

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Executive Secretariat, NSC: Country
File: Records, 1981-1985
Folder Title: Nicaragua (09/06/1984 –
09/10/1984)
Box: RAC Box 33

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number 33

76

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
74170	MEMO	OLIVER NORTH TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE HELICOPTER DOWNING PAR 3/15/2018 M259/1	3	9/6/1984	B1
74171	CABLE	SAN SALVADOR 00936 R 4/25/2017 M259/1	1	1/26/1984	B1
74173	CABLE	TEGUCIGALPA 00353 R 4/25/2017 M259/1	1	1/11/1984	B1
74174	CABLE	STATE 026677 R 4/25/2017 M259/1	1	1/28/1984	B1
74176	CABLE	TECUCIGALPA 10950 R 6/18/2019 M259/1	1	9/3/1984	B1
74177	MEMO	JACQUELINE TILLMAN TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE HELICOPTER DOWNING R 9/20/2017 M259/1	2	9/14/1984	B1
74181	MEMO	CHARLES HILL TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE HELICOPTER DOWNING (W/ATTACHED PAPER)	3	9/6/1984	B1
74179	MEMO	SAME AS 74177 R 6/18/2019 M259/1	2	9/14/1984	B1
74184	MEMO	SAME AS 74181	3	9/6/1984	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number 33

76

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
74186	MEMO	SAME AS 74181	3	9/6/1984	B1
74187	PAPER	RE MANZANILLO TALKS	4	9/13/1984	B1
74189	MEMO	RAYMOND BURGHARDT TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE MANZANILLO TALKS	2	9/7/1984	B1
74192	PAPER	RE INCIDENT (W/ROUTING SLIP) PAR 1/4/2013 M259/1	3	9/10/1984	B1 B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

RECEIVED 06 SEP 84 19

TO MCFARLANE

FROM NORTH

DOCDATE 06 SEP 84

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

mjr 7/21/04

KEYWORDS: NICARAGUA

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN HELICOPTER DOWNING

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE:

STATUS X

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(K / K)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

C SEP 07 1984

Mcfarlane Noted

03

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

(C)

~~SECRET~~

SYSTEM II
90956

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 6, 1984

Mary Clark 2
74170

~~SECRET~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

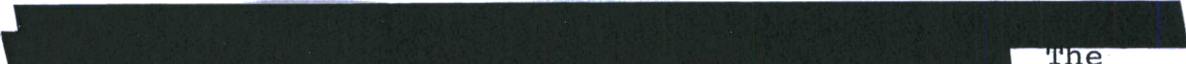
SUBJECT: Nicaraguan Helicopter Downing

13526
~~E.O. 12958~~
As Amended
Sec. 3.3 b(1)

In response to your direction, State Department this afternoon convened a meeting among CIA, DOD, and NSC to review all known facts relating to the September 1 helicopter downing in Nicaragua that killed two Americans. Based on information collected at the meeting, State is preparing a paper which will be forwarded ASAP. When it arrives, it should be attached to this summary.

Facts relating to the events of September 1 are summarized below. Classification of the material is indicated so that you may discern which should or should not be used during your television appearance this evening:

-- The helicopter was a Hughes 500 belonging to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). (U)

--  The helicopter was never the property of the DOD. (C)

-- The helicopter took off from the FDN military headquarters at Las Vegas, Honduras, carrying two American members of the so called Civilian Military Assistance (CMA) group and a Nicaraguan FDN pilot. (C)

-- The FDN has claimed that the helicopter launched from a site in Nicaragua. (U)

-- While the motives of the CMA personnel are unknown, it is assumed that they were following a FDN air attack earlier the same day against a Sandinista training facility at Santa Clara, Nicaragua. The CMA leader claims that their intended purpose was to provide search and rescue for any downed FDN pilots. (U)

