

2/11/88

1 X1025

SECRET



Directorate of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Luigi Einaudi, Director
Office of Policy Planning Coordination/
ARA, Room 6913A, State

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2003

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN

WEEKLY UPDATE

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

TLC

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN WEEKLY UPDATE

11 February 1988

This weekly Situation Report is prepared by the [redacted] Office of African and Latin American Analysis. This paper was coordinated with the Directorate of Operations. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, [redacted] [redacted] ALA, on [redacted].



~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN
WEEKLY UPDATE
11 February 1988

Perspective: After the Rebel Aid Cutoff

The leaders of the Central American democracies look on the US Congressional vote as an opportunity to press the Sandinistas to comply with the peace accord, but they appear to be having difficulty in organizing a response. []

Costa Rican President Arias was the most enthusiastic in reacting to the aid vote and made the most extensive public comments. Arias criticized Nicaraguan President Ortega's hard-line response, saying the Sandinistas now have no excuses for delaying a cease-fire, full amnesty, and democratic reforms, including separation of the Sandinista Party from the Army. Arias called on the Soviet Union and Cuba to end their aid to the Salvadoran and Guatemalan insurgents and for elimination of Soviet military deliveries to Managua. In our view, his remarks suggest he may carry through on reported plans to visit Castro. Arias repeated his call for US-Nicaraguan bilateral talks. []

Salvadoran President Duarte and Honduran President Duarte were [] combative about taking on the Sandinistas in their statements [] although each appears deeply concerned about the future of his country's relationship with the US. Duarte announced that the Sandinistas have no justification for failing to comply with the peace plan. Both presidents believe that Arias and Congressional opponents of aid bear a special burden for pressuring Nicaragua for democratization, but they agreed to work with their Central American counterparts toward that purpose. []

A Guatemalan communique on the US vote said the decision was a "serious contribution to peace." Cerezo [] was urging West European governments and Mexico to intensify pressure on Managua and that he had attempted to contact Ortega directly. Cerezo repeated his belief that the the internal Nicaraguan opposition must be strengthened. []

The democracies do not have concrete plans on how to make demands on Nicaragua. Duarte told [] on 4 February that he was trying to organize a meeting of the democracies' Foreign Ministers to coordinate strategy; this would be the first such meeting since the peace accord was signed. Duarte rejected a proposal by Azcona to hold an immediate summit, and Cerezo told [] he was leaning toward a summit in March. None of the democracies appears to be thinking of compiling a list of specific reforms Managua must make, and all appear

~~SECRET~~

to see a complete amnesty as a focus for their pressure. Arias told the press that he would seek to apply "moral, diplomatic, economic, and political pressure" on Managua to put democratic reforms into effect, but he has not been explicit about seeking possible multilateral sanctions.

Developments This Week

Democratization

- Some 5,000 Nicaraguan union members marched in an antigovernment march in Managua last Sunday, according to press reports. The demonstration was sponsored by a coalition of four labor groups.

Cease-Fire/Amnesty

- Nicaraguan rebels and Catholic Church mediators have requested that cease-fire negotiations, scheduled for 10 February in Guatemala, be delayed until Cardinal Obando returns from Europe, according to press reports. Obando suggested that the talks be rescheduled for 18 to 20 February.
- Nicaraguan President Ortega denounced the insurgents for postponing the talks and urged them to accept an immediate cease-fire. He said the only humanitarian aid permitted under the peace plan would have to contribute to the relocation of rebels who laid down their arms. The Nicaraguan cease-fire negotiating team requested an immediate meeting with the rebels to set the agenda for future talks.
- Nicaragua signed a 45-day cease-fire with Indian rebel leader Brooklyn Rivera last week, although three other Indian leaders denounced the agreement and vowed to continue fighting. (U)
- Salvadoran insurgents have proposed that peace talks resume on 22 February. Government officials have indicated that the administration will not respond officially to the proposal and said renewed negotiations are unlikely until after the national elections on 20 March.

National Reconciliation

- An alliance of 14 Nicaraguan opposition parties demanded last week that President Ortega endorse their 17 proposed constitutional reforms before they would rejoin the national dialogue. Only one party attended last week's session to discuss 14 reforms proposed by the government. The alliance dropped

~~SECRET~~

plans to seek a new constitution following the US Congressional vote to end lethal aid to the rebels, []

- The president of Guatemala's National Reconciliation Commission criticized the government's progress on the amnesty, cease-fire, and refugee provisions of the peace plan. He asked Cerezo to redefine the commission's role in verification, []

International Verification

- [] indicate the Central American democracies agree on the importance of maintaining control over verification and limiting extra-regional support to a technical role. Nevertheless, they have differing views on the advisability of discussing verification at the Central American Foreign Minister's meeting in San Salvador on 17 February. Tegucigalpa firmly opposes any consideration of the issue. []

