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## U.S. Intervention in Hemisphere Spans 20th Century

As the 20th Century began, open U.S. intervention was under way in Cuba, which had won its independence from Spain with American support. Since then, there have been numerous other cases.

Little is known about any covert actions in the region prior to the creation of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. The OSS carried out countless wartime covert actions in the hemisphere.

Before the current U.S. involvement in Central America began, the record of overt and covert U.S. interventions in Latin American countries during this century included these:

**CUBA** — On Feb. 23, 1895, Cuban rebels led by Jose Marti and Gen. Maximo Gomez resumed their fight against Spain. The United States intervened on their side in April 1898, precipitating the Spanish-American War. The American military occupation of Cuba ended May 20, 1902.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** — U.S. customs agents intervened briefly in the Dominican Republic in 1906 to restore order to the nation's chaotic finances. Internal disorders erupted in 1916, triggering a U.S. Marine occupation that lasted until March 1924. The Marines returned, along with the 82nd Airborne, April 28, 1965, for what President Johnson called a "police action" to halt a civil war. The Marines withdrew in June 1965. National elections were held a year later. There has subsequently been 17 years of uninterrupted democratic rule, including four elections and a change of the government in power.

**HAITI** — Civil disorders triggered a Marine landing in 1915 that began a 19-year occupation of the nation. Haiti today is in its 25th year of authoritarian Duvalier family rule.

**MEXICO** — Marines landed in Veracruz in 1913, ostensibly to protect U.S. nationals and property during Mexico's civil war. After rebel leader Pancho Villa raided Columbus, N.M., an American force under Gen. John Joseph Pershing was dispatched into northern Mexico in 1916 to pursue the elusive insurgent. Pershing never caught Villa.

**NICARAGUA** — Trying to put an end

to a string of bloody revolts, Marines landed in Nicaragua in 1916 and remained until 1925, but rebellions erupted when they pulled out. They returned to restore order in 1926 and fought against rebel leader Augusto Cesar Sandino. They again withdrew in 1933, after having suffered heavy losses and under pressure from the U.S. Congress. The intervention led to 40 years of Somoza family rule and, in 1979, a popular insurrection led by the Sandinistas.

**GUATEMALA** — The CIA's first major and successful operation in the area developed in Guatemala, leading to a June 18, 1954, coup that overthrew the left-of-center government of President Jacobo Arbenz. CIA agents trained and supported the relatively small forces of Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, who assumed power after the coup. Agency support included the provision of CIA-piloted World War II fighter-bombers, guns and ammunition. The CIA again became involved in Guatemala in November 1960 when it secretly sent B26 bombers to crush a rebellion against President Miguel Ydigoras

Fuentes. Guatemala has since had a succession of military-dominated governments, including some regarded as among the most repressive in the hemisphere. Marxist guerrillas also have operated in the country intermittently since the 1960s.

**CUBA** — The CIA-trained Cuban exile Brigade 2506 launched the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961. Critics charge the invasion, conceived under the Eisenhower Administration and carried out during the Kennedy Administration, failed after Kennedy withheld promised U.S. air cover. The 1,500-man force was trained in Guatemala, and the invasion was launched from Nicaragua. In the aftermath of the aborted action, the resistance movement within Cuba was wiped out, Fidel Castro's hold on the country was consolidated, and recriminations and soul-searching festered within the Kennedy Administration.

**CHILE** — In 1964, the CIA and the Agency for International Development secretly funneled millions of dollars to Eduardo Frei in his successful bid to defeat Salvador Allende for the presidency.

After failing to block the Marxist Allende's election to the presidency in 1970, the CIA was linked to an aborted plot to prevent his inauguration, and it helped fund and direct a destabilization campaign by civilian organizations against his regime. Allende was overthrown in a 1973 coup and replaced by a right-wing military regime.

**BOLIVIA** — The CIA helped Bolivian troops to track down Cuban-Argentine guerrilla leader Ernesto (Che) Guevara. Guevara was captured and killed Oct. 8, 1967.

**NICARAGUA** — In 1981, the Reagan Administration authorized CIA funding for a small paramilitary force of Nicaraguan exiles aimed at halting what the administration claimed was an extensive flow of arms and other supplies from leftist-ruled Nicaragua to Marxist guerrillas in El Salvador. The force has since grown to an estimated 7,000 "counterrevolutionary" fighters and stirred charges in Congress that it is trying to overthrow the four-year-old Nicaraguan government.

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