~~SECRET~~

Declassify: OADR

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLRR M2591/#74170

BY *RW* DATE 3/15/18

~~SECRET~~

3

~~SECRET~~

2

- [REDACTED]
- The first U.S. cognizance of American involvement in the incident was through the FDN late on September 1. (C)
- On September 2, CMA members in Honduras informed Embassy Tegucigalpa that two of their members were missing and presumed downed in the helicopter which had returned from Nicaragua. (U)
- Our earliest record of contact between CMA and U.S. officials dates from October 1983, when Thomas Posey approached the Milgroup in San Salvador expressing interest in donating equipment to the Salvadoran military (Tab A). The Milgroup arranged contacts between CMA and the ESAF General Staff. Subsequently, the Embassy reported that CMA's offer had been accepted, and that "several small boxes of equipment" were delivered to the ESAF. Posey also offered to provide five "infantry trainers" to the ESAF. We have no indication of the Salvadoran response. (U)
- Mr. Posey and the CMA organization first appeared in Honduras in January 1984 offering to provide "free military equipment" to the Government of Honduras and requested the assistance of our Embassy (Tab B). In reply to the Embassy's request for information on CMA, the State Department responded on January 28 (Tab C). (U)
- There is no evidence that any munitions were ever delivered to the Government of Honduras; although, small quantities of non-ordnance materiel (boots, web gear, etc.) were apparently turned over to Honduran customs. In August, CMA delivered similar equipment evidently designated for provision to a Honduran airborne battalion and the FDN. (U)
- There is no record of USG contact with CMA between the time of the initial approaches to our Embassies in San Salvador and Tegucigalpa until September 2 (Tab D). (U)
- At some point between the initial contact and the events of September 1, it is apparent that CMA established contact with the FDN. Based on their public statements, the relationship has existed for several months. (U)
- [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

4

~~SECRET~~

3

- Subsequent to [REDACTED] engineering work at the Ajucate site, U.S. Army and Honduran engineers conducted limited training at the airfield. During the engineering training at Ajucate, Honduran military engineers installed [REDACTED] culverts for drainage. (C)
- No permanent installations were developed at Ajucate as a result of the U.S. exercise. (U)
- After the exercise, [REDACTED] conduct engineering work at Ajucate to "repair" what had been done in the course of the training. (C)
- There is no known relationship between the CIA or any other U.S. intelligence establishment and the Alabama National Guard Unit with which several of the CMA members seem to be affiliated. The DOD is investigating whether or not the CMA members affiliated with the Guard or the DOD violated any regulations or laws. (U)
- There were no U.S. Government personnel at the base from which the helicopter launched and no U.S. officials were aware, in advance, of either the airstrike by the O-2 aircraft or the helicopter mission. The FDN command (including Adolfo Calero) indicates that they were unaware of what appears to be a spontaneous mission instigated by the two Americans. (U)
- Based on information available, it can be assumed that this was a well-intentioned effort on the part of these Americans generated by public knowledge that USG funding was no longer available to the anti-Communist Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters. (U)

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the points above during your television appearance this evening.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

- Tab A - AMEMBASSY San Salvador 00936 of January 26, 1984
- Tab B - AMEMBASSY Tegucigalpa 00353 of January 11, 1984
- Tab C - SECSTATE Wash DC 026677 of January 28, 1984
- Tab D - AMEMBASSY Tegucigalpa 10950 of September 3, 1984

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

5

TAB

A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

74171
MASS INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00936 262238Z
ACTION PH-09

0684 ARA3791

SAN SA 00936 262238Z

0684 ARA3791

INFO FILE-01 ARA-05 OAS-01 RPP1-01 ECP-01 PPC-01 NBCA-01
DCEN-01 ELSA-02 GUAT-02 HON-02 RPP2-01 STON-01 REIC-03
REG-01 /024 A3

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00
HA-08 L-03 CTME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-14 INRE-00
SAL-01 JUS-01 USIE-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 SP-02 DOEE-00
MCE-00 SLPD-01 /060 V

-----161407 262255Z /61

O 262238Z JAN 84
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2418
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAN SALVADOR 00936

DEPT FOR PH/SAS, PH/MC

E.O. 12356: DECL: 1/26/88
TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
SUBJECT: U.S. PRIVATE GROUP OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 844 (B) TEGUCIGALPA 353

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REFTELS ASK FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO PRIVATE U.S. GROUP KNOWN AS CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE (CMA), WHICH HAS OFFERED GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GOH AND THE GOES. CMA OFFICIAL THOMAS POSEY HAS CONTACTED MILGP, BEGINNING IN MID-OCTOBER 1983, REGARDING CMA INTEREST IN DONATING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION, POSEY, IN LETTER TO THEN ESAF CHIEF OF STAFF COL. REYES MENA, DATED OCT. 25, 1983, INFORMED THE ESAF THAT A GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS OF DECATUR, ALABAMA WAS PREPARED TO DONATE WITHOUT COST TO THE GOES SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND THAT A MEETING OCT. 22 WITH THE ESAF D-IV (G-4) ADDRESSED A SPECIFIC LIST OF EQUIPMENT THAT CMA WAS PREPARED TO DONATE. THE LIST, MENTIONED IN THE LETTER, INCLUDED 16 30. CAL. SNIPER RIFLES, WITH AMMUNITION AND MAGAZINES; 30,000 ROUNDS OF M-60 MG AMMO AND OTHER ASSORTED AMMO; 320 RUCKSACKS; 640 UNIFORM SETS; 320 PONCHOS; AND OTHER ASSORTED INFANTRY EQUIPMENT. POSEY ALSO OFFERED THE SERVICES OF FIVE "INFANTRY TRAINERS" FOR A PERIOD OF 6 TO 12 MONTHS AND ASKED THE GOES TO CONFIRM IN WRITING ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFER.

