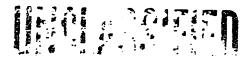
## Na. 2 - Security Council The White House



System. J TT Package #

N 44848

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson			
Sob Kimmitt		K	
John Poindexter			
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	3		
Sob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	4		<u>~</u>
Situation Room		\$\$	
I = Information A = Action	A = Actain	0 = Oispatch No	Re further Action
cc: VP Meese Bak	er Deaver Oth	er	
COMMENTS	Should be seen by:		
			(Date/Time)





Partially Declassified/Released on 22 1987
Under provisions of E.O. 12356
by 3. Reger, National Security Council



MEMORANDUM



THE WHITE HOUSE

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

September 2, 1984

:

N 44844

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER MORTH

SUBJECT:

FDN Air Attack of 1 September (U)

Shortly after noon on 1 September, three FDN Cessna O-2 (push-pull) aircraft, launched from the FDN Resistance Base at tacked the Sandinista Military School at Santa Clara, Nicaragua with 2.75in. rockets (see map at Tab A). Accompanying the strike aircraft, for command and control, was a Hughes 500-D helicopter aircraft. Aboard the helicopter was a U.S. private citizen who apparently was killed when the helicopter was downed by Sandinista small arms/AA fire. We have no evidence that SA-7 missiles were fired at any aircraft. (TSL)

This operation was not sponsored/directed by or briefed to any of both last night and this morning, it is evident that the Resistance Forces launched the attack after being goaded by the non-official Americans on-scene at the FDN Headquarters Calero, when he left on Friday, 31 August left instructions that this operation should not be conducted until he had talked to us. At our meetings with Calero on 1 September, both Clarridge and North urged that the operation be postponed because the rockets necessary for the attack had to be saved for potential use against the next arms delivery. Calero agreed, and in discussions with him this morning, indicated that the attack was undertaken without his permission. He has further expressed concerns that the growing presence of "non-official assistants" will increase the likelihood of similar incidents. From a military perspective the loss of the only operating FDN helicopter on the Northern Front is a serious blow. The only remaining to ask a private donor to donate a helicopter to the FDN for use in any upcoming operation against an arms delivery. Me Tie knowledgable that FDN resources are not adequate to purchase a heldTopter at this time. TISL

TOP SECRET
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Calero has information from his sources on the ground that there were no civilians casualties and that other foreign Sandinista advisors (Monteneros (Argentine terrorists) and Chilinos) may also have been killed when rockets struck the instructors' barracks. This information is at variance with the Sandinista press reporting we have already seen (Tab C). (TS)

This afternoon the FDN will announce from the attack was indeed undertaken and that Cubans were killed. A summary of the FDN press statement is at Ta', D. (5)

Given the President's trip this afternoon, there will undoubtedly be numerous questions by the media traveling with the party. We should have no official statement on the event, but a properly worded and used backgrounder could be helpful in emphasizing our need to re-involve the USG in the Resistance effort. Since our briefings to the SSCI and the HPSCI, we have emphasized to members of Congress that the lack of funding creates a situation in which the USG has very little, if any, control over the FDN. A carefully worded press backgrounder could help reap some small benefit from this unfortunate event. Proposed press guidance is attached Tab I. YCL

That you brief the President on this action using the points

## RECOMMENDATIONS

above.

	Approve 77	Disapprove				
2.	) /	of the press statement and guidance Sims.				
	Approve SC13	Disapprove				
3.		hat you approve my approaching a private donor for the rovision of a replacement civilian helicopter for use on he Northern Front.				
	lastore	Diagona 77- 1-1				

Attachments:

Tab I

USG Press Guidance Tab A Map

Tab B

Tab C

Sandinista Press Releases Tab D

FDN Press Statement (Summary)

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