

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-6

BALTIMORE SUN
29 June 1984

Ex-CIA man's doubts grow on Nicaraguan issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former CIA analyst, who has challenged President Reagan's claims of a weapons flow from Nicaragua's Sandinista government to leftist Salvadoran guerrillas, said yesterday that the administration's failure to present new evidence reinforces his skepticism.

David C. MacMichael, who reviewed Central American intelligence reports from 1981 to 1983, said that if the administration had conclusive evidence to back up the charge, it would have been released.

"So critical is this matter ... to justify U.S. action in this region that I cannot believe that at any number of junctures ... the United States would [so] wish to deliver a devastating diplomatic blow to the credibility of the Sandinistas, that it would not expend an intelligence resource," he said.

High-level administration officials challenged Mr. MacMichael's claims when he first made them public two weeks ago, but have offered no new evidence to prove Nicaraguan government involvement in the alleged arms flow. To do so, they said, would jeopardize intelligence sources.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz declared that Mr. MacMichael "must be living in some other world" to doubt Nicaragua's role, because he said the administration's evidence is "so obvious and clear."

The administration's defense re-

lied heavily on a 1983 House Intelligence Committee report that said the Salvadoran guerrillas use Nicaraguan sites for command and control and logistical support.

Also yesterday, State Department officials said a long-awaited report on Nicaragua's alleged support for the Salvadoran guerrillas will not contain specific evidence from radio interceptions, contrary to what other department officials indicated last month.

One official, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified, said the report, whose release has been delayed for several weeks, probably would be published next week. He said it largely would be a compilation of publicly known information, such as newspaper accounts.

Mr. MacMichael, speaking at a *Foreign Policy* magazine press breakfast, said that if U.S. interceptions of radio broadcasts from Nicaragua contained any strong evidence of Sandinista involvement in weapons shipments, the contents would be released.

Mr. MacMichael, who was a contract CIA employee for two years, said secret intelligence he saw during that time convinced him that Nicaraguan officials assisted in weapons shipments to the Salvadoran guerrillas until April, 1981, but that evidence of their complicity dried up after that.

He acknowledged, however, that he may not have seen all the intelligence available on Nicaragua.