

Cuban/Nicaraguan Support for El Salvador

9 March 1982

Since 1979, the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua have been coordinating an international network to supply military weapons and equipment to insurgents in El Salvador. This arms pipeline, supplemented by training and political and technical support and advice for Salvadoran leftists, constitutes the major thrust of an overall effort by Cuba and its allies to promote revolution throughout Central America.

For two-and-a-half years, the supply network has transported by land, sea, and air weapons and equipment provided by Cuba, Nicaragua, the Soviet bloc, the PLO, and Libya, as well as quantities purchased on the international arms market. This materiel is channeled primarily through Nicaragua, although other Central American countries periodically serve as transit points. Cuba and Nicaragua also have provided the Salvadoran guerrillas with safehaven, training, documentation, propaganda support, and advice on strategy and tactics. Both have played major roles in helping unify the disparate insurgent groups, thus increasing their effectiveness dramatically.

in preparation for their "final" offensive of January 1981, the Salvadoran insurgents hoped to receive some 600-800 tons of arms, ammunition, and other supplies from various communist donors via Cuba and Nicaragua.



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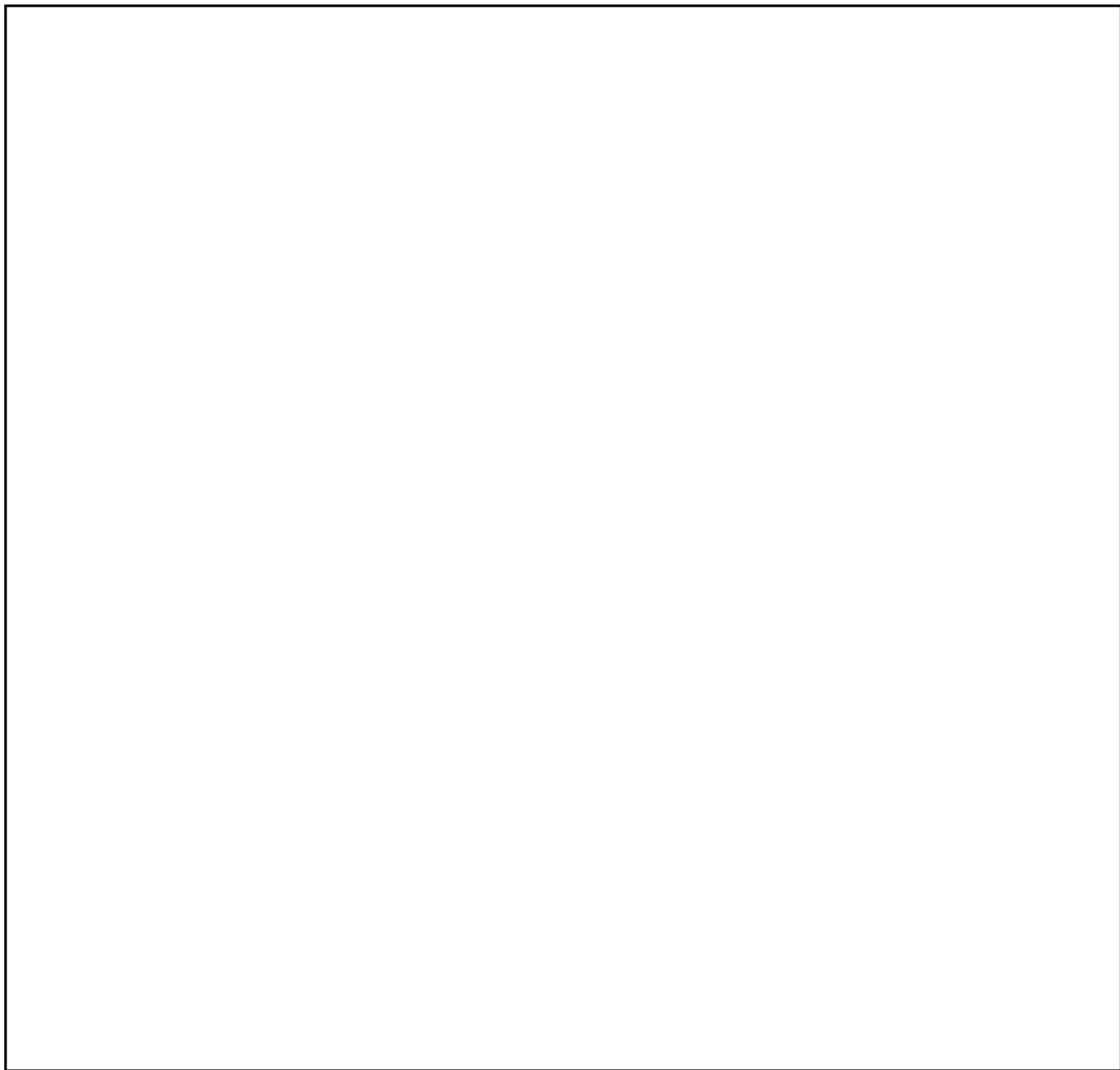
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[redacted] We believe some 200 tons were actually delivered to guerrilla units from October 1980 to February 1981, with the remainder still tied up in the pipeline thanks in part to the guerrillas inability to absorb large arms deliveries quickly.

