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# White House Aid to Nicaraguan Rebels Reportedly Worried C.I.A.

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 — The National Security Council's direct involvement with the Nicaraguan rebels in the last year caused "some disquiet" among Central Intelligence Agency officials who feared the activities might be illegal, a senior Administration official said today.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the Director of Central Intelligence, William J. Casey, "hasn't wanted to know some of the things the N.S.C. was doing because of the Boland amendment."

He was referring to legislation originally sponsored by Representative Edward P. Boland, Democrat of Massachusetts, that restricted or prohibited direct American aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. The legislation expired Thursday.

A White House spokesman, Edward P. Djerejian, in a reference to the anti-Sandinista rebels, said today that "our relationship with the democratic resistance is conducted entirely within the letter and the spirit of the law."

Administration officials have acknowledged that in the last year, after Congress prohibited direct American aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, officers of the National Security Council were involved in the rebels' operations.

## Reagan Defends Arrangement

On Thursday, President Reagan said the arrangement did not break any law, and some members of Congress who oppose the council's involvement

with the rebels said they did not believe it was illegal.

Mr. Djerejian said the involvement with the rebels included "urging them to take all proper care of civilians and prisoners of war, giving advice on human rights matters" and "assuring that their conduct of the war must be part and parcel of their policy of establishing a democracy in Nicaragua."

It was reported this week that the council had provided direct military advice to the rebels and help in raising funds from private sources.

A senior White House official said, "We're not in the trenches giving tactical advice to the democratic resistance."

But in an interview, another senior White House official who has intimate knowledge of the National Security Council activities said the officer in charge of the program had detailed knowledge of how and where the rebels bought their weapons.

## Details of Arms Purchases

The official said that the rebels bought most of their small arms, including AK-47 automatic rifles made in Poland and Bulgaria, at weapons markets in Belgium, France or West Germany, and that they have bought Soviet-made SA-7 surface-to-air missiles "by the dozens" in recent months.

The White House official also said the National Security Council knew that the rebels had taken delivery of the arms in Honduras and Costa Rica. The use of those countries for such deliveries has made their Governments "nervous," the official said.

The National Security Council officer has made frequent trips to rebel camps and other locations in Central America, the senior Administration official said, "and he always has his own Government airplane."

"That's very unusual," the official added, "unless you are a Cabinet secretary."

He said some at the C.I.A. worried that the National Security Council had at times "stepped over the line."

## 'Some Grumbling' at C.I.A.

An intelligence official said there was "some grumbling" at the C.I.A. about the council's activities. "Some people didn't like it," he said, but he declined to elaborate.

In October, the C.I.A. issued a directive prohibiting agency employees from contact or involvement with the Nicaraguan rebels. But as part of his work with the rebels, the National Security Council officer was in frequent contact with the C.I.A., Administration officials said.

The concern over the legality of the National Security Council program involves the so-called Boland amendment limiting or prohibiting American involvement with the rebels. The first such legislation, sponsored by Mr. Boland, was approved in 1982. Subsequent measures with similar restrictions, although sponsored by other legislators, have continued to be known by Mr. Boland's name.

The limitation in effect since last year ended Thursday, when President Reagan signed a foreign aid bill providing \$27 million in nonmilitary aid to the rebels. Any agency except the C.I.A. and the Defense Department may now be legally involved with the rebels. Intelligence and Defense Department officers are allowed to offer help, but only as consultants to other United States Government officers.

When it was in effect, the previous law said: "No funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended" to support, "directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua."

Mr. Djerejian said today that "during the period where no resources were provided by Congress, there was obviously no disposition of Federal funds."

Representative George E. Brown Jr., Democrat of California, a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said he and other committee members had discussed the National Security Council activities but had concluded they could do little about them.

Still, he said, "I am kind of steamed about it because it is avoiding the intent of Congress."

Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence in the Carter Administration, called the council's activities "a devious and disingenuous technique" to skirt the law.

But Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security adviser for President Carter, said: "The N.S.C. is an instrument for enforcing the President's will. I don't have any objections to this."