Refugees

- Almost 500 Nicaraguan refugees, who have lived in Honduras for several years, entered UNHCR camps in recent weeks, [] indicates the Honduran military is intensifying efforts to locate and detain illegal aliens living along the border with Nicaragua. []

Aid to Insurgents

- Salvadoran insurgent leaders met in Nicaragua in mid-January to assess strategy, [] Their relations with foreign governments continue to be handled primarily from Managua. []
- On 4 February, Guatemala issued a communique praising the US Congress' decision to end military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels as a boost to President Cerezo's policy of active neutrality and to his efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the regional crisis. []

Other Developments

- Nicaraguan rebel leaders vowed to continue fighting following the US Congressional vote denying them further lethal aid. Insurgent military chief Bermudez said, however, that the guerrillas will have to reduce the level of activity to conserve ammunition, according to press reports. []

~~SECRET~~

- Some 400 Nicaraguan citizens burned two government jeeps and hurled stones at the police station in Masaya last Monday to protest forced military recruitment, according to press reports. Demonstrators battled with about 300 Sandinista supporters who had organized a progovernment march. Police arrested several local opposition party leaders. Antigovernment demonstrations continued on Tuesday. The Interior Ministry directed additional security forces to the town--15 miles southeast of Managua--to prevent further rioting. []
- Nicaraguan President Ortega has warned the populace that the war would continue despite the US Congressional vote to end rebel aid. Sandinista officials have renewed calls for bilateral negotiations with the United States. []
- Nicaraguan insurgent leader Alfonso Robelo says he will remain a "shadow director" following his announced withdrawal from the insurgent Directorate on 5 February. Robelo said he stepped down after Costa Rican President Arias told rebel leaders they could remain in Costa Rica only if they renounced armed struggle. []
- Six Nicaraguan civilians were killed in Wiwili last week when a bomb exploded during a progovernment demonstration, according to the Defense Ministry. Sandinista officials have blamed the rebels. []
- Cuba agreed last week to provide Nicaragua with more than \$40 million in economic aid in 1988, [] but did not reveal how much aid it will provide. []
- Mexican Foreign Minister Sepulveda hopes to call a Contadora summit to assert the group's influence in the peace process despite the decision of the Central American Presidents to dismiss the International Verification Commission, []
[] We believe President de la Madrid will override the idea, however, because both he and the ruling party's presidential nominee appear ready to make internal political matters their highest priority. []
- Central American Vice Presidents, Foreign Ministers, and Ministers of Economy signed an economic agreement last week at a meeting in Guatemala City. The accord provides for joint aid for refugees, food, and energy, as well as cooperation on external debt. The signatories asked international donors, especially the ECC, to contribute \$500 million, including \$50 million for the regional parliament. []

~~SECRET~~

NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION'S 17 DEMANDS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The following demands were originally presented to the Sandinistas in December 1987 by an alliance of 14 opposition parties. The armed Nicaraguan rebels have subsequently endorsed the reforms. [] opposition leaders continue to refine their demands and may eliminate several to help facilitate talks with the regime.
(S NF)

Proposed Reforms

Likely Sandinista Response

Prohibit Presidential reelection.

May agree to limit the number of successive terms.

Prohibit military personnel from voting and serving in elected office.

Unlikely to accept.

Change the electoral system.

Have agreed to set date for local elections and may agree to minor procedural modifications.

Make Judicial branch independent.

Have agreed to discuss issue with the opposition.

Clarify private property rights.

Unlikely to give private sector a broader role.

Specify functions of President.

Unlikely to reduce powers of the Presidency.

Eliminate partisan character of Army.

Highly unlikely to disengage ruling party from the military.

Reestablish university autonomy.

Have agreed to discuss issue in national dialogue.

Reestablish municipal autonomy.

Have agreed to discuss issue in national dialogue but unlikely to surrender central government authority.

Exempt conscientious objectors from military service.

Unlikely to accept.

Clearly differentiate among the Army, the ruling party, and the state.

Highly unlikely to limit party influence in Army and government.

Clearly define immunity.

May agree to vague definition.

Create a human rights prosecutor.

Have agreed to discuss issue in the National Dialogue.

~~SECRET~~

Create a constitutional guarantees tribunal.

Have agreed to discuss issue in national dialogue.

Eliminate preamble of the Constitution, which sanctifies the revolution and exalts the ruling party.

Unlikely to accept.

End banishment from Nicaragua as a criminal penalty.

May accept.

Prohibit relatives of the President and Vice-President from succeeding each other.

May accept.