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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

12 April 1985

The Honorable Michael D. Barnes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 1985 inviting me to appear before the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs on 17 April to discuss United States policy toward Nicaragua.

My staff informs me that the Subcommittee was briefed on 4 March of this year by my National Intelligence Officer for Latin America and the Director of African and Latin American Analysis in the Directorate of Intelligence. I understand that their briefing addressed the degree of Nicaraguan government support to anti-government forces in El Salvador and other Central American countries as well as the military significance of such support. I would be happy to make them available to answer your further questions at any mutually agreeable time. I am sure you understand that much of the information on these topics is highly classified and would have to be provided in a closed session.

With regard to your other questions concerning the goals of U.S. policy in Central America and the need for U.S. assistance, I must respectfully refer you to the Department of State which has the principal responsibility within the U.S. Government for formulating such policies.

If you wish to receive an updated intelligence briefing on Nicaragua, please ask your staff to contact [redacted] in my Office of Legislative Liaison on [redacted]

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence



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