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The Sandinistas and Nicaragua

During an address earlier this year to the Metropolitan Club of New York City, Central Intelligence Agency Director William J. Casey said that CIA analysts have identified 46 indicators of consolidation of power by a Marxist-Leninist regime.

Casey also said: "Of the 46 indicators, Nicaragua in five-and-one-half-years has accomplished 33. They have established control of the media, taken over radio and tv, censored the broadcasts of Sunday sermons of the archbishop of Managua, and subjected the only free newspaper, La Prensa, to a brutal daily censorship. They have taken control of the education system. Nicaraguan textbooks now teach Marxism. They attack the tenets of Western democracy. They attack traditional religious teaching and encourage children to maintain revolutionary vigilance by watching for signs of ideological impurities in their neighbors, friends and relatives. The Sandinistas have taken control of the military. They have taken control of the internal secret police and have established a Directorate of State Security. That directorate, according to our reports, has hundreds of Cuban, Soviet, East German and Bulgarian advisers. There are Soviet advisers at every level of the secret police. In fact, it is safe to say that it is controlled by the Soviet Union and its surrogates. Block committees have been established to watch and control the people. The Church has been persecuted. Witness the campaign mounted by the Directorate of State Security to harass and embarrass Pope John Paul II during his 1983 visit to Nicaragua. They have used political mobs (similar to the Red Guards of Soviet and Chinese revolutionary history) to attack democratic politicians, union members and religious leaders. And finally, following Hitler and Khrushchev, the Sandinistas have told the world that they would spread the example of Nicaragua beyond El Salvador to Honduras, Guatemala and the entire region."

Mr. Casey has certainly given his fellow citizens and all observers of Central America some food for thought.