3. MILGP HAS CONFIRMED THAT OFFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS ACCEPTED AND THAT SEVERAL SMALL BOXES OF EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE ESAF. MILGP DOES NOT KNOW HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED. WE ALSO DO NOT NOW WHAT, IF ANY, ESAF DECISION REGARDING OFFER OF CIVILIAN TRAINERS HAS BEEN MADE.

4. IN CORRESPONDENCE TO MILGP, POSEY STATES THAT THE TRAINERS OFFERED ARE "HIGHLY QUALIFIED IN THEIR FIELD" AND THAT CMA WISHES TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH MILGP. (COMMENT: MILGP HAS MADE CLEAR TO POSEY THAT LEGAL RESTRICTIONS AND LOCAL MILGP POLICY PROHIBIT ANY DIRECT COOPERATION BETWEEN A PRIVATE GROUP AND THE MILGP, TO INCLUDE HAVING THE LATTER ACT AS AN AGENT FOR ANY PRIVATE GROUP. MILGP HAS, HOWEVER, FACILITATED CONTACT BETWEEN CMA AND THE ESAF GENERAL STAFF. END COMMENT.) IN A LETTER FROM CMA TO MILGP DATED JAN. 4, POSEY MENTIONS THAT

HE HAD LOST THREE OF HIS FINANCIAL BACKERS AND THAT HE HAS AN OUTSTANDING REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT (TIED UP IN "RED TAPE") FOR PERMISSION TO SEND AMMUNITION TO EL SALVADOR, TO INCLUDE 45,000 ROUNDS. POSEY MENTIONED HIS PLANNED TRIP TO HONDURAS ON JAN. 9 WITH THREE COLLEAGUES TO OFFER THE SAME "DEAL" TO THE GOH. HE STATES THAT 95 PERCENT OF THE EQUIPMENT IS NEW AND "THE BEST MONEY CAN BUY." HE ENDS HIS LETTER BY STATING: "WE JUST WANT THE CHANCE TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST" (SIC). PICKERING

6

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M25911 #74171

BY fw NARA DATE 4/25/17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7

TAB

B

CONFIDENTIAL

74173

~~MINOS~~
~~INCOMING~~
TELEGRAM

8

Department of State

PAGE 01
ACTION PM-09

TEGUCI 00353 112059Z

1426 ARAS972

INFO	FILE-01	ARA-05	OAS-01	RPP1-01	ECP-01	PPC-01	DCEN-01
	ELSA-02	<u>HON-02</u>	RPP2-01	STON-01	REIC-03	REG-01	
	/021	A3	YC				

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-08	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-08	L-03	TRSE-00
	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	SP-02	MCE-00	/054 W	

-----213762 112102Z /65

O 112051Z JAN 84
 FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9581
 INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 SECDEF WASHDC
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ TEGUCIGALPA 00353

E. O. 12356: DECL: 1/11/94
 TAGS: MASS, HO, ES
 SUBJECT: OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE BY PRIVATE US GROUP

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED BY PRIVATE US GROUP TO PROVIDE THE NAME OF A CONTACT IN HONDURAN ARMED FORCES HEAD-QUARTERS FOR THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PRIVATE US GROUP AND THE GOH FOR THE PROVISION, WITHOUT COST, OF SUFFICIENT MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR TWO HONDURAN COMPANIES. GROUP IS CIVILIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, (C. M. A.) 208 LUCILLE DRIVE, S. W., DECATUR, ALABAMA 35603. CMA INTENDS TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR TWO COMPANIES, AND SAID THEY HAVE AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR M-16 RIFLES. CMA GROUP HAS JUST ARRIVED IN HONDURAS AND CONSISTS OF FOLLOWING MEMBERS: THOMAS POSEY, DANA PARKER, WILLIAM COURTNEY, AND RAY POTTER. THEY CLAIM TO HAVE ALREADY INITIATED AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR. CMA HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GENERAL ALVAREZ BY LETTER: ALVAREZ RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE AND SUGGESTED CMA CONTACT GOH THROUGH DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON.
3. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE NAME OF CONTACT AT ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS BUT OTHERWISE NOT PARTICIPATE IN CMA VISIT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION SAN SALVADOR AND DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON CMA. NEGROPONTE

