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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 3, 1982, 1100 a.m., Situation Room, WW White House

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Program;
Central American Update

E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4c

PARTICIPANTS:

The President
The Vice President

State
Secretary George P. Shultz
Mr. Hugh Montgomery

OSD
Deputy Secretary Frank C. Carlucci

Justice
Deputy Attorney General Edward C. Schmults

OMB
Dr. Alton Keel

CIA
Mr. William J. Casey
Mr. Duane Clarridge (Central American briefer)

JCS
General John W. Vessey, Jr.

White House
Mr. Edwin Meese III
Mr. James A. Baker III
Judge William P. Clark
Mr. Robert C. McFarlane

NSC
Mr. Walter Raymond, Jr.
Dr. Richard Pipes [REDACTED]

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E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4c, 1.4d

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DECLASSIFIED IN PART
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By amf, NARA, Date 10/26/05

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Duane Clarridge, CIA, provided a detailed update of the status of the CIA Central American program.

-- He noted his recent trip to [redacted] review the operation. The Latinos urged a step up in the timetable so that maximum pressure can be placed on the Nicaraguans by July 1983.

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-- Clarridge described considerable progress in unifying the opposition. He noted that UNICA is an umbrella group in Venezuela. He added that there were several dimensions which had to be woven together. Eden Pastora and company are in

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Costa Rica. Estaban Gonzales is in Venezuela. And the major operating group FDN is in Honduras. He believes that Pastora will agree to work with the FDN as soon as two members of the FDN are dropped. Clarridge said this political change would take place in the next few days. Reconciliation with the FDN and an approved working relationship with the Hondurans should permit Pastora to open a base area in west Honduras from which he can proceed to establish a presence in western Nicaragua. Until such time Pastora continues to operate from Costa Rica. He has two small columns in south Nicaragua at this time.

-- The key new development in the military area, Clarridge reported, is the move of all Spanish-speaking camps into Nicaragua and out of Honduras. This was completed on November 2. Further, there will be a 30 km no fire zone in Nicaragua, south of the Honduran border.

-- Clarridge described the Moskito situation. Supplies are enroute and after an agreement is reached between the Estado Mayor and the FDN and the Moskitos they will move into Nicaragua.

-- Clarridge added that the Panamanians had provided a logistic and training base in northeast Panama for use by all Nicaraguan elements.

-- In summarizing covert military strategy, Clarridge anticipates within a relatively short period of time that the Moskitos will have comparatively free rein throughout the under populated eastern portion of Nicaragua, that two columns of Pastora elements will have moved into Nicaragua from the south and 1200 Nicaraguans who had been in the Honduran camps will be operating in Nicaragua. He added that the Pastora elements in northern Nicaragua, which he hopes will be positioned and ready to move soon, will be a critical element. This group is small but politically very important as it is hoped that Pastora presence will lead to the defection of both individuals and units to his cause.

At the request of the DCI, Clarridge expanded on the strength of the insurgency. He said 1200 armed insurgents are inside; 200-300 more are being sent out of Nicaragua for training. 4 to 6,000 peasants in the coffee growing area represent potential recruits for the insurgency. There are 1700 Moskitos in Honduras waiting to be armed and when fully deployed we can anticipate that the Moskito troop level will rise to 4800.

The Vice President asked who runs the insurgency? Clarridge responded that major strategy is developed by a trilateral group:

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All field units are in contact with this headquarters group. Any major operation has to be cleared in advance.

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Ed Meese asked for the strength of the Nicaraguan armed forces. Clarridge responded that the armed forces equal the reserve force [REDACTED] and the militia totals [REDACTED]

Ed Meese asked what was "our strength?" Clarridge responded [REDACTED] will be under arms by the end of the month. The DCI noted that the key is if Pastora can generate defections from the Nicaraguan army. Clarridge added that Pastora really does not have a meaningful fighting force yet.

Ed Meese inquired what impact the current insurgent activities have had on the Nicaraguan government? Clarridge noted that the Nicaraguans had moved several battalions into east Nicaragua and there has been some deployment to the north. Although the Nicaraguans have suffered some casualties they do not appear that they want to fight.

James Baker inquired about the number of Cubans in Nicaragua. Clarridge said they were concerned with military and security matters. There are some attached to inorganic elements in the Nicaraguan armed forces.

Ed Meese inquired if there had been any change in the use of Nicaragua as a transit or support location for supplies to the El Salvador insurgency? Clarridge said "No." There does seem to be a change in the method of delivery with less use made of the sea and more use being made of air deliveries.