

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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VIA LDX

November 19, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CHARLES HILL
Executive Secretary
Department of State

COLONEL R. J. AFFOURTIT
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

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SUBJECT: Talking Points on US Policy in Nicaragua

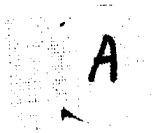
Attached are proposed talking points for use by Administration officials when discussing Nicaragua in public or with members of the press. We would appreciate receiving your comments/clearance by COB, Tuesday, November 20.

Thank you.


Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary

Attachment

TAB A Proposed Talking Points



The US and Nicaragua -- Talking Points

- Nicaragua has been expanding its military forces since the autumn of 1979 from 10,000 to about 119,000; in recent months and weeks there has been an increased pace which since June has included:
 - expansion in mobilized forces by 12,000; 50 additional tanks plus an additional 75 armored vehicles; and, the addition of 13 helicopters including at least 5 of the large Soviet MI-24 helicopter gun ships
- Problems in the region stem from this surge in the military expansion, along with Nicaragua's continued support for the marxist-leninist guerrillas attacking neighboring countries and the false non-democratic elections held on November 4 where Sandinista persecution prevented the genuinely democratic opposition from participating.
- The Sandinista regime is following the historical example set by Castro in Cuba--they promise democracy but create a totalitarian state; they use Soviet bloc and Cuban help and personnel to attack their neighbors through subversion and to build a military apparatus far larger than ever seen in the region;
- US policy in Central America continues to include four elements pursued simultaneously: support for democracy; economic aid to improve living conditions; active diplomacy and security assistance to friendly governments.
- With Nicaragua the US has maintained a continuing dialogue through our embassy, through a series of bilateral discussions which continue and through the Special Presidential Envoys who have made more than 28 trips to the region in the last two years to support the Contadora objectives and negotiating process.
- We continue to support the efforts of the regional countries to produce a Contadora treaty which will simultaneously accomplish the 21 agreed-upon objectives with effective verification including:
 - the implementation of democracy in Nicaragua as promised the OAS in 1979;
 - the reduction of the Nicaraguan military forces to parity with its neighbors;
 - the end to paramilitary operations across borders;
 - the removal of the 11,500 person Cuban/Soviet bloc presence;
- While the US has supported negotiation, the Soviets have moved additional arms into Nicaragua to help their client intimidate its neighbors and "cut a better deal" in the Contadora talks. These actions seriously hamper the Contadora process.
- Speculation in the press about other measures or ideas about ways to deal with Nicaragua have no official standing.

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9	Chm/NIC				
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11	IG				
12	Compt		X		
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OLL		X		
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Remarks

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