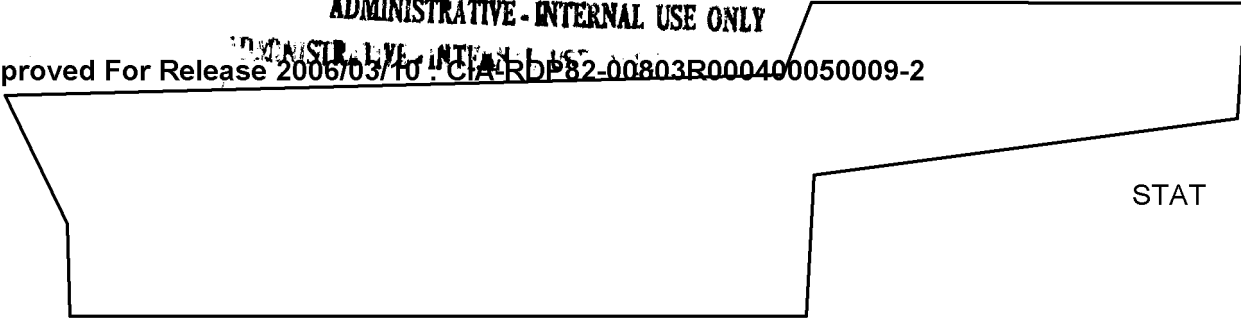


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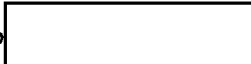


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24 January 1979
MPA - 9004

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Central American Coverage

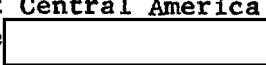
REFERENCE : C/Ops 27 Dec 78 Message on Visitor to 

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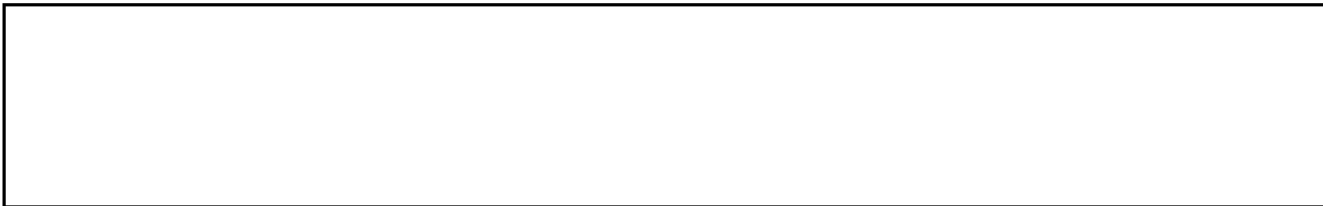
1. I'm reporting on the results of the recent visit of the Assistant NIO for Latin America and in doing so I'm also taking this opportunity to make a renewed plea to Headquarters to help us do something about our deteriorating coverage of Central America.

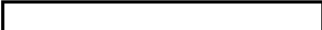
2. The Assistant NIO for Latin America visited the bureau on 19 January. He spent the better part of a half-day with us, with the time well spent. We gave him a detailed briefing on our operations and he filled us in on requirements on Latin America and on the latest developments in Headquarters.

3. He said he couldn't emphasize too strongly how highly he regards our Latin American file. In his words, we at the bureau have no idea how invaluable our file is to the major consumers in Washington.

4. We were most interested in learning from him that Central America now ranks as a major area of interest and stands alongside  on top of the priority list of Latin American targets.

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6. With the visitor on hand, our frustrations concerning our inadequate Central American coverage of late were doubly felt. It's our feeling that if reporting on Central America is all that important to the intelligence community--and the Assistant NIO for Latin America surely ought to know--then we in FBIS should be making a real effort to do something about it. This leads me back to the last bureau chiefs conference when we agreed in principle to conduct  of Central America.

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