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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 5, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO ANNE HIGGINS

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell   
SUBJECT: Proposed Letter for President's Signature

The American Legion wants a response, dated May 4, 1983 to the attached letter to the President from the National Commander.

Enclosed is an appropriate draft. Please make sure the letter is dated May 4. They will reprint it in their national magazine.

Please give my office a call (2657) when the letter is ready and we will pick it up for delivery to the American Legion.

Thank you.

MCB:jet

PROPOSED LETTER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

May 4, 1983

National Commander Al Keller, Jr.  
The American Legion  
1608 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Keller:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, supporting the proposed bipartisan plan of action for Central America which I presented to a joint session of Congress on April 27.

A communist takeover of Central America would endanger the United States' economy, present severe national security problems and ~~subject us to~~ <sup>result in</sup> millions of <sup>new</sup> refugees crowding into our country.

In discharging my responsibilities to conduct America's foreign policy, it was very gratifying to receive such a strong endorsement from the nation's largest veterans' organization.

I look forward to receiving the active support of millions of Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary from all over the country in the days ahead. A continued, concerted effort by concerned Americans is imperative if we are to protect our vital interests in Central America and fulfill our moral obligations to those seeking a better life under free institutions.

Thanks for stepping forward in a time of national challenge.

Sincerely,



File: American Legion

1983 Department Conventions — Alphabetically

ALABAMA	July 15-17	Birmingham
ALASKA	June 22-25	Sitka
ARIZONA	June 23-26	Phoenix
ARKANSAS	June 24-26	Fayetteville
CALIFORNIA	June 22-26	Palm Springs
CANADA	May 20-21	St. Lambert, Quebec
COLORADO	June 23-26	Estes Park
CONNECTICUT	July 14-16	Hartford
DELAWARE	July 9-10	Dover
D.C.	June 23-25	Wash., D.C.
FLORIDA	June 2-5	Tampa
FRANCE	June 16-18	Willingen, West Germany
GEORGIA	July 21-24	Jekyll Island
HAWAII	June 23-24	Honolulu
IDAHO	July 14-17	Burley
ILLINOIS	July 13-17	Champaign
INDIANA	July, 7-10	Indianapolis
IOWA	July 15-17	Dubuque
* ITALY		
KANSAS	May 13-15	Topeka
KENTUCKY	July 7-10	Owensboro
LOUISIANA	June 24-26	Shreveport
MAINE	June 16-19	Portland
MARYLAND	July 12-15	Ocean City
MASSACHUSETTS	June 23-25	Worcester
MEXICO	June 23-26	Mazatlan, Sinaloa
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MICHIGAN	July 14-17	Grand Rapids
MINNESOTA	July 14-16	St. Paul
MISSISSIPPI	July 8-10	Biloxi
MISSOURI	July 15-17	St. Louis
MONTANA	July 8-10	Kalispell
NEBRASKA	June 24-26	North Platte
NEVADA	July 15-17	Hawthorne
NEW HAMPSHIRE	June 23-26	North Conway
NEW JERSEY	Sept. 8-10	Wildwood
NEW MEXICO	June 24-26	Farmington
NEW YORK	July 14-16	Buffalo
NORTH CAROLINA	June 16-19	Charlotte
NORTH DAKOTA	June 18-21	Fargo
OHIO	July 8-10	Akron
OKLAHOMA	June 17-19	Oklahoma City
OREGON	June 23-25	Springfield
PANAMA CANAL	May 13-15	San Jose, Costa Rica
PENNSYLVANIA	July 13-16	Pittsburgh
PHILIPPINES	April 8-10	La Trinidad, Benquet
PUERTO RICO	June 24-26	San Juan
RHODE ISLAND	June 10-12	Warwick
SOUTH CAROLINA	June 24-26	Greenville
SOUTH DAKOTA	June 11-14	Rapid City
TENNESSEE	June 17-19	Nashville
TEXAS	July 22-25	McAllen
UTAH	June 24-26	St. George
VERMONT	June 23-25	White River Jct.
VIRGINIA	July 7-10	Arlington
WASHINGTON	July 21-23	Walla Walla
WEST VIRGINIA	July 8-10	Beckley
WISCONSIN	July 13-17	Madison
WYOMING	June 16-18	Douglas

\* No Convention being held this year.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
1983 DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS**

**APRIL**

**8-10 PHILIPPINES, La Trinidad, Benquet**

**MAY**

**13-15 KANSAS, Topeka**

**13-15 PANAMA CANAL, San Jose, Costa Rica**

**20-21 CANADA, St. Lambert, Quebec**

**JUNE**

**2-5 FLORIDA, Tampa**

**10-12 RHODE ISLAND, Warwick**

**11-14 SOUTH DAKOTA, Rapid City**

**16-18 FRANCE, Willingen, West Germany**

**16-18 WYOMING, Douglas**

**16-19 MAINE, Portland**

**16-19 NORTH CAROLINA, Charlotte**

**17-19 TENNESSEE, Nashville**

**17-19 OKLAHOMA, Oklahoma City**

**18-21 NORTH DAKOTA, Fargo**

**22-25 ALASKA, Sitka**

**22-26 CALIFORNIA, Palm Springs**

**23-24 HAWAII, Honolulu**

**23-25 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**23-25 MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester**

