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# Nicaragua Photos Shown to Prove Military Buildup

## U.S. Intelligence Officials Offer Spy Plane Pictures To Win Over Skeptics

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WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence officials, in a rare release of secret information, yesterday displayed dozens of reconnaissance photographs to support charges that Nicaragua is engaged in a dangerous military buildup.

The pictures were taken from U.S. spy planes flying over Nicaragua during the past year, Bobby Ray Inman, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said. The pictures, which were shown to reporters at the State Department, seem to show the construction of Cuban-style military bases, the construction and extension of four airfields to handle large jets and the placement of Soviet tanks, trucks and anti-aircraft guns.

The unusual news briefing was just the first in a series of presentations of intelligence information planned this week to support the administration's tough Central American policies.

The CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency have prepared a second briefing that reportedly shows evidence of Nicaraguan support for guerrillas in El Salvador. That presentation is to be made privately today and tomorrow to some former top government officials of both parties and to congressional committees. Reporters will see the presentation Friday, Reagan administration officials said.

The briefings are designed to win over skeptics who contend the administration is exaggerating the military danger from Nicaragua and the extent of Cuban and Nicaraguan support for the guerrilla movement in El Salvador. Intelligence officials, who are reluctant to release such sensitive information, declassified the materials at the urging of the administration.

### Large Military Buildup

"I'm here this afternoon because I'm concerned and because I'm angry," Mr. Inman said as he opened the briefing. He explained that he was concerned because of Nicaragua's military buildup and angry because some Congressmen have demanded to see sensitive intelligence material before believing the administration's claims.

John Hughes, deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said that Nicaragua's military forces have grown to about 70,000 troops. By contrast, he said, Nicaragua had a national guard of about 10,000 troops before Sandinista rebels overthrew a military government there in 1979.

Those forces are organized into 49 active garrisons, 36 more than before the Sandinista takeover, he added.

Moreover, the officials charged that the rapid construction of military facilities shows that Nicaragua plans to continue expanding its armed forces. Mr. Inman predicted that Nicaragua eventually will build a standing army of 25,000 to 30,000 troops and a militia of an additional 100,000 to 150,000 members.

The officials charged that the army is becoming so large and well-equipped that it doesn't appear intended for defensive purposes alone. U.S. analysts fear that Nicaragua may use the army to forcibly spread revolution in Central America or to intimidate its neighbors into accepting leftist governments.

To house its army, Mr. Hughes charged, Nicaragua is building a series of military installations and refurbishing existing ones. The new facilities are being built with precisely the same layout as Cuban bases, Mr. Hughes charged, showing photographs of Cuban bases that appeared similar to support his contention.

### Soviet Guns Shown

The photos also show that the Nicaraguan facilities, like Cuba's, are guarded by Soviet anti-aircraft guns, Mr. Hughes said. He added that Nicaragua's troops also have received other Soviet-made equipment in the past few months, including 25 tanks, 12 large howitzers, two helicopters, 12 armored personnel carriers and amphibious vehicles to carry the heavy equipment.

The U.S. officials said they also expect Nicaragua to receive Soviet-made MIG17 or MIG21 fighter jets in the next few months. They charged that 50 Nicaraguan pilots are in Eastern Europe learning to fly the planes and that four airfields are being expanded so their runways will be long enough to accommodate large MIGs loaded with bombs.

All told, Mr. Hughes said, Nicaragua already has "upset the military balance in Central America." Armies in the region are

that Nicaragua's government has launched a campaign to drive out the Indians, who have frequently criticized the leftist Sandinista government.

Some administration officials said that the next briefing, on Nicaraguan support for guerrillas in El Salvador, doesn't contain as much hard evidence as yesterday's. They explained that it is impossible to get aerial photos of the covert arms shipments the U.S. claims are coming from Nicaragua. Instead, the U.S. has gathered such evidence as small arms caches that have been uncovered and intercepted radio messages that show the cooperation between Nicaraguan groups and the Salvadoran rebels.