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X6140A

14 July 1987

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Morris Busby to Use with SecState

-- Resistance directors met in Miami with the Chief of the CIA's Central American Task Force and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Abrams. This was the first meeting of all six directors with U.S. Government representatives. Despite their differences, the Resistance have entered a new phase of productivity. The directors described their plans with regard to the Resistance's political programs for the next 90 days, and minor differences of opinions emerged regarding the most useful focus. All agreed that Europe should have the lowest priority of concentration. Resistance directors also assigned less priority to South America than was originally suggested by U.S. Government representatives. The directors were persuasive in their reasoning, but a compromise agreement was reached to assign higher priority to Argentina, due to concerns about Sandinista efforts to gain support of the Argentine government.

-- [REDACTED] vigorously protesting the poor treatment that a Venezuelan television crew received at the hands of Costa Rican authorities when the crew attempted to film Southern Front Nicaraguan Resistance activities.

-- Combat activity was moderate last week with the focus of action largely in the 1st and 6th Military Regions.

-- Sabotage activity for June was at its highest level yet in the war, with Resistance forces also continuing skirmishes and ambushes as well as occasional attacks, when circumstances are favorable, against Sandinista garrisons and forces.

-- In fighting in late June, the Resistance reported it killed 20 Sandinistas--including the chief of the DGSE in the 5th Military Region--in an ambush.

-- The U.S. Defense Attache reports that electrical power in the Rama area recently was out for three days as the result of electrical poles being destroyed in the Muelle de los Bueyes area and that persistent power surges caused by sabotage actions are causing serious damage.

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-- The Nicaraguan Resistance Army/North (ERN/North) currently has an overall strength of 15,947 personnel, of which 11,842 are inside Nicaragua.

-- Most of the remainder are at or near Yamales, or in the San Andres de Bocay area, where the ERN Strategic Command headquarters is being relocated.

-- The ERN/Atlantic, consisting of a total of 1,130 fighters, had as of late June 650 combatants inside Nicaragua, 270 along the Honduran border, and 210 at the Honduran base camp.

-- Resupply to ERN/Atlantic troops inside Nicaragua is via maritime sorties from Honduras.

-- ERN/Atlantic leaders plan to infiltrate more fighters into Nicaragua and to increase the level of internal resupply in order to increase active operations against the Sandinistas.

-- The ERN/South has a troop strength of approximately 3,000.

-- According to a member of the ERN/South who returned from a tour of operations' theaters in southern Nicaragua in early July, combatants were better equipped with basic weapons, but still lacked support weapons such as anti-aircraft missiles.

-- (Six SA-7 missiles will be delivered to the ERN/South for use by its SA-7 qualified gunners; ERN/South personnel have not yet received Redeye training.)

-- According to reporting, on 9 July ERN/South leaders finalized restructuring of their leadership infrastructure and of the San Jose-based support staff, and a Strategic Command Staff has been created to coordinate, direct, and enforce ERN/South military objectives and directives.

-- Sensitive information indicates heavy fighting in the San Andres de Bocay area in early July. Several Sandinista helicopters were noted in the area evacuating casualties and providing some fire support. The commander of the 6th Military Region, LTC Salvatierra, reportedly indicated on 3 July that the situation was worsening and that reinforcements might have to be brought up by helicopter.

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-- The Sandinista military continues to be plagued by various problems and shortages. [redacted]

[redacted] late June, helicopter pilots in the 5th Military region were complaining of fuel shortages. In addition, units in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 6th Military regions indicated supply shortages, specifically in the areas of fuel, food, and water.

-- [redacted] all unconventional warfare battalions (BLIs) will receive new communications gear--walkie-talkies and new telephone switchboards--in an effort to improve their coordination with each other and with the Air Force.



-- The Sandinistas have started a new propaganda and civic action campaign in southern Nicaragua aimed at undermining support for ERN/South. For example, the Sandinistas are now relying primarily on providing medical assistance to the needy and no longer make unpopular demands on the local populace for food, etc.

-- During the period, four aerial resupply missions were flown, delivering 14,294 pounds of supplies to Resistance forces in Nicaragua. To date, 168 resupply missions have been flown, delivering a total of 803,055 pounds (401.5 Tons) of combat supplies and equipment.



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