**23-25 OREGON, Springfield**

**23-25 VERMONT, White River Junction**

**23-26 ARIZONA, Phoenix**

**23-26 COLORADO, Estes Park**

**23-26 MEXICO, Mazatlan, Sinaloa**

**23-26 NEW HAMPSHIRE, North Conway**

**24-26 ARKANSAS, Fayetteville**

**24-26 LOUISIANA, Shreveport**

**24-26 NEBRASKA, North Platte**

**24-26 NEW MEXICO, Farmington**

**24-26 PUERTO RICO, San Juan**

**24-26 SOUTH CAROLINA, Greenville**

**24-26 UTAH, St. George**

**JULY**

**7-10 INDIANA, Indianapolis**

**7-10 KENTUCKY, Owensboro**

**7-10 VIRGINIA, Arlington**

**8-10 MISSISSIPPI, Biloxi**

**8-10 MONTANA, Kalispell**

**8-10 OHIO, Akron**

**8-10 WEST VIRGINIA, Beckley**

**9-10 DELAWARE, Dover**

**12-15 MARYLAND, Ocean City**

**13-16 PENNSYLVANIA, Pittsburgh**

**13-17 ILLINOIS, Champaign**

**13-17 WISCONSIN, Madison**

**14-16 CONNECTICUT, Hartford**

**14-16 MINNESOTA, St. Paul**

**14-16 NEW YORK, Buffalo**

**14-17 IDAHO, Burley**

**14-17 MICHIGAN, Grand Rapids**

**15-17 ALABAMA, Birmingham**

**15-17 IOWA, Dubuque**

**15-17 MISSOURI, St. Louis**

**15-17 NEVADA, Hawthorne**

**21-23 WASHINGTON, Walla Walla**

**21-24 GEORGIA, Jekyll Island**

**22-25 TEXAS, McAllen**

**AUGUST 19-25 - NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Seattle, Washington**

**SEPTEMBER**

**8-10 NEW JERSEY, Wildwood**



June 22, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: Support for Caribbean Basin Policies and Initiatives

Since the establishment of the Western Hemisphere Task Force in October 1979, The American Legion has devoted considerable resources toward emphasizing the invaluable importance of the area to the United States. This has been reflected in our National Convention resolutions since that time, the most recent of which have been presented to President Reagan. We have taken innumerable legislative and executive actions to implement the recommendations of these mandates.

In order to keep these activities within workable space, I am submitting the following listing of activities since the President's April 27 speech to the joint session of Congress.

- On April 28, National Commander Keller sent the attached letter with enclosures to the President. Copies of the National Commander's letter to President Reagan was also sent to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

- On April 30, the May issue of The American Legion Magazine was distributed to nearly three million members and contained the attached message regarding El Salvador.

- On May 2, the attached National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin was distributed to 1500 Past National Commanders, state officials and members of the National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions.

- At our May National Executive Committee meeting, copies of President Reagan's address to the joint session of Congress and National Commander Al Keller's response were given to our 58 National Executive Committee-men and alternatives.

- On June 9, the attached testimony in support of the Caribbean Initiative was given to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House.

- On May 18 and 19, June Stolte, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, participated in briefings by the White House staff on the Caribbean Basin and issued the attached press release concerning Auxiliary support for the President's Initiative throughout the membership of the Auxiliary.

- The attached draft letter urging legislative support by our membership will be mailed next week. The more than 700 recipients include all national leadership, state leaders of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Additionally, it will be sent to our Legislative Council which has the assigned responsibility for liaison with each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

- At the present time, the Chairmen of our National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions are in Guatemala and will be issuing a widely distributed report following their return next week.

- Ambassador Richard Stone has been invited to address the Foreign Affairs and National Security policy bodies of The American Legion on August 20 at our 65th National Convention.

I appreciate your continuing cooperation and hope this partial listing of our support will be of assistance.

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Director  
National Security-Foreign  
Relations Division

# The American Legion



June 8, 1983

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Legion has received a copy of a June 2, 1983, letter from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, David A. Stockman, to Chairman Jamie L. Whitten of the House Appropriations Committee regarding H.R. 3191, the FY 84 Treasury, Postal Service, General Government Appropriations bill. Mr. Stockman's letter is distressing in its reference to three items of concern to the Legion-- 1) the Revenue Foregone postal subsidy 2) rules proposed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which would significantly alter Reduction-in-Force procedures and establish a performance based incentive system and 3) contracting out employee positions at the General Services Administration (GSA), which are specifically reserved for veterans by 5 USC 3310.

In the case of the postal subsidy, our organization and other preferred rate mailers have presented to Congress and to your office the need for continuing such rates at existing levels through the upcoming fiscal year. We simply cannot afford the rate increase which would result from your funding recommendations of \$400 million. Since preferred postage treatment provides our organization the opportunity to freely communicate and to maintain private sector services for the needy, we must object to Mr. Stockman's comment that the postal subsidy is "unnecessary." Recent survey findings show that \$65 billion annually in goods and services are being provided by private sector charitable activities. When recognizing that subsidized mail is an intricate part of this entire initiative, we choose to view this subsidy as an investment.

Mr. President, just as the postal subsidy plays a significant role in the welfare of the American people, the welfare of Federal employees is served by a fair and equitable system for determining retention in Federal service when RIF's are carried out. We recognize your need to be able to effectively manage personnel matters but the regulatory changes proposed by OPM could accommodate subjective implementation and, thereby, could provide a vehicle for diluting the provisions of law regarding veterans preference. In any case, we believe that Congress should have an opportunity to review the proposed regulations.



