

OLC RECORD COPY

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

HPSCIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-5275/d

223 OCT 1978

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your request for a statement from the Agency regarding the allegation that CIA has been involved with and providing support to the Sandanista (FSLN) guerrilla movement in Nicaragua as alleged in the September 28, 1978 article by Paul Scott.

As you may know, it is the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency to neither confirm nor deny allegations of Agency activities. To deny those activities which are readily deniable would establish a security damaging precedent in that, in those select instances in which there indeed were vital national secrets to be protected, Agency silence could correctly be interpreted as confirmation of the allegation.

I am sorry that we cannot be more helpful to you in this regard.

Sincerely,

151

Frederick P. Hitz

Distribution

Orig - adse

1 - [redacted] (PA)

1 - OLC Subject

1 - OLC Chrono

OLC:MMP:sf (13 Oct 78)

STAT

13 October 1978

Approved for Release 2004/03/25 : CIA-RDP81M00980R003000090031-6

TO : Mr. Hitz *LLM* 13 OCT 1978

DATE OF REQUEST

FROM : *MMP* MMP 13 OCT 1978

SUSPENSE DATE

SUBJECT:

Letter to Chairman Boland responding to his request for a statement from the Agency re the allegation that CIA has been involved with and providing support to the Sandanista (FSLN) guerrilla movement in Nicaragua

NOTES

This is crazy situation - why call HPSC the same position by themselves? Also need more facts "publicly" - we need and have

COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)

NAME		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	11 Oct 78
NAME		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	DATE

ACTION REQUIRED BY ~~XXX~~ FPH

Signature please

N

I agree that it's crazy - but the committee has asked for a CIA statement. I told them that we do not make statements & they asked us to put that fact in writing.

13 OCT 1978

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

MMP

Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-5275/b

2 Oct 78

*to FPH
2 Oct for
approval*

Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of September 27, 1978.
I am forwarding a statement on the Agency's lack of
involvement with the Sandanistas in Nicaragua which
the Committee may wish to use in responding to
Representative Eldon Rudd. I hope that you will find
that the statement meets your needs.

*FPH
approved*

Sincerely,

SIGN


Assistant Legislative Counsel




*1:00
courier
3 Oct.*

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Enclosure

Distribution

Orig - adse

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- 1 - OLC Subject
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OLC:MMP:sf (29 September 1978)

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STATEMENT

There is no truth to the allegation that the Central Intelligence Agency has provided assistance in any form to the Sandanista Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua. The allegation that "covert CIA agents in Nicaragua, Mexico and Costa Rica have ..." met "... with guerilla leaders ..." is similarly untrue. Additionally, CIA is not using any third parties (as neutrals or otherwise) to channel food, medicine and money into the Sandanista Liberation Front.

These allegations have been looked into with considerable care and have all been found to be without foundation.

EDWARD P. BOLAND, IOWA
CLEMENT U. ZABLOCKI, WIS.
BILL D. BURLISON, MO.
MORGAN F. MURPHY, ILL.
LES ASPIN, WIS.
CHARLES ROSE, N.C.
ROMANO L. MAZZOLI, KY.
NORMAN Y. MINETA, CALIF.
WYCHE FOWLER, JR., GA.
BOB WILSON, CALIF.
JOHN M. ASHBROOK, OHIO
ROBERT MCCLORY, ILL.
J. KENNETH ROBINSON, VA.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OLC #78-5275/A

HPSET

THOMAS K. LATIMER, STAFF DIRECTOR
MICHAEL J. O'NEIL, CHIEF COUNSEL

September 27, 1978

25X1



Assistant Legislative Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Pete:

Per Mr. Boland's request, we would like a written comment from the Agency on the charges made in the attachment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Latimer
Staff Director

Attachment

ELDON RUDD
4TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1428 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3361

DISTRICT OFFICE:
6009 FEDERAL BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85025
(602) 261-4803

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 19
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OFFICE ON COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MINES AND MINING
GENERAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION,
AVIATION, AND WEATHER
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS

Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Boland,

I am enclosing a copy of the nationally syndicated newspaper column of respected journalist, Paul Scott, which was sent on September 13 to prominent newspapers throughout the country.

This column makes the most serious charge that covert assistance from elements of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has been given to the Communist insurgency of the Sandanista Liberation Front, which is leading efforts to overthrow the duly constituted government of Nicaragua.

In addition to this alleged covert assistance to the Communist revolutionaries by elements of our Government, U.S. Ambassador, Gale McGee, yesterday made the shocking statement that "generosity and sympathetic understanding" would be required from the U.S. and other OAS members when "the peaceful democratic solution" becomes a reality in Nicaragua.

Implicit in the ambassador's statement is an acceptance of the Marxist line that the Sandanista guerrillas are a part of the "democratic solution," which is an outrage coming from a member of our own Government's diplomatic corps.

Also implicit in the ambassador's statement was a veiled bribe to the supporters and those who are not yet supporting the Sandanista insurgency that the United States stands ready to generously shell out foreign aid to help rebuild Nicaragua, once the Communist-led overthrow of the Nicaraguan government has taken place and the revolutionaries have wrecked the country.

