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August 13, 1986

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Bill

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE ~~WILLIAM J. CASEY~~
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Central American Public Diplomacy (U)

I have looked into the question of our overall public diplomacy effort concerning Central America. A great deal of hard and effective work is being done. It is clear we would not have won the House vote without the painstaking deliberative effort undertaken by many people in the government and outside. (S)

The departure of Otto Reich has not resulted in any reduction of effort. His public diplomacy coordination office (LPD) has continued. Although the independent office was folded into Elliott Abrams' bureau, the White House has sent a clear tasker to the community that this limited reorganization in no way reflected a diminution of activities. On the contrary, the same interagency responsibilities are being exercised, and the group reports directly to the NSC. It continues to be one of the few offices in the government that is staffed by a truly interagency team, including representatives from State, USIA, AID, and Defense. The office chief is Bob Kagan, who is a young, bright and effective operator. In reality, the reorganization also means that Elliott Abrams plays a strong public diplomacy role, and in this way we have harnessed one of the best public diplomacy assets that we have in the government. (S)

There is a weekly Central American public diplomacy meeting which takes place in the Old EOB, chaired by Walt Raymond, and which includes not only the four organizations noted above but also the White House Press Office and Public Liaison Office, a representative from CIA's Central American Task Force, and key NSC Staffers. This group takes its policy guidance from the Central American RIG and pursues an energetic political and informational agenda. The group seeks to focus both on domestic public issues as well as the informational battle in Europe and Latin America. It generates requirements for major publication efforts. I will have the NSC Staff send you a package of some of the more recent publications. The group also works closely with the concerned legislative offices to be supportive in terms of the Congress-

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2

sional debate and in a practical way it deals with a number of on-going daily issues. As an example, issues the group dealt with last week included:

- Steps to undertake EC support to Nicaragua;
- Trips of U.S. and/or foreign persons to Nicaragua for the purpose of providing moral support to the internal opposition and greater foreign awareness of developments in Nicaragua;
- Development of programs to publicize religious repression in Nicaragua;
- Support to the internal Nicaraguan opposition, including the Coordinadora and La Prensa;
- Steps to strengthen the El Salvador public diplomacy effort. (S)

There is a comprehensive public diplomacy action plan for Latin America in Europe, and I am attaching a copy for you. This plan is monitored very actively by the LPD office, and periodic reports of activity are provided to the NSC. (S)

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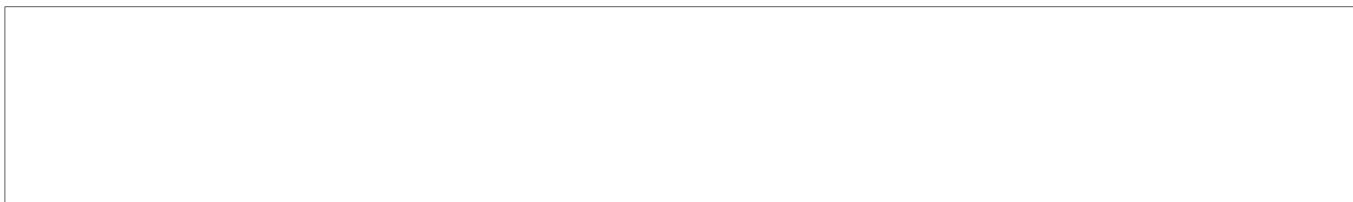
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John
John M. Poindexter

Attachments

Tab A Public Diplomacy Planning

cc:

Shultz
Wenderson

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