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US diplomatic pressure, enhanced interdiction measures, and other factors contributed to a decline in the arms flow in



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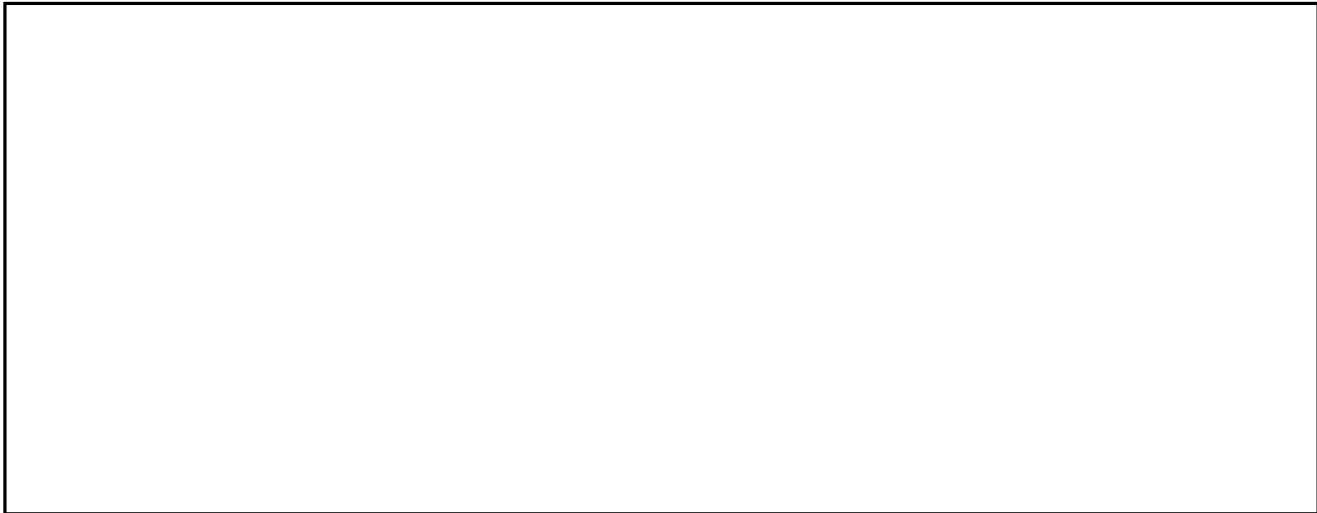
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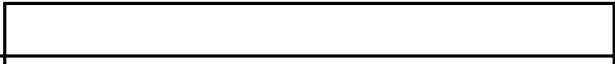
Nicaragua has since early 1980 supplied military personnel in addition to arms and supplies.



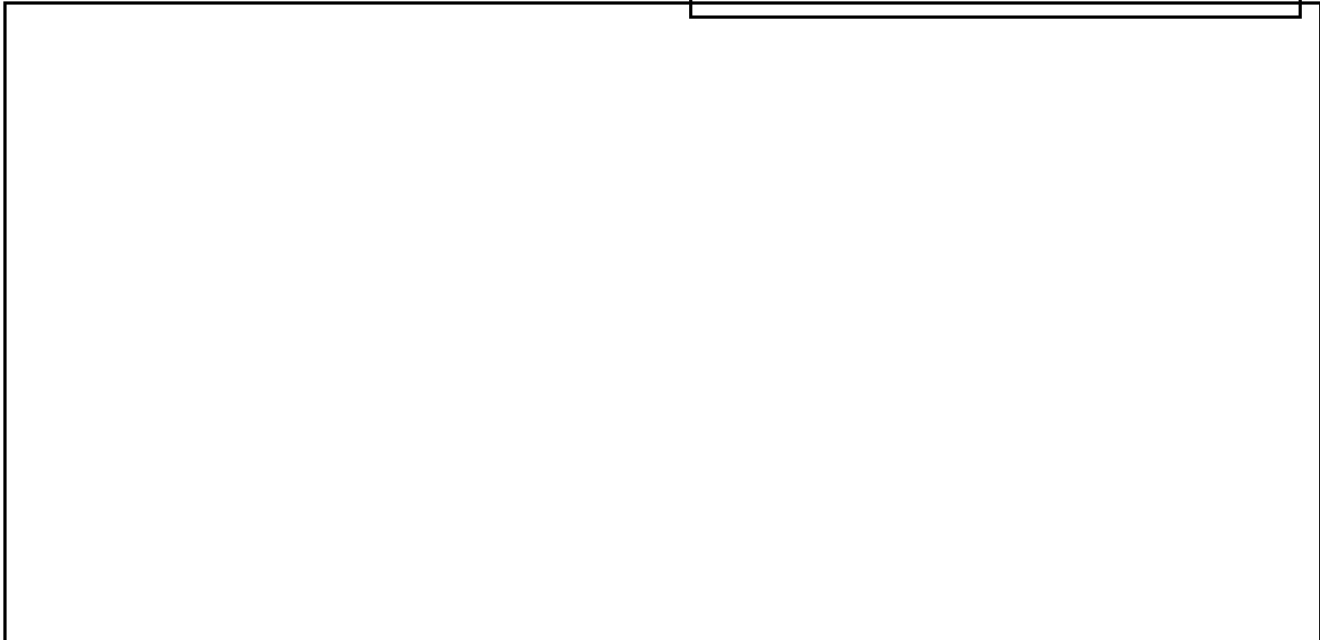
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While the Cubans have attempted to minimize the direct participation of Cuban personnel in the fighting in El Salvador, there is no question that Havana is involved in large scale training of Salvadoran insurgents.



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Arms shipments are also continuing.

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The Cubans reportedly believe that US military support to El Salvador precludes a guerrilla victory for now, but the Castro regime plans to continue aiding the insurgents in expectation that international public opinion will eventually force the US to withdraw and open the way for insurgent success. Toward that end, the Cubans will supplement their arms shipments and training effort with an intensified worldwide propaganda offensive. At the same time, Havana is increasing its attention to the insurgency in Guatemala and expects heightened guerrilla activity there to contribute indirectly to insurgent fortunes in El Salvador

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