



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC		X		
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/OLL		X		
15	D/PAO				
16	SA/IA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPD/OIS				
19	NIO /LA		X		
20	C/LA/DO		X		
21	C/CATE/DO		X		
22	C/CPN/DO		X		

SUSPENSE _____
Date

Remarks 


 Executive Secretary
 5 Apr 85
 Date

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 4, 1985

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I want to announce today a proposal for peace in Central America that can enable liberty and democracy to prevail in this troubled region and that can protect the security of our own borders, economy and people.

On March 1st in San Jose, Costa Rica, the leaders of the Nicaraguan democratic resistance met with a broad coalition of other exiled Nicaraguan democrats. They agreed upon and signed an historic proposal to restore peace and democracy in their country.

The members of the democratic resistance offered a ceasefire in return for an agreement by the Nicaraguan regime to begin a dialogue, mediated by the Bishops Conference of the Roman Catholic Church, with the goal of restoring democracy through honest elections. To date, the Nicaraguan regime has refused this offer.

The Central American countries, including Nicaragua, have agreed that internal reconciliation is indispensable to regional peace. But we know that unlike President Duarte of El Salvador, who seeks a dialogue with his opponents, the communists in Nicaragua have turned, at least up until now, a cold shoulder to appeals for national reconciliation from the Pope and the Nicaraguan bishops. And, we know that without incentives, none of this will change.

For these reasons, great numbers of Nicaraguans are demanding change and taking up arms to fight for the stolen promise of freedom and democracy. Over 15,000 -- farmers and small merchants, whites, blacks, and Miskito Indians -- have united to struggle for a true democracy.

We supported democracy in Nicaragua before, and we support democracy today. We supported national reconciliation before and we support it today. We believe democracy deserves as much support in Nicaragua as it has received in El Salvador.

We are proud of the help we have given to El Salvador. You may recall that, in 1981, we were told that the communist guerrillas were mounting a final offensive, the government had no chance, and our approach would lead to greater American involvement.

Well, our critics were wrong, democracy and freedom are winning in El Salvador. President Duarte is pulling his country together and enjoys wide support from the people. And all this with America's help kept strictly limited.

The formula that worked in El Salvador -- support for democracy, self-defense, economic development and dialogue -- will work for the entire region. And we could not have accomplished this without bipartisan support in Congress backed up by the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, headed by Henry Kissinger.

That is why, after months of consulting with Congressional leaders and listening carefully to their concerns, I am making the following proposal.

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I am calling upon both sides to lay down their arms and accept the offer of church-mediated talks on internationally supervised elections and an end to the repression now in place against the church, the press and individual rights.

To the members of the democratic resistance, I ask them to extend their offer of a ceasefire until June 1st.

To the Congress, I ask for immediate release of the \$14 million already appropriated. While the ceasefire offer is on the table, I pledge these funds will not be used for arms or munitions. These funds would be used for food, clothing and medicine and other support for survival. The democratic opposition cannot be a partner in negotiations without these basic necessities.

If the Sandinistas accept this peace offer, I will keep my funding restrictions in effect. But peace negotiations must not become a cover for deception and delay. If there is no agreement after 60 days of negotiations, I will lift these restrictions unless both sides ask me not to.

I want to emphasize that, consistent with the 21 goals of the Contadora process, the United States continues to seek:

1. Nicaragua's implementation of its commitment to democracy made to the OAS;
2. An end to Nicaragua's aggression against its neighbors;
3. A removal of the thousands of Soviet Bloc/Cuban, PLO, Libyan and other military and security personnel; and
4. A return of the Nicaraguan military to a level of parity with their neighbors.

Later today I will be meeting with Arturo Cruz, Adolfo Calero, and Alfonso Robelo to discuss my proposal.

Democracy is the road to peace. But if we abandon the brave members of the democratic resistance, we will also remove all constraints on the communists. Democracy can succeed in Central America, but Congress must release the funds that can create incentives for dialogue and peace.

If we provide too little help, our choice will be communist Central America with communist subversion spreading southward and northward. We face the risk that 100 million people from Panama to our open southern border could come under the control of pro-Soviet regimes and threaten the United States with violence, economic chaos, and a human tidal wave of refugees.

Central America is not condemned to that dark future of endless violence. If the United States meets its obligations to help those now striving for democracy, they can create a bright future in which peace for all Americans will be secure. In the spirit of Easter, let us make it so.

I look forward to working with the Congress on this important matter in the coming weeks.

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