

TALKING POINTS

-- With FDN fighters going into Nicaragua, its political section was charged with developing a code of conduct and training to prepare their men to deal with people in villages they might enter in a manner consistent with FDN objectives. 2

-- A code of conduct for FDN fighters was prepared and printed in pocket size so that each FDN fighter could carry it on his person.

-- It explained that the objective of the FDN is to develop a democratic and pluralistic government in Nicaragua. It calls for a reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family, the establishment of social justice and human rights, the restoration of freedoms violated by the Sandinistas, economic reform and greater social mobility.

-- The FDN wanted the lesson plans and lectures converted into a handbook to be sent into Nicaragua for political guidance to men already there. The manual, entitled Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare, was prepared and 2,000 copies were printed in Honduras for distribution by the FDN.

-- The manual was prepared by and addressed to people who had made the fateful decision to engage in armed combat in order to resist oppression by a totalitarian regime.

-- The manual states that its purpose is to assure that every combatant will be "highly motivated to engage in propaganda face to face, to the same degree that he is motivated to fight." The "individual political awareness, the reason for his struggle, must be as acute as his capacity to fight."

-- It aims to make every FDN guerrilla "persuasive in face to face communication--a propagandist-combatant--in his contact with the people; he must be capable of giving 5 or 10 logical reasons why, for example, a peasant must give him fabric, needle and thread to mend his clothes. When the guerrilla behaves this way, enemy propaganda will never turn him into an enemy in the eyes of the population."

-- It goes on to deal with developing political awareness, using group dynamics, interaction with the people, "live, eat and work with the people," respect for human rights, teaching and civic action.

-- There is advice on the problems of any fighting force in handling local opposition when it visits or occupies a community. It says "enemies of the people, the Sandinista officials or agents, must not be mistreated in spite of their criminal actions even though the guerrilla forces may have suffered casualties." It tells how to protect both guerrillas and citizens when a town is occupied.

-- There is advice for armed propaganda teams charged with raising political consciousness within Nicaragua and personal persuasion within the population. Emphasis is on education, avoiding combat if possible, "not turning the town into a battlefield."

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