The President

June 8, 1983

Federal employees, specifically veterans, would be adversely affected by the GSA contracting out proposal for the positions of guards, custodians, elevator operators, and messengers. These positions, reserved by law (5 USC 3310), for veterans, are often the only means these people have of entering federal service and failure to retain these positions as part of the federal work force would virtually ignore current law under provisions of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority.

Mr. President, we urge you to reconsider your position on the three issues discussed here.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Al Keller, Jr.", written in dark ink.

AL KELLER, JR.  
National Commander  
The American Legion

June 29, 1983

I send my warmest greetings to all who gather for the 65th American Legion National Convention.

Over the years, from World I to the present, the Legion has provided strong leadership for American veterans, contributing to the welfare and betterment of those who have served in our Armed Forces and offering a forum for the expression of views on issues facing our nation.

Your aid and assistance to this Administration have proved invaluable, and I hope we have lived up to your confidence. All we promised, we did or tried our utmost to do. America is on the mend on all fronts. The economy is beginning to sparkle, interest rates are down, inflation has been slashed, and unemployment, though still too high, is on its way down. America is once again respected abroad, and our honor is secure. All of our accomplishments we owe to the support of groups like the American Legion.

We are firmly committed to rebuilding our nation's military strength and to providing for its defense. As long as I am President there will be no lessening of our resolve to keep America strong. Nor will we forget those who have met their nation's call -- who left their homes and families to serve, fight, and sometimes die for our precious heritage. That America stands today as the beacon of hope and liberty in a world of instability and bondage is the highest tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of our servicemen and veterans. The Legion's goals and aspirations have always reflected the best of what made America great. Your patriotism has helped hold America together through good times and bad.

You have my best wishes for a productive and successful convention, and I join all Americans in commending you for your outstanding contributions to freedom and the nation.

**RONALD REAGAN**

Sent to: Mr. James E. Witek  
National Public Relations Division  
The American Legion  
1608 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D/C. 10006

Enclosure: 8x10 glossy photo

RR:Hodge:ck

cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/M.Blackwell/CF

DUE: JULY 1 - EVENT: AUG. 29 (Seattle)

CALL WHEN SIGNED TO HAVE PICKED UP.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1983

TO: DODIE LIVINGSTON

FROM: MAISELLE

Can we get the requested letters  
for the American Legion people  
per the attached correspondence?

Thanks for helping

*get date from Myles for events -  
2941*

*June 24 - given to Violet  
5/16*

*no 6/21*

*req. photos 6/21*

*photos sent 6/28*

# The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★  
(202) 393-4811 ★



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 7, 1983

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison  
191 Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Five members of The American Legion will be honored within the next few weeks for their contributions in community service, youth activities, volunteer service, work with veterans, and heroism.

Each will receive The American Legion National Commander's "Certificate of Recognition" plaque. Gordon's Dry Gin Co. Ltd. will also present each with its "Good Neighbor Award" plaque and a check for \$1,000 payable to the award winner's favorite charity.

We plan to present each of these five civic-minded Legionnaires with a scrapbook containing letters from his U.S. senators and representative, state officials, our national commander and others. We would appreciate a letter from the President commending each recipient for his contribution to society. A draft letter and background information on each recipient is enclosed.

We would prefer you send the presidential letters back to us so we can include them in the scrapbooks. If you have any questions on this matter, please call Jim Witek at 861-2790.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mylio S. Kraja".

MYLIO S. KRAJA  
Executive Director

MSK/tla

Encls.

DRAFT

Mr. Christian W. Bretall  
2814 Clearview Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Dear Mr. Bretall:

I wish to commend you for your work with veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Perry Point, Maryland, for the past 54 years-- including more than 37,000 hours since VA volunteer service began to be documented in 1946.

Your impressive dedication in devoting your personal time to improving the lives of hospitalized fellow veterans by arranging for their recreation and bringing in individuals and groups to entertain them typifies the American spirit of helping our fellow man.

I am proud of the contributions you have made to the morale and welfare of our veterans, who deserve the best our nation can give them for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

I wish you health and happiness in the future.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

**GORDON'S GIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD  
FOR WORK WITH VETERANS**

**RECIPIENT**

*Christian W. Bretall  
2814 Clearview Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234*

Christian Bretall has worked with veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Perry Point, Maryland, for over 53 years and has spent more than 37,000 hours in volunteer service to these veterans.

He has been responsible for securing tickets and transportation for patients to attend Baltimore Oriole and Baltimore Colt games, ice shows, circuses and Drum & Bugle Corps competition.

Bretall has also been responsible for securing members of the United States Naval Academy Band and the United States Marine Corp Drill Team to perform on the Veterans Administration Hospital grounds to entertain the patients.

Through his dedication and generosity, Bretall has improved the lives of hospitalized veterans for the past 53 years. In 1982 he was honored as the Joint Veterans Committee of Maryland, "1982 Veteran of the Year".

His efforts and dedication to his fellow veterans has significantly improved the condition of veterans in need of assistance. Bretall is a member of German H.H. Emory American Legion Post No. 8, Monkton, Maryland.

