MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: D

SUBJECT: Covert Action Proposal Concerning Central America

1. ACTION REQUESTED: It is requested that you approve the following proposed covert action activity concerning paramilitary activities in Central America for external coordination and subsequent consideration by the National Security Planning Group.

2. INITIATIVE: This proposal is an extension of the 1 December 1981 Presidential finding.

3. POLICY: U.S. policy in Central America is to oppose the immediate and serious threats to Western Hemisphere peace caused by encroachments by the Soviet Union, Cuba, and their surrogates.

4. ACTION PROPOSAL: It is proposed that CIA provide support, equipment and training assistance to Nicaraguan resistance groups as a means

...
to pressure the Sandinistas and Cubans and their allies to cease their support to regional insurgencies; to hamper Cuban/Nicaraguan arms trafficking in the region; and to bring the Sandinistas into meaningful negotiations with their neighbors.

6. BACKGROUND: Central America as a region is strategically important to U.S. national security. There is a dangerous and increasing threat posed by the Soviet Union, Cuba and their surrogates to Central American nations friendly to the U.S., most immediate to El Salvador. This threat takes the form of terrorist and other subversive acts aimed at destabilizing these nations.
9. FINDING: This program is a revision of the 1 December 1961 Presidential Finding on Central America and will require reporting to the Congress pursuant to Section 662 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. The draft Finding and Scope Paper are attached.

Attachments:
Draft Finding & Scope Paper
SUBJECT: Covert Action Proposal Concerning Central America
Submitted dated 9 September 1983

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SUBJECT: Covert Action Proposal Concerning Central America
Submitted by , dated 9 September 1983

CONCUR:

APPROVED FOR RELEASE FOR EXTERNAL COORDINATION:

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 10 SEP 1983