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US-EL SALVADOR EVIDENCE (TOPS M045)

BY BARRY SCHNEID

WASHINGTON (AP) -- TWO HIGH U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS MADE RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS PUBLIC TODAY IN SUPPORT OF REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ALLEGATIONS THAT NICARAGUA HAS EMERGED IN A MAJOR MILITARY BUILDUP THAT THREATENS ITS CENTRAL-AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. JOHN HUGHES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, SAID THE NICARAGUAN BUILDUP, WHICH HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, FAR EXCEEDS ANYTHING NICARAGUA NEEDS FOR ITS OWN DEFENSES.

"WE BELIEVE THIS HAS ALREADY UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA," HUGHES SAID.

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION LEFT FOR LATER IN THE WEEK THE LONG-AWAITED RELEASE OF EVIDENCE IT SAYS WILL DOCUMENT ITS ACCUSATIONS THAT THE INSURGENCY IN EL SALVADOR IS BEING DIRECTED AND CONTROLLED FROM NICARAGUA AND CUBA.

ADM. BOBBY INMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, TOLD REPORTERS THAT A NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAD LIED IN DECLARING IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK THAT THE NICARAGUAN ARMY IS NO LARGER NOW THAN IT WAS UNDER THE OUSTED REGIME OF ANASTASIO SOMOZA TWO YEARS AGO.

"HE LIED DIRECTLY AND NO ONE SEEMED TO CHALLENGE THAT PROCESS ..."

INMAN SAID AT A BRIEFING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

INMAN ALSO SAID "I'M ANGRY" BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HAVE BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT INFORMATION PRESENTED SO FAR ON THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THERE WAS NOTHING ESSENTIALLY NEW IN THE INFORMATION PRESENTED BY INMAN AND HUGHES, WHO INMAN SAID WAS THE "PREMIER" INTERPRETER OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS GATHERED BY THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

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