DRAFT

Mr. Harold A. Spies  
90 Sodus Street  
Clyde, New York 14433

Dear Mr. Spies:

I wish to commend you for your personal involvement with people of all ages during your many years of volunteer service to Wayne County, New York.

Your service as disaster chairman of the Wayne County Chapter of the American Red Cross for 30 years; civil defense administrator of Galen, New York, for 36 years; advisory board member, Wayne County Office for the Aging, and numerous other volunteer efforts typify the spirit of volunteerism and set an example for all Americans to follow.

I am aware of the many awards and honors which have been bestowed upon you by the organizations you have served. And, I am proud of the volunteer service you have performed for Wayne County and for this country.

Warm regards,

RONALD REAGAN

# **GORDON'S GIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

## **RECIPIENT**

***Harold A. Spies  
90 Sodus Street  
Clyde, New York 14433***

Harold Spies' many acts of personal involvement with people of all ages through his many years of volunteer service to Wayne County (New York) residents is well-documented.

Spies' volunteer involvement includes: baseball umpire; Disaster Chairman for 30 years with the Wayne County Chapter of the American Red Cross; Administrator, Galen (New York) Civil Defense for 36 years; Advisory Board member, Wayne County Office for the Aging; volunteer, providing tax assistance for the elderly; and member of the Advisory Council to the New York State Department of Economic Opportunity.

Spies' many awards include the 1980 American Red Cross Outstanding Achievement Award, the 1980 Wayne County Office of the Aging Outstanding Service Award and the 1981 New York State Senior Citizen of the Year Award.

His attitude and achievements for the citizens of Wayne County exemplify the true spirit of volunteerism. Spies is a member of Brown-DiSanto American Legion Post 226, Clyde, New York.



DRAFT

Mr. Grant Cushinberry  
1919 Fillmore  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Mr. Cushinberry:

I wish to commend you for your many years of community service in the Topeka area--not only in three decades as a psychiatric aide at the Topeka Veterans Administration Medical Center, but the additional volunteer work you have performed with children, the aged, disabled citizens and others.

Among your many community service efforts called to my attention are the collection of Christmas toys for underprivileged children, sponsoring free Thanksgiving meals for the elderly and handicapped, and arranging transportation for the entertainment of senior citizens.

Thanks to people like you, Topeka and communities across America are better places to live. I am pleased your fellow citizens have seen fit to name a public park in your honor.

Such extensive and longstanding community service provides an example all Americans should try to follow.

Warm regards,

RONALD REAGAN

# GORDON'S GIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

## RECIPIENT

*Grant Cushinberry*  
*1919 Fillmore*  
*Topeka, Kansas 66604*

Grant Cushinberry's contribution to his community has been documented by over 100 articles from the *Topeka Capital - Journal* which tell of the various community activities in which he has been involved.

Employed over 30 years as a psychiatric aide at the Topeka Veterans Administration Hospital, his contributions to the community include service to children, the poor, the aged and minority groups. Highlighting just a few of his many contributions, Cushinberry:

- Collected and donated toys at Christmas-time for underprivileged children.
- Organized and directed a summer sports training program for over 100 youths.
- Sponsored a free Thanksgiving dinner for elderly, handicapped and others who would not have had an opportunity to have a holiday meal.
- Arranged transportation for senior citizens to attend a local circus.
- Has been involved in a number of church-related activities within the community.

Cushinberry has received a number of awards for his involvement in this community and a park in Topeka has been renamed Cushinberry Park in his honor.

He distinguishes himself as one whose exceptional contribution in volunteer service to his community has made that community a better place for all to live.

Cushinberry is a member of Jordan Patterson American Legion Post 319, Topeka, Kansas.

DRAFT

Mr. Robert Burns  
2208 Inez Drive, North East  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Dear Mr. Burns:

I wish to commend you for your personal involvement with youth, and especially the mentally handicapped, in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, area.

Your accomplishments on behalf of Special Olympics are especially noteworthy. You have supervised annual fund-raising projects, raised public awareness of the Special Olympics games through a newsletter and served as event coordinator at the area and state-level games.

You also were instrumental in getting the New Mexico American Legion involved in Special Olympics and have served as their volunteer coordinator. In addition, for the last three years you have brought between 600 and 1,000 children from the Childrens Home and Special Olympics together to watch the largest fireworks display in New Mexico.

It is quite apparent your actions speak louder than words in all of these areas. I am proud of your many accomplishments and believe you are an ideal example for all Americans to follow.

Warm regards

RONALD REAGAN

# **GORDON'S GIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

## **RECIPIENT**

***Robert Burns***  
***2208 Inez Drive, North East***  
***Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112***

Robert Burns' involvement with youth, and especially the mentally handicapped, in the Albuquerque area is well known. Working with his two sons, Burns became actively involved in the Special Olympics program in Albuquerque.

He is credited with being instrumental in getting the New Mexico American Legion involved in the Special Olympics Program and was named Special Olympics Chairman for the Legion in New Mexico.

Burns is involved with many areas of the Special Olympics program including: volunteer coordinator for The American Legion, supervising annual fund-raising projects, providing public awareness of the Special Olympics games through a newsletter and event coordinator at the area and state level games.

For the past three years Burns has brought from 600 to 1000 children from the Children's Home and Special Olympics together for a free show of the largest fireworks display in the state.

Burns also served many years as a youth counselor for a local church, where he devised programs within the church to keep children involved after school hours and teach them to become better citizens.