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M2591 #74173

BY RW NARA DATE 4/25/11

CONFIDENTIAL

9

TAB

C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

74174
MASS OUTGOING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 STATE 026677 8457 ARA4976 10
ORIGIN MCE-02

INFO FILE-01 ARA-05 OAS-01 RPP1-01 ECP-01 PPC-01 DCEN-01
ELSA-02 HON-02 RPP2-01 REG-01 /017 A3 AS

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-09 INRE-00 SP-02 /024 R

DRAFTED BY PM/MC: MLWIZNITZER: NTH
APPROVED BY PM/MC: WBROBINSON
PM/SAS: KKERNS
ARA/RPP: FLEE

-----244417 280640Z /12
O P 280523Z JAN 84
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 3011
USCINCSO QUARRY PT" PAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 026677

E. O. 12356: DECL: 1/23/94
TAGS: KOME, MASS HO, ES
SUBJECT: PRIVATE OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REFS: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 844; (B) TEGUCIGALPA 353

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. RESULT OF OMC CHECK OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS BY CMA OR ITS MEMBERS (REF B) IS NEGATIVE.
3. NEITHER PM/SAS NOR ARA/RPP RECALL PRIVATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE. (DOCUMENT ?0660) SHULTZ

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M2521 #74174
BY fw NARA DATE 4/25/17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11

TAB

D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

74176

INCOM
TELEGR

Department of State

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 10950 00 OF 02 031944Z 2517 ARA0662
ACTION ARA-00

TEGUCI 10950 00 OF 02 031944Z

2517 A

LOU GARRY MCKNIGHT
BORN - TENNESSEE 2/24/47
REG. PPT ISSUED 8/7/64

12

ACTION OFFICE HO-02
INFO FILE-01 ARA-05 PPC-01 DECP-01 ECP-01 RPP-02 OAS-01
DCEN-01 REG-01 NU-02 /018 A1 DM

WILLIAM PARKER COURTNEY
BORN - ALABAMA 1/22/41
REG PPT ISSUED 9/13/63

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SY-06 HA-08 PPT-01 MCT-03
INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 A-02 SYE-00 SLPD-01 /041 W
-----170350 031946Z /60

CLIFTON F. ALBRIGHT
BORN - TEXAS 5/28/42

WALTER RUSSELL BLANTON
BORN - ALABAMA 5/12/43

O 031818Z SEP 84
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5309
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN IMMEDIATE

ABOVE INFORMATION WAS PASSED VERBALLY AND WITH ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF RELUCTANCE. THEY HAD ALL PASSPORTS IN THEIR POSSESSION INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PRESUMED DECEASED WHICH THEY SAID WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE NEXT OF KIN.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TEGUCIGALPA 10950

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC, PREL, MARR, HO, NU
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEATHS OF AMCITS

6. CLIFTON ALBRIGHT REFUSED TO DIVULGE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GROUP'S STATUS IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, HE DID TELL CONGEN THAT THE TWO PRESUMED DEAD AMCITS WERE DIVORCED AND EACH HAD ONE CHILD. WHEN ASKED IF THESE TWO AMCITS HAD CARRIED ANY I.D. CARDS WITH THEM, ALBRIGHT RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

7. REGARDING THE CRASH OF THE HELICOPTER, ALBRIGHT STATED THE FOLLOWING: HELICOPTER LEFT SITE AT APPROXIMATELY 1345 HOURS (HONDURAN TIME) WITH THREE PEOPLE ABOARD (DANA PARKER, JR., JAMES POWELL III, AND PILOT, A NICARAGUAN - NAME NOT GIVEN). THEY DESCRIBED IT TO HAVE BEEN A VERY SHORT MISSION. AT 1600 HOURS THE WAITING AMCITS AND OTHERS BECAME CONCERNED OVER THE DELAY OF THE HELICOPTER'S EXPECTED ARRIVAL. AS TIME PASSED AND NO CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE HELICOPTER, THE GROUP DECIDED TO LEAVE THE TRAINING AREA AND RETURN TO TEGUCIGALPA. ACCORDING TO ALBRIGHT, THEY LEFT THE SITE AT 0800 HOURS SEPTEMBER 2, 1984 AND ARRIVED IN TEGUCIGALPA ABOUT 1430 HOURS.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1984, CONGEN WAS INFORMED THAT A GROUP OF AMERICAN VISITORS WAS IN TEGUCIGALPA AND HAD INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBLE DEATH OF TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN A HELICOPTER ACCIDENT. CONGEN MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO THE GROUP TO DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES OF POSSIBLE DEATHS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, TO THE EXTENT THE GROUP WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT.

8. PASSPORT DATA IS SKETCHY BECAUSE IT WAS GIVEN VERBALLY AND RELUCTANTLY. THE GROUP INFORMED CONGEN THEY WERE LEAVING HONDURAS FOR THE U.S. EARLY SEPTEMBER 3, 1984.

