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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

30 September 1981

MEMORANDUM

Nicaraguan Support for Central American Revolutionaries [redacted]

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The Sandinistas remain fully committed to supporting the Salvadoran insurgents. [redacted]

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[redacted] Nicaragua is infiltrating arms into El Salvador by land, sea, and air. Because of interdiction efforts by Honduran authorities, the Sandinistas are again emphasizing air deliveries over land shipments. Nevertheless, while the ongoing supply effort appears to be sufficient to sustain the current relatively low level of guerrilla activity, we believe it would have to be increased significantly to support a major insurgent offensive. [redacted]

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[redacted] In addition, Nicaragua is sending small numbers of military advisers to El Salvador. The Sandinistas also continue to support leftist extremists in Honduras and Guatemala. [redacted]

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El Salvador

The Sandinistas are convinced that a leftist victory in El Salvador is essential to the security of their own regime and probably doubt that the US would resume economic assistance to Nicaragua even if they halted their support activities. [redacted]

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This memorandum, covering the period from 13 August 1981 to 30 September 1981, was requested by the Director of Central Intelligence. It was prepared by [redacted] Latin America Division, Office of Political Analysis, and coordinated with the Clandestine Services. Questions and comments should be directed to Chief, Latin America Division, OPA, [redacted]

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SECRET

[redacted] nothing Washington can say or do will induce the Sandinistas to cease their assistance to the Salvadoran guerrillas. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Three Salvadoran insurgent groups [redacted] operate separate arms-distribution networks in Honduras. These networks maintain caches of weapons infiltrated from Nicaragua and later transfer them to El Salvador [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] a growing proportion of arms deliveries are now being made by air, due in part to the success of Honduran authorities in intercepting land shipments.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] weapons continue to depart Nicaragua's Pacific ports for El Salvador. [redacted]

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Cuba and the USSR have supplied most of the weapons smuggled to the Salvadoran revolutionaries, but Libya apparently is taking a larger role. [REDACTED]

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In addition to channeling arms to El Salvador, the Sandinistas are now sending advisers. [REDACTED]

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Other Activities

Managua also is continuing its assistance to leftists in Honduras. [REDACTED]

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Managua continues to provide small amounts of arms and other assistance to Guatemalan insurgents [REDACTED] revolutionaries from various Central American countries continue to receive paramilitary training in Nicaragua. [REDACTED]

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