

CENTRAL AMERICA--TALKING POINTS

NICARAGUA

Current

- Marxist-Leninist Directorate of Sandinistas in virtual full control.
- New secret police, new army/security forces, new mass organizations.
- Democratic groups still exist and with help could be a more effective opposition. They include: democratic labor unions (70,000 members), business federations (60,000-90,000 members), churches, some media, 5 parties.

Military Buildup Continues

- Well-armed security forces, 19,000-24,000.
- 25 tanks [redacted] 25X1
- 16 new military facilities.
- Clear plans for jet fighters--3 airfields, pilot training.
- Full support to guerrillas continues--arms, training, funds, covert action.

Probable Trends

- Arrival [redacted] Cuban elite troops may portend further Cuban troops there-- 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] MIG-21s to Cuba, reports of F-5s from Vietnam--may be new air force 25X1

EL SALVADOR

Current

- Guerrilla forces - about 4,500 plus 6,500 part time; about 2,000-3,000 wounded and killed in 1981. Continuing attacks on the government and economy; receiving good arms supplies.
- Government - about 25,000 forces; casualties in 1981 about 2,200.
- coalition holding together; helped by the 15 nations' support.

Probable Trends

- If current pattern continues, most analysts see stalemate in 1982.
- Some believe with continued strong Cuban/Nicaraguan support there is a 50% chance of victory for the guerrillas.

SECRET

Note: more detailed paper to be ready by early tomorrow. ICH

GUATEMALACurrent

- Guerrillas - sharp growth [redacted] 25X1
- attacking people and the economy.
- Government - security forces about 15,000.
- new effort to improve control of forces and become more effective.
- problem of extreme rightist violence destroys moderates
- politicizes indians and reinforces international isolation.

Probable

- If El Salvador falls, there is little chance that Guatemala would be able to cope with the new strength of the extreme left (Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador). Otherwise, there is some chance depending on events in the region and internal policies.

HONDURASCurrent

- Government - movement toward restoration of constitutional government; November 1981 elections; cooperation with El Salvador, Guatemala.
- Extreme Left - unity meeting in Havana, mid-September; was followed by upsurge in terrorism.
- Clear Cuban/Nicaraguan intention to destabilize Honduras in order to prevent it helping against the guerrillas or being a base for operations against Nicaragua.

Probable

- Nicaragua has entered Honduran territory a number of times.
- [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] likely that extreme left guerrillas will grow in strength and pose a threat similar to that in El Salvador within two years. 25X1

CUBA IN CENTRAL AMERICACurrent

- [redacted] Cubans in Nicaragua, including about [redacted] police/military personnel. 25X1
- Active, continuing the pattern beginning 1979; confident of success.
- Ready for military action to help Nicaragua--if US forces do not oppose.

Probable

- Preemptive expanded military, political propaganda help to all revolutionary groups.
- Possible efforts to subvert Panama, Belize.