CUBA-NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR:

Arms to the FMLN

The Cuban Government reportedly plans to give the Salvadoran insurgents more arms including SA-7s, minimizing Managua's involvement as the Nicaraguan election approaches.

Havana's reported agreement to increase deliveries of SA-7s and other weapons implicates Cuba in past deliveries, possibly including the missiles found in the air crash late last month. Cuba and the Salvadoran rebels probably can choose from a number of other—but more difficult—supply routes. The FMLN already obtains logistic support through Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala

Any sizable increase in deliveries almost certainly would require use of Nicaraguan territory and facilities, but Managua probably will avoid firsthand involvement for now. The Sandinistas are not likely to abandon their long-term commitment to the FMLN