

SECRET

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

29 DEC 1982

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh Montgomery
 Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research
 Department of State

FROM: Henry S. Rowen
 Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Your Request (13 December 1982) for a
 Special National Intelligence Estimate on Nicaragua

1. As you know, we have just completed an NFIB-approved Special National Intelligence Estimate

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2. The National Intelligence Officer for Latin America and his colleagues here at CIA believe that the most salient question of interest to State - namely, the survivability of the Nicaraguan regime -- has been addressed in that Estimate. You will recall the judgment that "The anti-Sandinista forces . . . despite their increased activity, . . . are unlikely to be capable of successful attacks on major Nicaraguan units for the period of this Estimate" (paragraph 16, page 9). This, of course, also means they would not seriously threaten Sandinista control.

3. I would also note, in addition, the State ARA official with a direct interest in the new Estimate told the NIO/LA he had not yet read the previous one when making this request. My suggestion, given the combat between the Nicaraguan government and the anti-Sandinista forces now occurring daily, we would be in a better position to reconsider the above judgment in several weeks and would be pleased to reexamine the value of a SNIE on this topic at this time.

Henry S. Rowen
 for Henry S. Rowen

State Dept. review completed

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SUBJECT: Your Request (13 December 1982) for a Special National
Intelligence Estimate on Nicaragua

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH
WASHINGTON

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(Copied to NIO/LA)
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December 13, 1982

TO : CIA - Mr. Henry Rowen
Chairman, National
Intelligence Council

FROM : INR - Hugh Montgomery

SUBJECT: Request for SNIE on Nicaragua

The Bureau of Inter-American Affairs has requested a Special National Intelligence Estimate on the situation in Nicaragua for the next six months. The assessment should include an evaluation of the Sandinista military's counter-insurgency capabilities.

ARA has asked that the assessment include "an analysis of regime survivability under various forms of pressure: political, economic, and paramilitary." ARA would like the SNIE completed in two weeks.

Our analysts are, of course, ready to assist your staff in preparing the estimate. //

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