

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

~~2003~~

28 April 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: J. J.

SUBJECT: Guidance for Negotiation of Arms Purchase by Nicaragua
from the Dominican Republic

1. At an opportune moment in your discussions with Pancho, request you initiate a discussion of the possibility of purchasing arms from the Dominican Republic in order to augment the emergency reserve of the Junta. You might in this connection indicate that the group has found it very difficult to obtain additional arms, and that although a sizable amount has been set aside for reserve, still it is considered very pertinent to increase this amount at the earliest possible date, and that the most likely source with least difficulty would be the Dominican Republic. As a corollary to impress upon Pancho the desirability for additional arms, you might indicate that the continued support of [] to this program is of vital concern to all of us, and in particular point out that he is currently having his own troubles in his backyard, and unless he is able to cope with these problems, it might interfere with our plans. Thus you will have two reasons for initiating discussion regarding Dominican arms.

2. In very general terms it is desired that you explore the following means of accomplishing the above:

A. It is known that Pancho is a personal friend and confidante of the ambassadors from both Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. Thus if Pancho were to approach the Nicaraguan ambassador and tell him that he is so appreciative of [] support, and is also at the same time slightly concerned about his own arms reserve, that perhaps a deal could be made which would satisfy both problems.

B. Pancho would specifically request the Nicaraguan ambassador to request authority from President Somoza for him to negotiate with the Dominican Republic's ambassador in Tegucigalpa for the immediate procurement of [] worth of automatic weapons and necessary ammunition from the Dominican Republic, to be delivered by air by the Dominican Republic.

C. The Nicaraguan ambassador will inform Somoza of the reasons and will indicate that the only stipulation that Pancho places on the deal is that he be permitted to draw upon the arms in case of an extreme emergency and/or he be permitted to make a suitable substitution of arms under conditions agreeable to both Pancho and Somoza.

D. If Somoza authorizes the Nicaraguan ambassador to negotiate

with the Dominican Republic's ambassador for the purchase, Pancho would agree to cash payment in advance plus cost of air delivery on the condition that the Dominican Republic guarantee delivery of these arms within twenty days in Nicaragua.

E. The type of arms manufactured by the Dominican Republic not being known to us and of little consequence as to the objective of this negotiation, will be confined to the nomenclature automatic weapons only. Avoid haggling over prices, but as a straight business proposition, urge the Dominican ambassador to make clear to President Trujillo the ultimate purpose of these arms and trust in his generosity and dedication to the cause to see that a fair price is established.

3. During the course of this discussion and subsequent negotiations, endeavor to explore the possibilities of additional support from President Trujillo for the Junta's cause, and make certain that the group is kept fully informed step by step particularly of any possible offside of the above specific transaction. You are hereby authorized to draw from your local funding source [] plus shipping charges for this transaction if and when in your judgment you are satisfied that the deal is properly and securely arranged. You are reminded of the importance of time, and urged that this deal be effected soonest.