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12 May 1987

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Morris Busby to Use with SecState

-- On 8 May, representatives of UNO, FDN and BOS reached agreement on an expanded Nicaraguan resistance directorate and assembly. Ratification of the agreement and the new directorate leadership by the resistance assembly is pending and will probably be accomplished this week.

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-- Meanwhile, leaders of the three main Nicaraguan Indian factions sat down for the first time to discuss their differences and plan for an Atlantic coast assembly, probably to be held in early June.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2004

-- The FDN reports that as of 27 April slightly over 12,000 FDN combatants were inside Nicaragua with another 3,500 preparing for reinfiltration. As of 2 May, KISAN is estimated to have about 750 fighters under arms.

-- Fighting continued at a brisk pace throughout Nicaragua, especially in central Military Region 6 and along the border between Military Regions 1 and 6.

[redacted] the UNO/South offensive has begun, with several attacks occurring between 30 April and 2 May. Reporting on additional actions should be coming in soon.

-- FDN combatants operating in Jinotega Department report that the local populace is not supporting the Sandinista forces that operate in the area. Draftees are deserting and the local population is not providing food and other sustenance for the Sandinistas.

-- The Sandinistas are constructing two airstrips, one at Las Pinuelas in central Zelaya and the other at La Rosita in the northeast. These forward strips are in remote albeit active combat areas and should improve support to the counterinsurgency effort.

-- The second Redeye training course of five [redacted] and six [redacted] team members completed training on 3 May. All eleven students qualified as gunners. The six [redacted] team members proved to be especially good students, impressing instructors with their professionalism. The two best [redacted] gunners will stay at [redacted] and go directly into mission planning. The next Redeye course for approximately 20 students was scheduled to commence on 5 May and end on 14 May.

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-- During the period, 11 air missions were flown, delivering 30,335 pounds of cargo to resistance forces, raising the cumulative totals to 85 missions and 446,105 pounds of cargo. These latest missions included one leaflet drop over Esteli, and the insertion of a [redacted] team, both on 6 May.

-- A C-130 and C-141 made successful resupply flights on 4 and 6 May respectively. These flights carried 91,000 pounds of ordnance, quartermaster supplies, boat motors and communications equipment. Additional resupply flights are scheduled for 14 and 15 May.

-- Six 14.5mm heavy machine guns were shipped and arrived in country on 4 May.

-- A complete review of T-I, T-II and T-III requisitions is being undertaken to determine what material has been ordered and not received.

-- On 8 May, Congressional approval was obtained to reprogram six million dollars from the weapons/ammunition category to the logistics category. These funds can now be used for high-speed lighters, runway repairs, and the purchase of a DC-6, a DC-3, and a Cessna-337 aircraft.

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