

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
30 April 1986

EX-CIA AGENT REJECTS ARMS FLOW
NEW HAVEN, CT

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A former CIA agent assigned to document the flow of arms from Nicaragua to El Salvador says he was released from the agency after publicly revealing he found no evidence of such supply lines.

David Macmichael, who served with the CIA for two years beginning in March 1981, said the area is too closely watched by the United States for Nicaraguans to attempt smuggling arms into El Salvador.

"If you were going to be sending arms in to El Salvador, the last place in Central America you'd be sending them from is Nicaragua, because there is no place that is more heavily surveilled by the United States than Nicaragua," Macmichael said in an interview prior to addressing a church group Wednesday.

Macmichael, who is currently a senior research fellow at the Council of Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, said his visit to Connecticut is part of tour he is making throughout the United States to discuss U.S. involvement in Central America.

Macmichael said his two-year contract to work for the CIA was not renewed after he began publicly contradicting Reagan administration assertions that the rebels in El Salvador were being supplied with arms by the Soviet Union through the Nicaraguan government.

Evidence gathered by the CIA instead shows only a small arms flow which is believed to be coming mostly from about 20,000 Salvadoran refugees who live in Nicaragua and support the FMLN rebels in El Salvador, he said.

"To me, it is just as likely that these people, because they support the FMLN, find ways to get things to their friends and relations as it is that Irish people living in Boston or some of the other east coast cities here do find ways to get loads of arms over to the IRA," he said.