

22 March 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
FROM : Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : El Salvador and Central America
REFERENCE : Memorandum from William P. Clark dtd 15 March 1982
(TS-820227); Subject: El Salvador

1. CIA has been asked to prepare an assessment of the military situation in El Salvador and has been assigned a paper due for my review by 26 March 1982.

2. Recent information suggests that the NSC will undertake an overall review of our policy in Central America following the March 28 election in El Salvador. Therefore, we should prepare brief summaries of our current information on the following themes for the different countries as indicated:

I. Country Trends

El Salvador

- A. Overview of the political forces, their composition and resources; extreme right; extreme left and moderate groups (including parties, business, labor).
- B. Military balance and trends between the government and the guerrillas.
- C. Implications of three most possible electoral outcomes.

Guatemala

- A. Same as above.
- B. Same as above plus
- C. Prospects for moderate groups to cooperate with the Guevara government.

Honduras

- A. Same as above.
- B. Signs of trends toward neutralism in the military or other sectors?

Costa Rica

- A. Same as above.

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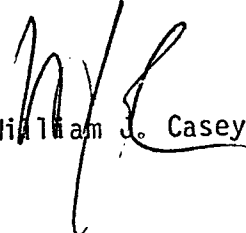
II. Cuban/Nicaraguan Actions in Support for the Extreme Left Groups

- A. Brief overview of facts and trends in each of the above countries (including Costa Rica)
- B. Vulnerabilities of the external guerrilla support systems from Nicaragua and from Cuba (emphasis on those funneling resources to El Salvador and Guatemala).

III. Implications for the Region of an Extreme Left Victory in El Salvador in the Next 6-12 Months

It should be understood that a brief synthesis of factual information and judgments is requested. This should be coordinated with the NIO for Latin America and any substantive disagreements should be explicit in the material I receive.

The NIO/LA should receive a draft by cob, Thursday, 25 March, and a final draft should be submitted to me by cob Friday, 26 March 1982.


William J. Casey