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National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
8 August 1985

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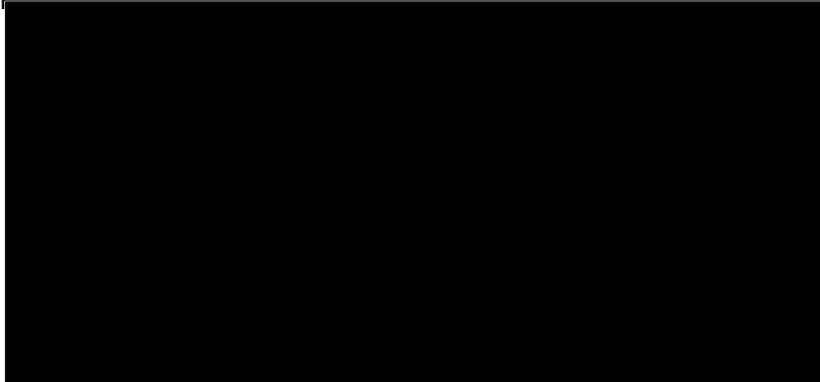
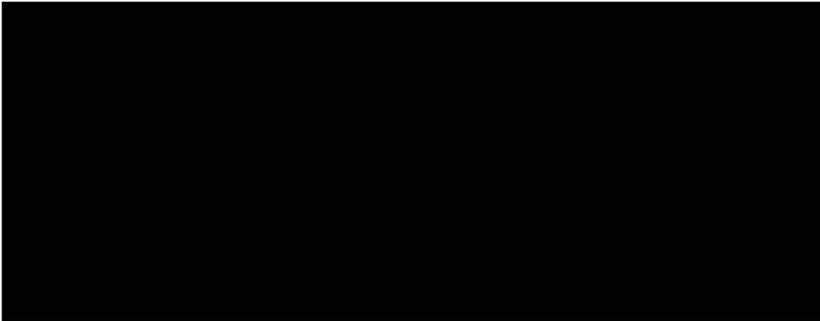
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Nicaragua-US-Costa Rica: US Peace Activists Held

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NICARAGUA-US-COSTA RICA: US Peace Activists Held

The reported capture of US peace activists and journalists by anti-Sandinista insurgents in southern Nicaragua yesterday will be used by both the insurgents and regime for propaganda. [REDACTED] press reports indicate that some 30 members of a US-based peace organization and over a dozen reporters traveling on the San Juan River took fire from Costa Rica and were forced to disembark on Costa Rican territory, apparently by members of Eden Pastora's rebel group. A spokesman for Pastora has denied his forces are involved, [REDACTED]

Comment: Despite the denial, Pastora's forces are the likely instigators of this action. Pastora, who probably calculated that potential publicity gains in seizing the group outweighed the risks, is likely to release the activists unharmed. He probably is seeking to demonstrate that he still holds sway in the south despite the regime's recent claims to have driven his forces into Costa Rica. The Sandinistas likely will accuse both Pastora and the US of "aggression" against unarmed civilians. Managua also will be quick to argue that the incident belies San Jose's contention that the insurgents do not operate out of Costa Rican territory. [REDACTED]