His concern for the problems and potential of young people in the Albuquerque area has bought them increased opportunities.

Burns is a member of Carlisle-Bennett American Legion Post 13, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

DRAFT

Mr. Richard Edlebeck  
3577 E. Fitzsimmons Road  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Dear Mr. Edlebeck:

I wish to commend your selfless courage and quick action that saved the life of a motorist whose car had flipped over into a ditch containing four feet of icy water.

I have been told that two weeks earlier, you had been hospitalized for insufficient circulation and instructed by your doctors to keep the affected area warm at all times. However, you disregarded your own health and plunged into the icy water to save the life of another human being. When pressure from the water made it impossible to open the front door of the overturned car, you had to remove chunks of ice from the back door so the victim could be removed.

I am proud Americans care enough for their fellow man to perform heroic deeds such as yours. You are an ideal example for all Americans to follow.

Warm regards,

RONALD REAGAN

# GORDON'S GIN GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

## RECIPIENT

*Richard Edlebeck*  
*3577 E. Fitzsimmons Road*  
*Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154*

Richard Edlebeck is credited with saving the life of a motorist whose car had flipped over into a ditch containing four feet of icy water on March 2, 1982.

Pressure from the water made it impossible to open the front door of the overturned car, causing Edlebeck and another motorist to remove chunks of ice from the back door so the victim could be removed.

Following the rescue the victim was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital where hospital officials said his body temperature had dropped to 92 degrees upon arrival.

Edlebeck had been hospitalized two weeks prior to the rescue for insufficient circulation in his right foot and had been told by doctors to keep his foot warm at all times. Disregarding his personal health, he plunged into the icy water in order to save the life of another.

For this effort, Edlebeck qualifies as one whose selfless courage and quick action saved another human being.

Edlebeck is a member of Oelschlaeger-Dallmann American Legion Post 434, Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

# The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

April 28, 1983

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The American Legion's 2.6 million members throughout the nation heartily applaud and endorse the comprehensive plan of action for Central America you described to the Congress on April 27, 1983. We are convinced that your approach is practical, suited to the area, and offers the best hope for success. It is a plan all Americans, of whatever persuasion, can, and should, endorse. As has unfortunately happened repeatedly in the Twentieth Century, America must belatedly recognize a serious threat to her interests and unite behind a common endeavor. No more delay or avoiding the issue can be tolerated. Only determined, coordinated and resolute action under U.S. leadership can avoid a creeping Pearl Harbor--and this time not thousands of miles distant in the Pacific--but within several hundred miles of our shores.

Bipartisan action, as you so rightly suggested, is most assuredly vital to promoting democracy in Central America. Now is the time when America must--if it is to survive and prosper in the long run as a beacon of liberty--reestablish the very effective bipartisan approach to foreign policy and national security policy that prevailed in the immediate post-war era. That period of enlightened statesmanship created the institutions and policies establishing a military deterrent shield behind which an unprecedented expansion of Western democracy and economic development occurred. The challenge now is to recapture the spirit that responded to early challenges to create such successful innovations as the OAS, NATO, World Bank and IMF. New international institutions are probably not required at present, but a similar bipartisan spirit, long-range commitment, and willingness to sacrifice are essential.

Your four-part program of action addresses the needs of the area in a balanced, internally consistent manner. Democratic reform, economic development aid, security assistance, and support for flexible negotiations consistent with U.S. goals is a combined approach suitable to the needs of fending off external threats while seeking to promote the growth of democratic, equitable societies.

The American Legion has been a leading voice among those seeking to alert America to its vital interests in the Caribbean Basin and Central America. Following through on our concern for the Panama Canal Treaties, we looked intensively at Central America and, in 1980, formed a Western Hemisphere Task Force to study the area and report to the American people. The task force published an extensive study on the Caribbean Basin last year, which led us to adopt a program very similar to yours. However, we go one giant step beyond your Caribbean Basin Initiative, which we nevertheless strongly support. We call for a "Marshall-type Plan" for the Caribbean Basin. As we see it, the Caribbean Basin suffers from an economic-political malady which makes it susceptible to communist aggression just as war-devastated Western Europe was susceptible to communist aggression in the wake of World War II. Such a plan is called for because that approach features coordinated programs, significant funding, regional cooperation, and a long-term commitment. Today, we endorse General Marshall's advice in 1947 to devise "a cure rather than a palliative." For a "Marshall-type Plan" would flow logically from the formation laid in your four-part strategy by providing a long-term program to promote freedom and prosperity in the Caribbean Basin.

As another expression of concern for the vital importance of Central America to U.S. national security, I devoted my "Commander's Message" in the May issue of The American Legion Magazine to debunking the "Vietnam syndrome." I believe the three million copies distributed of that article will help to convince concerned Americans that we cannot allow incorrect lessons drawn from the Vietnam War to restrict American policy. Carried to its logical conclusion, the "Vietnam syndrome" would tie America's hands and lead inexorably to withdrawal into Fortress America with a concomitant diminishment of freedom and prosperity throughout the world.

Let me assure you, our members will continue to support a sound program for protecting vital American interests and security in Central America and encouraging those in the area truly seeking democracy, justice, and freedom.

