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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEETING WITH COSTA RICAN SECURITY MINISTER BENJAMIN PIZA

DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 1986
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 9:40-9:45 a.m.

FROM: JOHN M. POINDEXTER

I. PURPOSE: Brief photo opportunity with Costa Rican Security Minister Benjamin Piza and his wife, Teresita Pozuelo Piza.

II. BACKGROUND: Security Minister Piza has been highly instrumental in helping us to organize a southern front of opposition to the Sandinistas. He has intervened with President Monge on numerous occasions and has personally assisted in the development of a logistics support base for the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) forces deployed north from Costa Rica. During my trip to Central America, I met with Minister Piza to discuss future plans for the Nicaraguan resistance and support for them through Costa Rica.

Although Minister Piza leaves office on May 8, 1986, when the Arias Government is inaugurated, he will continue to play an important role in Costa Rican politics and diplomacy. As such, he is a key figure in maintaining support for our policies in the region. Your brief meeting and photo provide an opportunity for us to thank him for his assistance.

Brief talking points are attached at Tab A.

III. PARTICIPANTS: The President, Don Regan, John Poindexter, Minister Benjamin Piza and, his wife, Teresita Pozuelo Piza, Joseph Fernandez, and Oliver North.

IV. PRESS PLAN: None.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: Mr. Piza and his wife are escorted into the Oval Office for a photo with you.

Prepared by:
Oliver L. North

Attachment
Tab A - Talking Points

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TALKING POINTS

- I am very pleased to have the opportunity to meet with and your gracious wife.
- I have fond memories of my visit to your lovely country.
- Admiral John Poindexter has told me of your dedication to the cause of democracy in Central America.
- I want you to know, personally, my sincere gratitude for your efforts on behalf on those who struggle for freedom in Nicaragua. I know that you have acted in principle and at considerable personal risk.
- We all hope that this support will continue after May 8 and that the Nicaraguan democratic resistance will be provided with what they need in order to achieve a democratic outcome in their country.

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