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AM-CIA INSERT8THGRAF-WRITETHRU 12-5

(5GRAFINSERT XXX HISTORY"-PICKSUP9THGRAF: COMMITTEE -- BOLAND, MINETA COMMENTS; ALSO FIXING TYPO IN LEAD)

BY ELIOT BRENNER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CIA BROKE THE LAW WITH A GUERRILLA WAR MANUAL FOR NICARAGUAN REBELS, THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE SAID WEDNESDAY, CHASTISING THE SPY AGENCY FOR CONFUSION AND NEGLIGENCE IN ITS PRODUCTION OF THE BOOKLET.

ONE PANEL MEMBER SAID CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY CONFESSED TO "NEGLIGENCE IN MANAGEMENT" DURING A TWO-HOUR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE MANUAL, WHICH CRITICS CHARGE ADVOCATES POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.

A MAJORITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SPY AGENCY WITH THE MANUAL VIOLATED A 1983 BAN ON SPENDING MONEY ON OPERATIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA, IT DID NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE A PRESIDENTIAL BAN ON U.S. PARTICIPATION IN OR PLANNING FOR ASSASSINATIONS.

HOWEVER, A COMMITTEE STATEMENT PROMISED FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SUGGESTED THERE MAY BE EVIDENCE THE CIA TRIED TO FUNNEL AID TO THE REBELS AFTER IT HIT A $24 MILLION SPENDING CEILING CONGRESS IMPOSED ON IT FOR FISCAL 1984.

THE MANUAL, IN A SECTION ON THE "SELECTIVE USE OF VIOLENCE," TOLD HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE TO "NEUTRALIZE" LOCAL OFFICIALS. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED USING CRIMINALS TO HELP CREATE MARTYRS TO THE CAUSE OF THE U.S.-BACKED "CONTRAS," WHO ARE FIGHTING NICARAGUA'S SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT.

"THE ENTIRE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE MANUAL WAS MARKED WITHIN THE AGENCY BY CONFUSION ABOUT WHO HAD AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANUAL," THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT SAID.

"THE INCIDENT OF THE MANUAL ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN TO A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE CIA DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE NICARAGUAN COVERT OPERATION."

THE STATEMENT SAID A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THE MANUAL "REPRESENTS A VIOLATION OF THE BOLAND AMENDMENT (AGAINST SPENDING TAX MONEY TO OVERTHROW THE NICARGAUAN GOVERNMENT)." IT ADDED, HOWEVER, "NEGLIGENCE, NOT INTENT TO VIOLATE THE LAW, MARKED THE MANUAL'S HISTORY."

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EDWARD BOLAND, D-MASS., TOLD REPORTERS THE BOOKLET WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF A 1983 CASEY DECISION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PROGRAM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE TO HELP THE REBELS WIN OVER NICARAGUAN CITIZENS.

THE DECISION CAME AFTER A TRIP INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS BY THE REBELS.

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THE COMMITTEE DID NOT COME DOWN HARD ON CASEY, AND BOLAND TOO WAS GENTLE, SAYING CASEY "WOULD PROBABLY SAY HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ... BUT HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY CONTROL ALL THAT GOES ON WITHIN THE AGENCY."

BOLAND, SAID, HOWEVER, "I FIND IT INCREDIBLE, AS DID ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, THAT NO ONE IN THE FIELD AND NO ONE AT HEADQUARTERS EVER READ THE MANUAL."

REP. NORMAN MINETA, D-CALIF., SAID CASEY ULTIMATELY IS RESPONSIBLE "BUT WHEN YOU HAVE AN AGENCY AS LARGE AS THAT IT'S HARD TO PIN IT DOWN TO ONE SINGLE INDIVIDUAL."

MINETA, WHO LONG HAS CONTENDED CASEY SHOULD QUIT, ALSO SAID HE MAY ASK THE COMMITTEE TO SEEK PROSECUTIONS AT THE CIA BECAUSE OF ITS CONCLUSION THAT THE SPENDING LAW WAS VIOLATED.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REP. WYCHE FOWLER, D-GA., TOLD REPORTERS CASEY "ADMITTED TO NEGLIGENCE IN MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THIS DOCUMENT" AND OFFERED RECOMMENDATIONS TO AVOID REPEATING THE EMBARRASSING INCIDENT, WHICH BROKE INTO THE HEADLINES JUST BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.

FOWLER SAID THE COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND CHANGES TO AVOID WHAT HE TERMED THE "POLITICIZATION OF THE CIA," AND ADDED, "THERE WILL BE SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AGENCY" IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND LATIN AMERICA. HE OFFERED NO DETAILS.

PRESIDENT REAGAN PROMISED DURING HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO FIRE ANYONE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOOKLET BUT THE ONLY PEOPLE PUNISHED WERE SEVERAL MID-LEVEL CIA OFFICIALS, WHO WERE REPRIMANDED OR SUSPENDED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EDITING IT.

THE COMMITTEE SAID ITS PROBE "IDENTIFIED SEVERAL POSSIBLE DEPARTURES FROM THE CIA'S OWN GUIDELINES FOR COMPLYING WITH THE (FISCAL YEAR 1984) CAP ON AID TO THE CONTRAS" AND PROMISED FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THE WORDING SUGGESTED THE PANEL MAY HAVE FOUND THE CIA HELPING THE CONTRAS BY ARRANGING FOR ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF NORMAL AGENCY ACCOUNTS.

THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT SAID THE BOOK WAS "WRITTEN, EDITED, DISTRIBUTED AND USED WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUPERVISION," THAT MOST CIA OFFICIALS "LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM NEWS ACCOUNTS," AND OFFICIALS WHO SHOULD HAVE REVIEWED IT DID NOT.

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