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OEXA 82-1994  
16 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Briefing of House Foreign Affairs Inter-American Affairs  
Subcommittee 11 August 1982 [redacted]

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1. On 11 August 1982, [redacted] Director, Office of African and Latin American Analysis, led a team from his office in briefing Members of the Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee on the current situation in Central America. The briefing took place in Room 2255 Rayburn House Office Building. Material presented was at the TOP SECRET level. No transcript was taken. DIA representatives participated in the briefing. [redacted]

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2. Representative Michael Barnes (D., Md.) presided. Representatives Gerry Studds (D., Mass.), Robert Lagomarsino (R., CA), and Benjamin Gilman (R., NY) were present. The staff present were: Vic Johnson, Staff Director, Lillian Pubillones, Rob Kurz, Nancy Aaris, Richard Pena, Ed Fox, Tom Smeeton, Marian Chambers and George Ingram. [redacted] led the DIA team supported by [redacted]

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3. [redacted] began by giving a brief summary of the situation on the Nicaragua-Honduras border. He said that the anti-Sandinista forces are gaining strength but do not constitute a significant threat to Nicaragua. The Sandinistas, however, are losing patience with the border problems and could launch a punitive strike against the anti-Sandinistas. [redacted] outlined the Honduras military establishment which he described as one of the smallest in Central America. [redacted] described the insurgent threat in Honduras. He indicated that Honduran insurgents are receiving training by Nicaragua and Cuba. [redacted] talked about the anti-Sandinista groups, and said that two umbrella groups were formed in Honduras in August 1981. [redacted] briefed on the military support provided to the anti-Sandinista forces. [redacted]

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4. In the questions and answers period that followed, there were questions in several areas. These had to do with the so-called "Popular Church," arms shipments into El Salvador and PLO, Cuban and East German presence in Nicaragua. Representative Studds attempted to establish that the reason Nicaragua was increasing its military forces was because of a similar intensification of Honduran strength. The briefers replied that there is a "chicken and egg" aspect to the conflict. They added that the increase in Nicaraguan military forces is more likely a result of their overall plan to dominate the area. They also pointed out that Nicaragua has overwhelming numerical superiority to Honduras. Representative Studds asked if the United States were involved in a covert way in the area, whether the analyst present would know about it. The response was that we had no evidence of such action. There were no follow-up items. [redacted]

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House Liaison

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