

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 4-ABALTIMORE SUN  
17 September 1985

WORLD

# Ex-agent denies CIA could tie arms to Managua

By Robert Ruby  
Sun Staff Correspondent

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A former Central Intelligence Agency analyst yesterday told the World Court he believed that the agency had not found strong evidence since early 1981 of Nicaraguan arms shipments to rebel groups in El Salvador.

Such alleged arms shipments have been a major part of the Reagan administration's arguments to the U.S. Congress in support of aid to Nicaraguan "contra" guerrillas and of its portrait of other Central American governments as feeling threatened by Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas.

Testifying on behalf of Nicaragua, David Macmichael, a CIA senior estimates officer from 1981 to 1983, said he saw evidence of arms shipments taking place from 1980 to early 1981. But he said neither aerial photography nor other intelligence-gathering means had turned up any signs of later shipments.

"I don't believe that such a traffic goes on now, nor has it gone on for the past four years," Mr. Macmichael said. "No credible, substantial evidence of such an arms flow existed while I was examining it."

As for the information that was supplied to Congress to persuade it to give money to the contras, Mr. Macmichael said that it included stories from Central American newspapers about atrocities in arms supplies, but that the stories had been planted by the CIA.

Mr. Macmichael, 57, was speaking during a third day of hearings at the International Court of Justice on Nicaraguan charges that the United States is conducting paramilitary activities against Nicaragua in viola-

tion of international law as well as of the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The United States last year failed to convince the court that it did not have authority to hear the case. In January, the Reagan administration announced a boycott of the proceedings, but that has not prevented the 14-judge panel from hearing evidence from Nicaragua.



David Macmichael gives testimony before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Mr. Macmichael was a star witness because his testimony supported Nicaragua's central theme: that it is a victim of aggression by the United States rather than an instigator of it against El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras.

Mr. Macmichael testified that he worked for the CIA from March 1981 to April 1983 as an analyst reporting to the senior policy panel on Latin American affairs. He said that he had knowledge of U.S. intelligence methods in the region and that he had access to day-to-day discoveries.

Mr. Macmichael said no documentation proving a link during that period between Nicaragua and arms supplies for rebels in El Salvador existed. "The studies and analysis about the supplies to counterinsurgency forces weren't there," he said. "If they had been commissioned, I believe I would have known about it."

Evidence of arms shipments, he said, was "very scant. I would say

much of it is unreliable. Some of it is suspect, and I think some of it has been presented in a misleading way."

Judge Stephen N. Schwebel, the only American among the judges, questioned Mr. Macmichael for 40 minutes about accounts in U.S. newspapers reporting evidence of Nicaraguan involvement in El Salvador.

In answering, Mr. Macmichael said that he would "rule in rather than rule out" the likelihood of Nicaragua's having shipped arms to rebels in El Salvador during parts of 1980 and 1981, but he added that the United States continued to say that shipments were taking place when there was no evidence of them.

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