3. CONGEN VISITED THE GROUP OF FOUR AMERICAN CITIZENS (IDENTIFIED BELOW) AT THE PRIVATE HOME WHERE THEY WERE STAYING IN LATE AFTERNOON. THE INTERVIEW LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES. THE GROUP OF AMCITS WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO DIVULGE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MISHAP OF THE HELICOPTER OR THE NATURE OF THEIR VISIT TO HONDURAS.

9. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR TOMAS BORGE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN INSIDE NICARAGUA AND THAT BASED ON HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, ONE OF THE THREE FATALITIES WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN A NORTH AMERICAN. SENATOR MOYNIHAN, CITING CIA SOURCE, HAS APPARENTLY COMMENTED ON THIS INCIDENT TO THE EFFECT THAT TWO PRIVATE AMERICAN MERCENARIES WERE ON BOARD THE HELICOPTER. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES, THE EMBASSY HAS ONLY NOTED THAT NO OFFICIAL PERSONNEL OR AIRCRAFT ARE MISSING. NEGROPONTE

4. THE SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP, CLIFTON F. ALBRIGHT, STATED THAT THEIR VISIT TO HONDURAS WAS A VOLUNTARY ONE. THAT THEY HAD COME TO TRAIN SOME PEOPLE IN NEED OF THEIR AREA OF SPECIALIZATION" THEY SAID THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM BOOTS, UNIFORMS, GALOSHES, PONCHOS, ETC., AS PART OF THEIR TRAINING EQUIPMENT. ALBRIGHT INFORMED CONGEN THEY WERE NOT BEING PAID BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOR ANY AGENCY CONNECTED WITH SAID GOVERNMENT. THEIR MISSION WAS STRICTLY A VOLUNTEER ONE TO DO THEIR PART IN FIGHTING COMMUNISM IN CENTRAL AMERICA. ALBRIGHT ASKED CONGEN THAT ANY INFORMATION THEY DIVULGED BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND THAT THE PRIVACY ACT BE ENFORCED.
5. ALBRIGHT WAS VERY RETICENT ABOUT GIVING THEIR NAMES AND PASSPORT DATA. CONGEN NEVERTHELESS WAS ABLE TO GATHER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM HIM:

PRESUMED DECEASED: DANA HERBERT PARKER, JR.
- BORN - FLORIDA, 10/21/47
- REG PPT ISSUED NEW ORLEANS
- 9/15/83

PRESUMED DECEASED: JAMES PERRY POWELL, III
- BORN - TENNESSEE 10/21/47
- REG PPT ISSUED NEW ORLEANS
- 8/23/84

THE FOLLOWING WERE SEEN BY CONGEN:

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M059/1 # 74176

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY LW

NARA DATE 6/18/19

RECEIVED 07 SEP 84 08

TO MCFARLANE

FROM HILL, C

DOCDATE 06 SEP 84

TILLMAN

14 SEP 84

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

*MSS
7/21/04*

13

KEYWORDS: NICARAGUA

SUBJECT: AMERICAN DEATHS IN NICARAGUA HELICOPTER DOWNING

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 10 SEP 84 STATUS C FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MENGES

NORTH

BURGHARDT

COMMENTS

REF# 8424505

LOG

NSCIFID

(CL CT)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

McFarlane X For Decision 7/14
C 9/17 McFarlane Sgd Memo JT,

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

PA (C)

National Security Council
The White House

JF
14

RECEIVED

System # I

Package # 6690

84 SEP 14 P 5: 29

1347

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson	<u>1</u>	<u>✓</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>K</u>	
John Poindexter	<u>3</u>	<u>J</u>	
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall	<u>4</u>		
Bud McFarlane	<u>5</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	<u>6</u>		<u>N</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information **A = Action** R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

No folder

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6698

15

74177

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

September 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: JACQUELINE TILLMAN *JT*

SUBJECT: American Deaths in Nicaragua Helicopter Downing

State, in consultation with CIA and DOD, has prepared a report on the two Americans who lost their lives in Nicaragua on September 1. They conclude that based on all available information, there is no involvement of US Government officials in the incident.

The Sandinistas continue to deny US Embassy Managua consular access to the bodies. As I mentioned the other morning, there is at least circumstantial evidence which indicates the possible murder of one of the Americans. We know that he has a bullet hole through his head. In the NYT story of September 4, Phil Taubman writes, "He is a light haired, white male who reportedly died from a bullet wound in the head after the craft was shot down. American officials said he might have shot himself to avoid being captured." (Why, do you suppose, would anyone have offered this explanation publicly--especially to Taubman?)

