

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT  
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MCWETHY: State Department officials say Iran's Prime Minister Moussavi, after flying halfway around the world, arrived in Nicaragua the middle of last night and is today meeting with Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega. Moussavi is supposed to leave Nicaragua early Friday morning and fly to Cuba. U.S. officials expect him at that time to meet with Fidel Castro. This is the first time any high ranking delegation from the Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran has visited Central America, and it is regarded by some U.S. officials as a troubling development. Nicaragua is already host to small contingents from some of the world's toughest terrorist organizations: Basque separatists from Spain, the Red Brigade from Italy and Palestinians from the Middle East; as well as contingents from countries that support such organizations as Libya and the Soviet Union. Iran, regarded as a leader in promoting international terrorism, is now apparently making its own bid for a piece of the action in Nicaragua and the fight against the United States. U.S. analysis say they have some indications that Iran is offering Nicaragua a large shipment of small arms. There is also speculation that Iran could help provide badly needed oil. But of greatest concern to U.S. officials is the possibility that Iran could become more actively involved in this hemisphere with its own terrorist activities against a common enemy, the United States. John McWethy, ABC News, the State Department. <