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MEMORANDUM

SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO NICARAGUA

1983 - 1984

1. In 1984 we estimate that a total of 19,000 tons of combat arms and military-associated equipment were delivered to Nicaragua by Soviet and East European ships. This was an increase of 84 percent over the 10,300 tons shipped in 1983. Of the 1984 total, more than 10,100 tons were combat arms and nearly 8,900 tons were military-associated equipment (trucks, field kitchens, etc.).

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2. In 1984 the Soviets made the first direct shipment of some 850 tons of combat arms to Nicaragua which included at least three helicopter gunships, four minesweepers, air defense guns and munitions. In addition, the Bulgarians made three deliveries totaling 9,270 tons; included were at least 60 medium tanks, 60 armored personnel carriers, 5 helicopter gunships, air defense radars, and artillery. Including the arms on the Soviet ship, the tonnage of combat arms alone delivered to Nicaragua in 1984 increased by 52 percent over the 6,700 tons delivered in 1983. The number of deliveries increased from two (both by the Bulgarians) in 1983 to four including the Soviet delivery in 1984.

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3. Deliveries of military-associated equipment by Soviet merchant ships also increased substantially (88 percent) in 1984. Deliveries of military-associated equipment such as trucks, jeeps, transport helicopters and spare parts by these Soviet ships in regular liner service includes some equipment from other East European Communist countries, primarily East Germany.

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4. In addition (and not included in the figures of the attached table) are deliveries of military-associated equipment by other Communist bloc owned and chartered ships. Most notable are the frequent shipments by the Cubans, who also delivered two Soviet-built minesweepers and a patrol boat to the Sandinistas in 1984. The East Germans provided more than 2,000 tons of equipment in 1984--mostly trucks, on their own or chartered vessels. Finally, the Nicaraguans used their own ship to pick up at least 200 tons of munitions and two patrol boats from North Korea last year.

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SUBJECT: Soviet Military Equipment Deliveries to Nicaragua, 1983-1984

OGI/GD/IT, [redacted] (11Jan85)

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Distribution:

Original - NIO/LA/Bob Vickers

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1 - Executive Director

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SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO NICARAGUA

1983 - 1984

(Metric Tons)

MONTH OF DELIVERY	<u>ARMS</u>		<u>MILITARY-ASSOCIATED CARGO</u>	
	<u>VIA BULGARIAN SHIPS</u>	<u>VIA SOVIET SHIPS</u>	<u>ON SOVIET SHIPS</u>	<u>ON SOVIET SHIPS</u>
	1983	1984	1983	1984
January			170	12
February		3,200	0	200
March			45	209
April			165	282
May	2,460		805	865
June		4,270	1,354	788
July			595	571
August			352	842
September			23	0
October		1,800	92	20
November			850	9
December	4,200		50	1,695
TOTAL	6,660	9,270	3,660	6,883
		39% Increase		88% Increase
		<u>10,120</u>		(52% Increase)