Honorable Edward P. Boland
September 19, 1978
Page Two

I respectfully request and urge in the strongest possible terms your Committee's investigation of allegations of U.S. behind-the-scenes assistance and dealings with the Sandanista Revolutionaries in Nicaragua. I am sure you share my belief that Congress cannot stand by without investigating in official hearings the alleged role of U.S. Government Officials in Marxist efforts to overthrow the Government of an anti-Communist U.S. ally.

Sincerely,



Eldon Rudd
Member of Congress

ER:gj

cc: Honorable Bob Wilson
Ranking Minority Member

Honorable John Ashbrook
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Evaluation

From The Washington News-Intelligence Syndicate
6516 Elmhurst Street, S.E., Washington, D.C., 20028
Phone: 301 - 736-6834

CIA INVOLVED WITH NICARAGUAN GUERRILLAS

By Paul Scott

Washington, D.C., September 13 [REDACTED] -- The Sandinista guerrillas, whose abortive offensive against President Anastasio Somoza's government in Nicaragua left more than one hundred dead, are receiving covert help from elements within the Central Intelligence Agency and several U.S. journalists as well as from Communist Cuba.

Anti-Castro Cubans, who have succeeded infiltrating the ranks of the guerrillas, report that covert CIA agents in Nicaragua, Mexico, and Costa Rica have been spotted meeting with guerrilla leaders.

What these intelligence agents are doing isn't completely clear although the guerrillas usually have large sums of money to use to buy military supplies following the clandestine get togethers.

There is also evidence that a "third party group", operating as a neutral in the fighting in Nicaragua, is being used by certain elements within the CIA to channel information, food, medicine, and money into the guerrilla forces.

This alarming information indicates the urgent need for an immediate full-scale congressional investigation to determine the involvement of these intelligence "operatives" and their contacts with private foreign policy study groups in the U.S. and State Department officials since there is no evidence that President Carter has authorized the CIA or any other government agency to support the guerrillas.

U.S. military intelligence sources, who will not discuss the CIA involvement, report the guerrillas are receiving most of their arms from Cuba, Panama and Mexico via [REDACTED] bases set up in Costa Rica by the guerrillas.

These guerrilla bases are now being reinforced with newly trained terrorists from Cuba for the "second wave" of the military action against the Nicaraguan government. This is expected to take place later this month or early in October.

USING U.S. NEWSMEN -- In addition to their meetings with CIA agents, leaders of the guerrillas also have been getting together with several far-left U.S. newsmen, including Tad Szulc, former New York Times reporter and free-lance writer, whose international communist links are carefully documented in U.S. security files.

Since returning from a secret meeting with guerrilla officials, Szulc has been making the rounds at the State Department and on Capitol Hill spouting the Marxist guerrilla's official line. It goes like this:

The U.S. should quietly increase its links with the Sandinista guerrilla leaders, to lessen the anti-American feeling and, then create a situation in which the revolutionaries would collaborate with the non-violent opposition in Nicaragua in ousting the Somoza government.

To accomplish the coalition, the guerrilla leaders would even accept an inter-American peacekeeping force, dispatched to Nicaragua to arrange for the transition from the Somoza government.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUP -- What Szulc isn't saying in trying to influence these officials is that the hard core Sandinista guerrillas are recent volunteers for the transnational terrorist war against Israel and want Nicaragua as a base to carry out their activities against Jewish and anti-communist groups in Latin America and the U.S.

According to the highly respected publication, "The Jewish Week," the Sandinistas emerged early in 1978 as the "Latin American connection" for radical anti-Israel activity, making a series of announcements aligning themselves with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and other Palestinian groups committed to eliminating Israel. Approved For Release 2004/03/25 : CIA-RDP81M00980R003000090031-6 - more -

Little known outside Nicaragua until last month, the Sandinistas attracted world attention by capturing more than 1,500 hostages in the presidential palace and trading them for 58 political prisoners, \$500,000 and safe passage to asylum in Panama.

The official name of the group is the Sandinista Front for the Liberation of Nicaragua (FSLN). The group takes its name from Augusto Cesar Sandino, a guerrilla leader killed fighting against the U.S. Marines who occupied Nicaragua and helped put the Somoza family in power in 1937.

THE PLO CONNECTION -- On February 5, the PLO and the Sandinistas released a "joining communique" in Mexico city, which according to Radio Havana, was to "emphasize the bonds of solidarity which exist between the two revolutionary organizations."

The communique attacked the "racist state of Israel" for its reported military sales to anti-communist Latin American countries, for serving as an enclave of "U.S. imperialism" in the Middle East, and particularly for alleged Israeli economic and military aid to Nicaragua.

Significantly, the communique was put out at a major Moscow-front gathering called the Continental Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for Peace, Sovereignty and Economic Independence.

The conference was sponsored by Moscow's international "peace and disarmament" organ, the World Peace Council, an organization reportedly run by the Central Committee of Communist Party, USSR, and the KGB, the Soviet secret police and espionage organization.

This newly established tie-in between the PLO and the Sandinistas and their Moscow and Cuban connections clearly indicates the international communist-terrorist threat that would face the U.S. in Nicaragua if these forces shoot their way to power. Congress must move now to force an end to any help that elements with

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in the CIA is giving these terrorists.

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