

MIAMI HERALD  
18 APRIL 1983

12A

# Congress given report detailing Cuban-Nicaraguan aid to rebels

By ALFONSO CHARDY  
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Reagan Administration has quietly given Congress a report containing details designed to show how Cuba and Nicaragua are aiding leftist rebels in El Salvador.

The document reportedly is based on previously classified information gathered in Central America by the CIA. Congressional aides said it contains the most detailed information they have seen recently on administration charges about Nicaraguan and Cuban involvement in the Salvadoran war.

The release of the report apparently is part of the administration's effort to buttress its attempts to deflect growing controversy in Congress over U.S. support for rightist guerrillas fighting Sandinista government forces in Nicaragua.

Despite the details provided in the report, congressional aides said U.S. accusations against Nicaragua and Cuba are not conclusively proven. They noted the report does not contain sources, does not tell how the information was gathered and confirmed, and does not say whether the administration tried to check it with foreign intelligence agencies of allied nations.

The main accusations in the document are that the Nicaraguan government is supplying arms, training and financial aid to the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador, and have allowed them to run their war for two years from a command center in the Nicaraguan capital, staffed by Nicaraguan and Cuban advisers along with Salvadorans.

The document was attached to prepared testimony delivered last week to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House For-

ign Affairs Committee by Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

The report said arms and ammunition destined for clandestine delivery to El Salvador reach Nicaragua by ship and by direct flights from Cuba. It said the weapons then remain stockpiled near Managua until it is time to ship them to El Salvador.

The Sandinistas, according to the report, "use a variety of routes, overland, air drop and sea, to furnish arms, and, increasingly, vitally needed ammunition."

Arms supplied in 1982 included "increased quantities of heavier weapons" such as M60 machine guns, M79 grenade launchers and M72 antitank weapons, the report said.

It said that two overland shipments from Nicaragua through Honduras discovered in 1981 contained weapons originally shipped to American combat units in Vietnam, and that a captured Salvadoran guerrilla leader, identified only as Lopez-Arriola, "confirmed" that the Sandinistas control weapons delivered from Vietnam to Nicaragua for the Salvadoran insurgents.

Another Salvadoran guerrilla, identified in the report as Alejandro Montenegro, allegedly captured last August during a raid on a guerrilla safehouse in Honduras, "confirmed that Nicaragua remains the primary source of insurgent weapons and ammunition" for the Salvadorans, the report said.

"One of the guerrillas captured with Montenegro had made five trips to Managua in 1982 to pick up arms," the document said.

In his testimony, Enders acknowledged reports that some Sal-

vadoran government soldiers or officers at times do sell some of their U.S.-supplied weapons and bullets to guerrilla contacts.

Since mid-1980, Salvadoran guerrillas have trained in Nicaragua and Cuba "in military tactics, weapons and explosives" and Cubans "and other foreign agents" are involved, the report said.

It said a Salvadoran guerrilla who defected to Honduras in September 1981 reported that he and 12 others went from Nicaragua to Cuba for extensive military training in the Caribbean island, where "over 900 Salvadorans were receiving training."

The report went on to say that "several terrorists captured in a safehouse in [the Honduran capital of] Tegucigalpa in November 1981 told authorities that the Nicaraguan government had provided them with funds for travel and explosives."

In a statement released Thursday, the State Department said that based on the latest intelligence reports the arms flow from Nicaragua to El Salvador has dropped over the past month.

In separate developments:

- Guerrillas fighting to topple the Nicaraguan government claimed they shot down a Sandinista air force plane piloted by a Canadian. They also reported killing 90 government soldiers in an ambush near Santa Rosa, 105 miles northwest of Managua. Neither report could be independently confirmed.

- Two Honduran coast guard ships violated Nicaragua's territorial waters in an attack on a Nicaraguan patrol boat that wounded four soldiers, Managua charged.