that the USSR is supplying military aircraft to Nicaragua; you invented this in order to instill fear in Americans. Even your own military men are laughing. But from Washington they regard the world through a television screen and lay down the law: Measures must be taken to ensure secret information does not get into the papers prematurely. They are told: Any one of those ships of yours blockading the Nicaraguan coast has a greater water displacement than the entire so-called Nicaraguan Navy and has a crew larger than the whole of the Nicaraguan fleet. Washington, however, replies: Nicaragua will never compel the United States to turn aside from the path of democratic development. This is not even an exchange of arguments; it is simply a conviction that there exists in the world no other arbiter save the force of arms, and this cannot be accommodated with such human concepts as truth, conscience, or even simple human reason.

I have been to Nicaragua many times. I love this people, they are brave, good, candid, and handsome people. Revolution in general makes people handsome. They live very close to the United States, and they have always been described as being in the "backyard." In this backyard, 70 percent of the population was illiterate, and in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador the same still applies. It was hard to find any old people in this backyard, not because the Nicaraguans look young but because their average life expectancy was 51. Just think, 51! And that is at the end of the 20th century. There were no doctors, hospitals, or medical services for the population, and the young folk were killed by the dictator Somoza, who sensed in each of them his enemy. Mothers hung bullets like these around their children's necks [video shows photograph of child with cartridge hanging round its neck] -- a cartridge from an automatic rifle, believing that this was the very bullet destined for her son by fate, and thus it would not strike him.

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They have been victorious. They have rid themselves of illiteracy. There are now doctors in their country. They have only just begun to breathe the air of freedom. Now mothers have once again begun to hang amulets around their children's necks, cartridges from American automatic rifles. Can one reconcile oneself to this in a civilized society as the 20th century of our era draws to its close?

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS REBEL RAID

LD171202 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 17 Nov 84

[Text] Managua November 17 TASS -- TASS correspondents Sergey Gorbunov and Aleksandr Trushin report:

Nicaragua's Foreign Ministry sent a note of protest to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over a raid of U.S. mercenaries on the state-owned coffee enterprise "Sorpresa". 23 people, including women and children, were killed. A vast material damage was inflicted. It is also pointed out in the note that another group of counterrevolutionaries opened fire from mortars, machineguns, and grenade launchers at "Ernesto Acuna" cooperative in Matagalpa Department, killing four innocent people.

The note says these barbarous actions are a consequence of the policy of state terrorism implemented by the Reagan administration. Thousands of Nicaraguan citizens have already become victims to this policy. The new crimes of the Somoza counterrevolutionaries are a disgraceful example of their application of the "knowledge" acquired from a special "manual" on terrorism that was worked out by the CIA, says the document of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

EIGHTH ROUND OF NICARAGUAN-U.S. TALKS OPEN 19 NOV

LD191823 Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Managua November 19 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin reports:

Despite sharp escalation of aggressive actions of the Reagan administration and preparations for direct intervention in Nicaragua, the government of the Republic agreed to hold the next, eighth round of negotiations with the United States, which opens in Manzanillo, Mexico, today.

So far, Nicaraguan-American negotiations did not lead to any positive results because of the U.S. obstructionist stand. The Washington administration uses the negotiations as a screen for covering up its military preparations aimed at destruction of the Sandinist people's revolution. Those preparations are accompanied with an unbridled anti-Nicaraguan campaign, the aim of which is to present Nicaragua as some "source of tension" in the region.

Member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front Victor Tirado, speaking at a meeting of leaders of trade union and other mass public organizations, emphasized that all peace initiatives of Nicaragua are thwarted by the American Administration which makes stake on military solution of the Central American crisis. The United States, specifically, frustrates the signing of the "Peace Act" of the "Contadora Group", torpedoes progress at Nicaraguan-American negotiations.