Sincerely yours,



AL KELLER, JR.  
National Commander



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE TASK FORCE  
REPORT IV -- THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

TO THE  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MAY 5-6, 1982

The American Legion

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE TASK FORCE  
REPORT IV — THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

BACKGROUND: After U.S. ratification of the Panama Canal treaties in 1978, growing violence in Central America, and establishment of Marxist-oriented governments in several Caribbean islands, the Foreign Relations Commission (FRC) increasingly devoted its attention to the Caribbean Basin. The commission was particularly concerned with Soviet and Cuban strategic penetration throughout the area.

At its April 30-May 1, 1980 meeting, the National Executive Committee (NEC) recognized this concern by adopting Resolution 32, which established the Western Hemisphere Task Force (WHTF) to gather and evaluate information on the Western Hemisphere. The resolution further directed the WHTF to report its findings and recommendations through the FRC to the NEC and to The American Legion membership, American people, and governmental policy makers. Since its creation, the WHTF has submitted three reports to the NEC. After receiving and filing the October 1981 WHTF report, the NEC directed the FRC to "take the report and eventually develop resolutions which can become policies of The American Legion."

It is apparent that the main battle to stem communist aggression in the Western Hemisphere is currently underway in Central America. That fact, coupled with Central America's geographical position on the western flank of the Caribbean Basin, impelled the FRC and WHTF to devote this report primarily to an assessment of the strategic situation in the Caribbean Basin.

Following a WHTF meeting during the February 1982 Washington Conference, the WHTF has conducted extensive research on the Caribbean Basin. The WHTF also has evaluated the results of staff interviews with officials from the Department of State and Defense and attendance at various congressional hearings. Furthermore, in preparing this analysis, the WHTF has fully considered its earlier reports to the NEC.

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW: This report's objective is to evaluate the strategic situation in the Caribbean Basin, with emphasis on Central America, in order to recommend appropriate resolutions to the NEC.

This report has two parts: Part I addresses the Caribbean Basin; Part II contains recommendations on future responsibilities of the WHTF.

Part I contains six sections:

- National security interests
- Communist threat
- Economic problems
- U.S. policies
- American Legion positions
- Conclusions and recommendations

The foregoing organization of the report provides a logical, comprehensive approach for identifying and analyzing the key factors that should shape Legion mandates on the Caribbean Basin.

The United States has a multitude of interests in many countries and regions, as well as functional objectives that apply to specific countries or regions. Although it is frequently very difficult to create a national consensus on what U.S. interests and objectives should be, and which are truly vital interests, it is usually even more difficult to reach agreement on how our scarce resources should be applied to achieve selected goals. This report will identify U.S. objectives in the Caribbean Basin which are consistent with The American Legion's general stands on foreign policy issues. Next, the communist threat to those interests will be delineated. Attention must be given to worldwide communist strategy, operational actions taken to implement it, and future prospects. The communist threat feeds on, and is exacerbated by the growing economic problems of the Caribbean Basin, which are particularly grave in Central America. A brief summary will explain those economic problems. Current U.S. policies will be examined to determine whether they are adequate to overcome the threat and fulfill U.S. interests. The final section of Part I will present conclusions and recommendations concerning the strategic situation in the Caribbean Basin and future U.S. policies required to achieve U.S. goals.

The organization of Part I rests on the premise that selection of effective national policies depends upon properly assessing the Caribbean Basin's situation, clearly enunciating realistic U.S. objectives, and thoroughly appreciating all dimensions of the communist threat. Additionally, a decision must be made on the relative importance of U.S. objectives in the Caribbean Basin compared with those in other parts of the world. This step is vitally important; it increases the likelihood that scarce resources will be optimally allocated.

Part II presents a recommended future course of action for the WHIF to implement the conclusions and recommendations of Part I, the three associated proposed resolutions, and other Western Hemisphere matters of concern to the National Executive Committee and American Legion members.

