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THE WHITE HOUSE

SENSITIVE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1983

Executive Registry

83-5971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ,
The Secretary of StateTHE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of DefenseTHE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
Director of Central IntelligenceGENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of StaffSUBJECT: Central America--Portents of Potential
Increased Terrorist Violence, Including
Against US Targets (S)

This memorandum is intended to request that you give special attention to the possibility that communist guerrilla and terrorist groups in Central America will become increasingly active in the next weeks, including against US targets. This may be suggested by the following:

- Last week Fidel Castro sent a message to us through the Swiss Ambassador in Cuba which restated his contention that Cuban international subversion is "not negotiable", repeated his support for the Contadora process (but not necessarily the Contadora objectives--including democratization), and, told us that many Cuban civilian personnel in Nicaragua would be replaced by individuals with military training who could "defend themselves" (this may suggest a covert increase in the Cuban military strength there).
- In El Salvador, guerrillas are seeking information on the location of US advisors; there may also be additional risks because of our attempts to bring an end to the activities of the violent right.

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NSC review completed.

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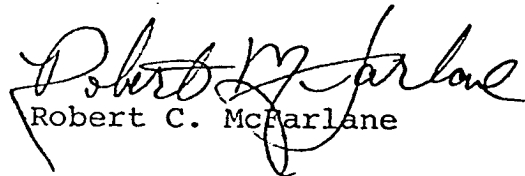
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- In Guatemala, we have reports [redacted] 25X1
that the guerrillas plan more urban terrorism and
intend to attack the US Embassy and the main US Marine
Guard residence.
- The number of US personnel in Honduras has increased
sharply with the current military exercises, and this
means additional opportunities for communist
terrorists. We have reports that Nicaraguan commandos
are preparing some unspecified attacks against US
personnel.
- [redacted] about 1,000 rifles are 25X1
being sent into Costa Rica to the extreme left groups
there. If true, possible targets could include US
personnel as occurred in the spring of 1981.(S)

These reports may not be followed by dramatic action. However,
it is also logical that the Cuban and communist guerrilla
leadership may seek to undermine US political support for our
efforts in Central America by using roughly simultaneous
terrorist attacks against US personnel throughout Central America
during the Christmas-New Year season or in the first weeks of
1984. Therefore, I request that you task your organizations to
take precautionary measures and to collect and summarize relevant
data to be provided to the Director of Central Intelligence who is requested
to provide a threat assessment due the week of
December 19, 1983.(S)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:


Robert C. McFarlane

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