At any rate, the items for identification for one of the Americans have arrived in Managua; they are still waiting for the identification materials for the second American. The families of the two have declined D'Escoto's invitation to go to Managua to pick up the bodies, thereby denying the Sandinistas some propaganda opportunities. (One mother wrote a rather nasty letter back to D'Escoto, taking him on as a "man of the cloth".)

US Embassy posture through all of this has been not to do anything to impede the bodies from being brought to the United States and are keeping a low profile at the request of the families. They intend to turn over identifying materials to the Sandinistas once the materials arrive in the hopes that the bodies will be released promptly and returned to the US. Then, perhaps, an autopsy can be performed; but I am not sure anyone has broached this possibility with the family of the American who has a bullet hole in his head.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NLRR M259/1 # 74177
BY RW NARA DATE 9/20/17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

16

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Obviously, we do not want to do anything that will impede the bodies from being released and returned to the United States; and up to now, I'd agreed with our low key posture. However, if, say, by Monday or so and the bodies are still in Managua and we are still being denied consular access, perhaps we should rethink this posture.

RECOMMENDATION:

That we wait until Monday before pushing the Sandinistas on consular access to the bodies of the dead Americans.

North concurs.

Approve RCM Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Tab I State Department memo to you with attachment dated September 6, 1984

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder

NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number

33

76

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>

74181 MEMO

3 9/6/1984 B1

CHARLES HILL TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE
HELICOPTER DOWNING (W/ATTACHED PAPER)

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Rec'd
9/7/84

NSC/S PROFILE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ID 8406698

RECEIVED 07 SEP 84 08

TO MCFARLANE FROM HILL, C

DOCDATE 06 SEP 84 20

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)
mm
7/2/104

KEYWORDS: NICARAGUA

SUBJECT: AMERICAN DEATHS IN NICARAGUA HELICOPTER DOWNING

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 10 SEP 84 STATUS S FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MENGES

NORTH

BURGHARDT

COMMENTS

Should be attached to SYS II # 90962
when completed. N.

REF# 8424505

LOG

NSCIFID

(CL)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
MCFarlane	X	Add-on (FOR) decision	9/26	
	C	Mcfarlane noted		JT

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE PA (C) 27

National Security Council
The White House

uml

System # I 1368

Package # 6698 A10

21

84 SEP 25 P 6: 08

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson	<u>1</u>	<u>[initials]</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>		
John Poindexter		<u>[red mark]</u>	
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall	<u>3</u>		
Bud McFarlane	<u>4</u>	<u>by</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt	<u>5</u>	<u>K</u>	
NSC Secretariat	<u>6</u>		<u>N</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____ (Date/Time)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

September 25, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: JACQUELINE TILLMAN *JT*

SUBJECT: American Deaths in Nicaragua Helicopter Downing

HQM HAS SEEN

I have been in touch with the young, but competent, counselor officer here at the Department's Citizen Emergency Office, who has been working with the families of Powell and Parker regarding the return of their sons' bodies from Managua. He speaks to the families every day--sometimes twice a day. He says they have been very patient and supportive of the US. Once the Sandinistas understood they could reap no propaganda gain from the families, they slowed the process down.

It has been a difficult time for the families. At any rate, the bodies have now been identified and are now scheduled to arrive tomorrow in Miami at 1:50 PM on an Aeronica flight from Managua. The Powell family intends to have an identification autopsy performed; the Parker family is considering doing the same. There has been no US high-level contact with the families for obvious reasons. Perhaps now that the bodies are home, someone from our government should express condolences to the families. What do you think?

RECOMMENDATION:

That a US Government official whom you designate call the Powell and Parker families on Wednesday, 26 September.

Approve Disapprove

Why don't you call.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

September 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: JACQUELINE TILLMAN *JT*

SUBJECT: American Deaths in Nicaragua Helicopter Downing

State, in consultation with CIA and DOD, has prepared a report on the two Americans who lost their lives in Nicaragua on September 1. They conclude that based on all available information, there is no involvement of US Government officials in the incident.

The Sandinistas continue to deny US Embassy Managua consular access to the bodies. As I mentioned the other morning, there is at least circumstantial evidence which indicates the possible murder of one of the Americans. We know that he has a bullet hole through his head. In the NYT story of September 4, Phil Taubman writes, "He is a light haired, white male who reportedly died from a bullet wound in the head after the craft was shot down. American officials said he might have shot himself to avoid being captured." (Why, do you suppose, would anyone have offered this explanation publicly--especially to Taubman?)

At any rate, the items for identification for one of the Americans have arrived in Managua; they are still waiting for the identification materials for the second American. The families of the two have declined D'Escoto's invitation to go to Managua to pick up the bodies, thereby denying the Sandinistas some propaganda opportunities. (One mother wrote a rather nasty letter back to D'Escoto, taking him on as a "man of the cloth".)