## PART I

### STRATEGIC EVALUATION OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

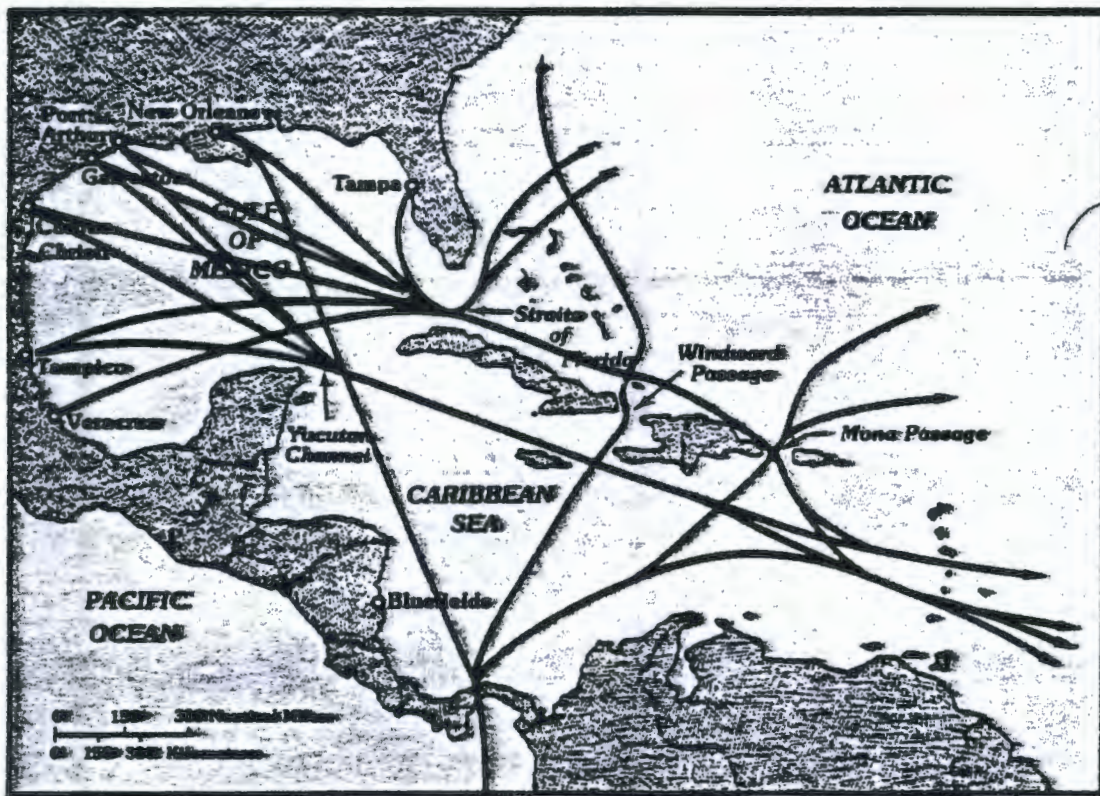
NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS: Due to its proximity and generally non-challenging atmosphere, most Americans have taken the Caribbean Basin (Map 1) for granted and have not appreciated its strategic importance. Except for relatively brief episodes such as the Cuban revolution (1959), the Cuban Missile crisis (1962), the Dominican Republic crisis (1965), and the Panama Canal treaties debate (1977-78), Americans have overlooked both the region's importance and the growing communist threat it faces. The Soviet Union has for a long time properly recognized the Caribbean Basin's significance and refers to the area as our "strategic rear." Because it is contiguous to us and affects our economic well being, any threat to the Caribbean Basin is a challenge to our own national security.

The United States, of necessity, is a maritime nation. As such, it fronts on three maritime areas: the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean Sea lanes shown in Map 2 are vitally important because they



Source: Department of State

Map 1. Caribbean Basin



Source: Department of Defense

Map 2. Caribbean Sea Lines of Communication



provide access to the South Atlantic, the northern littoral of South America, and the Panama Canal. During peacetime, almost half of our imported goods and materials and 75% of oil imports transit the Caribbean. During wartime, half of the supplies shipped to NATO would be shipped from Gulf Ports through the Florida Straits. Furthermore, most of the oil and reinforcements for U.S. forces in Europe would be shipped from Gulf ports. Likewise, the Panama Canal is extremely important for movement of Alaskan oil, commerce, and naval reinforcements and deployments. Using the Canal shortens the San Francisco-New York distance by 7,400 nautical miles.

Ranking as the fourth largest market in the world for U.S. exports, the Caribbean Basin has considerable economic importance. Nations in the area obtain 41% of their imports from the United States and send 60% of their exports to us. Recent discoveries in Mexico have greatly expanded proven oil and natural gas reserves in the region. Together, Mexico and Venezuela have proven reserves of 62 billion barrels of oil and 106 trillion cubic feet of gas world reserves. Recent oil discoveries in Guatemala indicate it may become energy self-sufficient by the late 1980s. Since the United States has no appropriate ports, supertankers bearing crude oil from the Persian Gulf tranship their cargoes at Caribbean ports. The Caribbean islands are a major oil refinery area and refine about 5 million barrels of crude oil.

Oil is not the only strategic material of significance in the Basin. As an example, bauxite, used in aluminum manufacture, comes largely from the Caribbean Basin. The United States imports 94% of the bauxite it uses (85% comes from the Caribbean Basin—Jamaica 42%, Guyana 32%, and Suriname 11%).

In sum then, the Caribbean Basin is of vital interest for its canal, sea lanes, economic role, and strategic materials. Even if those concrete interests did not exist, we would still have a psychological vital interest there because, The American Legion has clearly, publicly, and repeatedly "drawn a line" against communist aggression in Central America.

The numerous foreign policy debacles experienced in the past decade (Vietnam, Iran, Nicaragua, Afganistan, Poland) in which the United States was irresolute, divided, and unreliable make it absolutely imperative that the United States fulfill its vow to stop communist subversion in Central America. President Reagan forcefully stated the imperative for action in his February 24 address to the Organization of American States, when he presented his Caribbean Basin initiative:

A determined propaganda campaign has sought to mislead many in Europe and certainly many in the United States as to the true nature of the conflict in El Salvador. Very simply, guerrillas, armed and supported by and through Cuba, are attempting to impose a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship on the people of El Salvador as part of a large imperialistic plan. If we do not act promptly and decisively in defense of freedom, new Cubas will arise from the ruins of today's conflicts.

