

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-10

WASHINGTON POST
15 September 1985

STAT

STAT

Meese Assails Nicaragua

Nation Termed 'a Terrorist Country Club'

United Press International

Attorney General Edwin Meese III said yesterday that Nicaragua is becoming a "country club" for terrorists worldwide.

Meese said the Sandinista government has offered refuge to members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Basque ETA, the Irish Republican Army and West Germany's Baader-Meinhoff gang. He repeated charges by Italy that Nicaragua is harboring Red Brigade terrorists.

"The evidence further indicates that Nicaragua is fast becoming a terrorist country club, offering ref-

uge" to members of those terrorist groups, Meese said.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the International Association of Jurists, Meese said, "The sad reality is that terrorist groups in Africa, in the Middle East, in Europe and in Central America are in common cause against Western society."

[In a statement, the Nicaraguan Embassy denied Meese's charges.

"Outright falsehoods, distortions and misrepresentations are no substitute for a serious policy," the statement said. "If the U.S. has any evidence of any aggressive act by Nicaragua, the administration should take it to the World Court.

["The fact that the U.S. is boycotting the court is indisputable proof that the U.S. has no evidence to support the charges it is making against Nicaragua. Whereas Nicaragua does have evidence to prove that the U.S. administration is financing and directing terrorism against the Nicaraguan people through its support for the contras."]

Meese's comments came a day after the State Department charged Nicaragua with engaging in "massive armed intervention" of its neighboring states and using a case against the United States in the World Court as propoganda.

Nicaragua's complaint charges the United States' support for the contra rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government represents "state terrorism" and violates international law.