

Al's corrections

All of you are aware of the great human cry of the press demanding that the Government produce evidence that the insurgency in El Salvador is being supplied and directed from Cuba and Nicaragua. Today we will show you the detailed evidence that we have gathered on this and you will see that to make this evidence available to the public would cause loss of sensitive intelligence sources we have ^{so} painstakingly built up. Last week I presented this evidence to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees and the Chairmen of the two Committees have issued statements that the evidence presented to them was compelling and overwhelming. We intend to show you that evidence this afternoon, but before going into the detailed picture we have assembled I think it may be helpful to give you a little background to develop for you the perception that the war in El Salvador is externally supported and directed is not a new discovery.

During the summer the Intelligence Community produced a National Intelligence Estimate on Central America. Its key judgments were:

- The principal objectives of Cuba and the USSR in Central America are to consolidate the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, and to use Nicaragua as a base for spreading leftist insurgency elsewhere in the region.
- A continuation of the present trends could result in victory for the extreme left in El Salvador, and such a victory would heighten prospects for the revolutionaries in Guatemala.
- This would bring the revolution to Mexico's border, thereby raising the risks of internal destabilization and infiltration by radical leftists.

TOP SECRET

Since that time the military buildup in Nicaragua, support for insurgency in El Salvador and Guatemala, and the resulting economic attrition in those countries have become significantly more ominous.

The fact that these insurgencies were supported externally is not a new discovery:

- March 1980, unclassified testimony of the Defense Department to the House of Representatives stated that Cuban support for the extreme left in El Salvador and Guatemala includes "advice, propaganda, safe haven, training, arms" and "men and material which transit Honduras, aircraft landings at remote haciendas" with weapons from Cuba.
- On 17 January 1981 in approving lethal military aid for El Salvador the Carter Administration stated that its purpose was to "support the Salvadoran government in its struggle against left-wing terrorism supported covertly with arms, ammunition and training and political and military advice by Cuba and other communist nations."
- 15 January 1981, then US Ambassador to El Salvador Robert White was quoted as making the same accusation in The New York Times.

For 14 months I have been seeing reports and photos showing a flow of supplies and trained men from Cuba and Nicaragua into El Salvador and Guatemala. They came by road in large trucks through Honduras, by small plane from Nicaragua to small landing fields in El Salvador, by sea from Nicaragua to El Salvador mostly across the Bay of Fonseca.

Enough US weapons, whose serial numbers show them to have been left behind in Vietnam, have equipped about 1/3 of the guerrilla forces. Russian hand grenades, Chinese grenade launches, and German G-3 rifles came in.

In February of 1981, the State Department put out a White Paper detailing how Castro had brought diverse Salvadoran guerrilla factions into a united front and together with Nicaragua delivered large amounts of weapons and equipment to them. You will recall that the media did a lot of nitpicking on the details of this White Paper, but in April of 1981 Castro told ^{a senior official (?)} Wischnewski, ~~the Vice Chancellor~~ of the German Socialist Democratic Party, that the State Department White Paper was essentially accurate.

Leaders of dissident factions in Guatemala and Honduras were brought to Havana where they were urged to unify and promised support and arms, training and money if they would do so. We ~~have seen~~ ^{now estimate that} the Guatemalan insurgency ~~build~~ ^{has built} up ~~from 1,000 men~~ to 4,500 men. ~~During 1981 (?) and the Honduran revolutionary factions agree to unite as requested by the Cubans.~~

The planning for the operation of propaganda we have seen worldwide during 1981 came to us in a report of a meeting in Havana in June 1980, in which the Salvadoran insurgent command and a strategy for an international political campaign was laid down. The propaganda theme and the channels through which it was to be communicated worldwide were laid down in detail. We saw all this unfold in 48 meetings throughout Europe, Latin America and even Australia conducted between the 13th of June ^(1980?) and the 10th of March of 1981 ranging from 8 people in Wellington, to 40 people in Sydney, to 75 people in Edinburg, to 200 people in Toronto, to 800 people in Bern, to 1,500 people in Vienna, to 10,000 people in Mexico, to 15,000 people in Frankfurt, and so on.

Indicators

Congress

not new - defense - Carter

daily flow

White paper - Carter

Propaganda

Int + subterranean eq

permeation

Comm int + subterranean

Command + control