US Embassy posture through all of this has been not to do anything to impede the bodies from being brought to the United States and are keeping a low profile at the request of the families. They intend to turn over identifying materials to the Sandinistas once the materials arrive in the hopes that the bodies will be released promptly and returned to the US. Then, perhaps, an autopsy can be performed; but I am not sure anyone has broached this possibility with the family of the American who has a bullet hole in his head.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NLRR M259/1 #74179
BY RW NARA DATE 6/18/19

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

24

Obviously, we do not want to do anything that will impede the bodies from being released and returned to the United States; and up to now, I'd agreed with our low key posture. However, if, say, by Monday or so and the bodies are still in Managua and we are still being denied consular access, perhaps we should rethink this posture.

RECOMMENDATION:

That we wait until Monday before pushing the Sandinistas on consular access to the bodies of the dead Americans.

North concurs.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Tab I State Department memo to you with attachment dated September 6, 1984

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder

NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number

33

76

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>

74184 MEMO

3 9/6/1984 B1

SAME AS 74181

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

National Security Council
The White House



System # _____

Package # _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	1	<i>[Signature]</i>	_____
Tom Shull	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	2	<i>[Signature]</i>	I
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

*State paper (interagency cleared)
on Helo incident.*

*More detailed answers will have to
wait on getting all of the questions
from the intelligence committees answered.*

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
SEP 6 P 6: 24

B

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

S/S # 8424505

WJ 7/21/05

6

URGENT

MESSAGE NO

6765

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

No. Pages 3

FROM Brunson McKinley
(Officer name)

S/S

(Office symbol)

632-3126

(Extension)

(Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Hill-McFarlane re American Deaths in Nicaragua
Helicopter Downing

TO (Agency)

NSC

DELIVER TO:

Robert Kimmitt

Extension

Room No.

456-2225

Thompson
NSC S/S

CLEARANCE

INFORMATION

PER REQUEST

COMMENT

ADVANCE COPY. ORIGINAL TO BE DELIVERED VIA COURIER

S/S Officer:

BMcKinley
WJ
ms

URGENT

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder

NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number

33

76

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>

74186 MEMO

3

9/6/1984

B1

SAME AS 74181

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

RECEIVED 07 SEP 84 19

TO MCFARLANE

FROM BURGHARDT

DOC DATE 07 SEP 84

33

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

m13 7/21/04

KEYWORDS: NICARAGUA

HONDURAS

SUBJECT: 5TH ROUND MANSANILLO TALKS 5 - 6 SEPT

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE:

STATUS X

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(K / K)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

President

IP 9/13

for information

C 9/14

pres noted

RB

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)

National Security Council
The White House

System # II

Package # 90960

84 SEP 14 P 1: 04

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson			
Bob Kimmitt	1	K	
John Poindexter			
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	2	B	N
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

90960

35

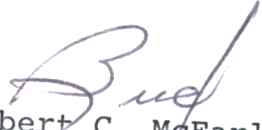
Rd 9/13/84

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1984

Mr. President:

Attached is a readout on Ambassador Shlaudeman's most recent discussions with the Nicaraguans which took place in Manzanillo, Mexico on September 5 - 6.


Robert C. McFarlane

Attachment

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder

NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number

33

76

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>

74187 PAPER

4 9/13/1984 B1

RE MANZANILLO TALKS

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

National Security Council
The White House

97F

RED TAG

System #

II

Package #

90960

1332

45

61 SEP 7 P 4: 54

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Paul Thompson	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>1</u>		
John Poindexter	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	
Tom Shull			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	<u>3</u>		
Bob Kimmitt	<u>4</u>		
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

cc: Rem

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: COUNTRY FILE

Withdrawer

MJD 7/21/2009

File Folder

NICARAGUA (09/06/1984-09/10/1984)

FOIA

S09-251

Box Number

33

76

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i>	<i>No of pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restrictions</i>
-----------	----------------------	--------------------	-----------------	---------------------

