

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During testimony before your Committee on 27 March, the suggestion of Catholic Church opposition to the Nicaraguan armed resistance forces surfaced. I thought you might find the enclosed translation of a statement by His Excellency Obando y Bravo, Archbishop of Managua, of interest. The Archbishop reaches the conclusion that nonviolent methods of social change have no possibility of working in Nicaragua because the necessary freedom does not exist. In addition, he states that "violence is not Christian but when all other means are exhausted, one may turn to violence."

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosure