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TRANSFERRED TO OTHER AGENCY  
REFERRED FOR DIRECT REPLY - CIA

4 August 1987

SUBJECT: Talking Points for [redacted] to Use with SecState

-- Resistance military leader Enrique Bermudez met with the Inter-agency Group on Nicaragua (IG/N) at length on 27 July and generally exhibited all the traits of a mature political leader. The only note of discord was the perception that Bermudez was unwilling to follow up on allegations of abuses against the Honduran civilian population in areas near resistance base camps. This issue is being addressed in parallel approaches by the Department of State and the CIA.

-- Representatives of seven Nicaraguan political parties of the internal civic opposition attended the Liberal International Conference held in Madrid 21-24 July 1987 and issued a declaration calling for:

- immediate political dialogue with the Sandinistas with the objective of reestablishing a pluralistic democracy in that country;
- free elections;
- abrogation of repressive Sandinista laws;
- end to military intervention.

-- The group of seven agreed to take steps to energize the opposition at home and capture the political support and sympathy of democrats abroad. Delegates to the conference supported the civic opposition's demands. It was the first time that the seven opposition political parties had met outside Nicaragua.

-- ERN/N commander Enrique Bermudez recently indicated he will make some changes in a number of areas to improve command and control by expanding his staff and creating a chief of staff position. Other areas of change include logistics, special operations, civic action and the synergistic integration of intelligence, operations and logistics.

*Jack - This is in response to the H. Rights report. I'd like to know more about what has done*  
[Signature]

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-- The Sandinistas reportedly are greatly concerned over the effectiveness of resistance "special commando forces".

- Defense Minister Humberto Ortega reportedly told a member of Costa Rican president Oscar Arias' delegation visiting Managua last week that the resistance special teams have successfully conducted a number of attacks against important targets throughout the country and are armed with the most sophisticated weapons.

-- Additional after-action reports have come in on the ERN/N attack at San Jose de Bocay.

- The town was attacked after it became evident that the Sandinistas were withdrawing forces from the field to protect urban areas farther south in conjunction with the 19 July revolutionary celebrations.
- ERN/N forces suffered a total of nine killed and 30 wounded in the attack. They claim Sandinistas losses of approximately 80 KIA, 50 WIA and at least one soldier captured.

Sandinista military forces continue to be stretched out thinly by resistance military operations throughout Nicaragua.

- [REDACTED] the Sandinistas attacked an Indian base camp in northeastern Nicaragua on 29 July, using assault boats supported by helicopter gunships.
- A series of artillery attacks and patrols were conducted by the Sandinistas in the Las Vegas salient last week, although the situation there now is reported to be calm.

During the last two-week period, 13 aerial resupply missions were flown, delivering 69,281 pounds of combat supplies and equipment to Resistance forces in Nicaragua. Totals since the resumption of United States' assistance are 1800 missions flown and 901,595 pounds (451 tons) of supplies delivered.

- To date, 28 missions (approximately 15% of successful missions) have reported receiving ground fire at some point during their flight.

In anticipation of a high level of congressional interest in visiting Nicaraguan resistance camps in Honduras during the summer recess, advance arrangements are being made to provide adequate ground and air transportation support. The number of visitors to Honduras could range anywhere from 70 to 200.

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