74189 MEMO

2 9/7/1984 B1

RAYMOND BURGHARDT TO ROBERT
MCFARLANE RE MANZANILLO TALKS

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

I

43

**WHSR
ROUTE SLIP**

Time Stamp

44

STAFF	C/O
McFarlane	C
Poindexter	C
Kimmitt	C
Shull	
Thompson	
Merchant	
NSC S/S	

84 SEP 10 P 2: 28

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

LDX
Approval: _____

C : Copy

O : Original

13526
E. O. 12958
~~As Amended~~
Sec. 3.364

46

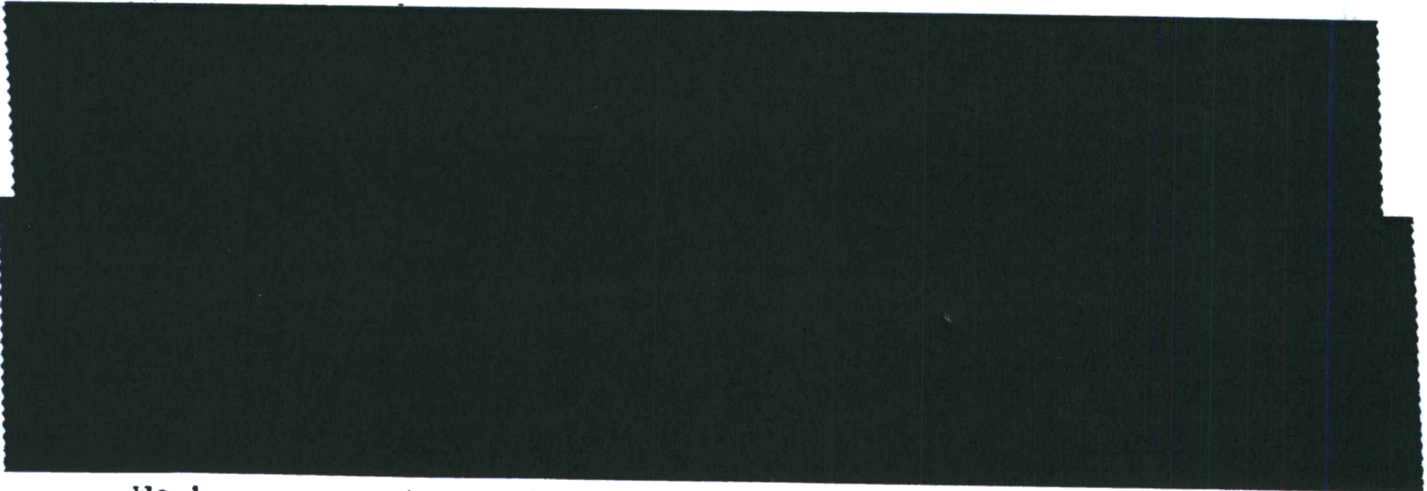
~~SECRET~~

Opening Statement

The Central Intelligence Agency had no involvement in the mission conducted in Honduras by the group of U. S. volunteers called "Civilian Military Assistance," nor do we have any relationship with any of its members.

We had no advance knowledge of the mission. None of our officers was in contact with any member of Civilian Military Assistance before their mission. Subsequently we learned the identities of the people involved. We have done a thorough search of our records and we know that the volunteers do not now, nor have they ever had any connections with this Agency.

Some members of the press have attempted to draw a connection between our association with the Alabama National Guard during the Bay of Pigs era and two of the Americans who were killed. There is no connection. While this Agency had a relationship with several high-ranking Air National Guard officers who located ANG pilots, mechanics and ground crew for hire by the Agency on contract in the 1950's and 1960's, the Agency currently has no connection with the Air National Guard or any of its chapters.



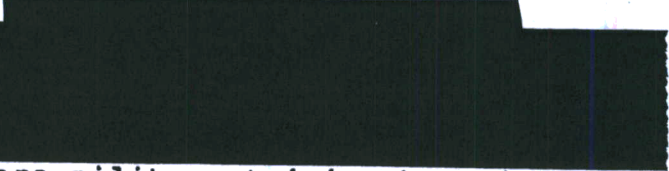
We have reconstructed the mission as best as we can from information provided by the FDN. On 28 August, the Americans tried to persuade FDN leader Adolfo Calero to undertake action against the Cuban-staffed Santa Clara training site. Although Calero was opposed to the plan, he agreed to staff it out with the understanding that no operation would take place without

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
NLRR MD9-259/1 #74192a
BY RW NARA DATE 1/4/13

~~SECRET~~

his approval. On 1 September, when Calero was outside Honduras and FDN military chief Enrique Bermudez was absent from Las Vegas, the Americans bullied three FDN O-2 pilots into conducting the operation over the objections of FDN Air Force Commander Gomez. The Americans also prevailed on the FDN helicopter pilot to allow them to accompany him in his role of medevac and rescue support.

The helicopter was launched from Las Vegas and the three O-2's left from Aquacate Air Base. 

The O-2's attacked the Santa Clara military training base in Nicaragua at approximately 1430 hours on 1 September. Ten minutes later the H-500D helicopter piloted by a Nicaraguan FDN pilot, copiloted by an American with another American in the rear seat, was shot down by small arms fire.

We learned about the mission from the FDN that night (1-2 September). FDN officials have told us that they are conducting their own investigation and plan to take appropriate disciplinary action.

~~SECRET~~