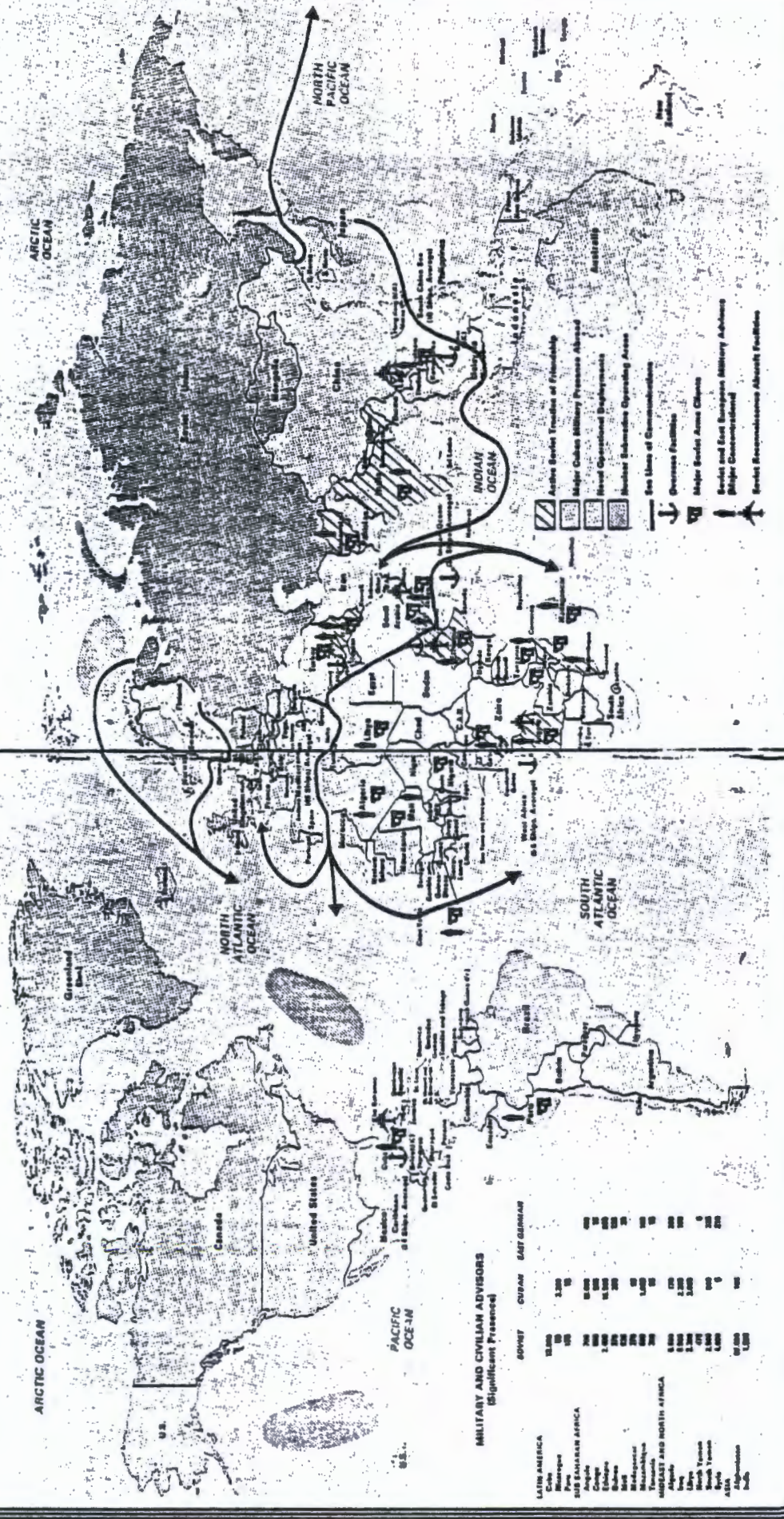
The President succinctly summarized his assessment of the region's importance in this statement: "Make no mistake: The well being and security of our neighbors in this region are in our vital interest."

Last December, Secretary of State Haig stated a similar theme:  
What is at stake is radicalization of the Western Hemisphere by foreign powers and by interests that are being manipulated from Moscow through Cuba. Now we face the prospect of having the first Central American totalitarian Marxist regime in Nicaragua and the threat of its expansion into El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia.

COMMUNIST THREAT: It is essential to understand that communist aggression in Central America is an integral part of the Soviet's global strategy. In 1973, President Brezhnev informed a meeting of Communist leaders in Prague, Czechoslovakia that the Soviet Union would achieve world military, economic, and political hegemony by 1985. To accomplish that objective, the Kremlin has adopted a global strategy for conducting warfare by military, political and economic means to gain direct or indirect control of the world's energy and mineral resources. At the Prague gathering, President Brezhnev boldly stated the Kremlin's global strategy in the resource war: "Our aim is to gain control of the two great treasure houses on which the West depends...the energy treasure house of the Persian Gulf and the mineral treasure house of Central and South Africa." This is an audacious undertaking for a nation that, although possessing great natural resources, is economically inefficient, technically backward (except in the space-military field), and decidedly unable to feed its population. The Soviets certainly are not omnipotent and have insufficient resources to accomplish all of their goals simultaneously. Nevertheless, they have the advantage for initiative which an aggressor automatically possesses. That basic advantage is reinforced by ruthlessness, determination, commitment, long-range planning, and the ability to prioritize actions and concentrate limited resources for maximum gain.

The Soviet global military strategy aimed at achieving military superiority, power projection means, and war-fighting capability is the keystone of the Soviet global strategy. The key turning point in the Cold War occurred during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. The Soviet's humiliating retreat from that confrontation presaged Khrushchev's replacement by Brezhnev and spurred Soviet determination to attain military superiority. During the past two decades, the Soviets have achieved a decided conventional military superiority. And President Reagan believes they have an overall superiority in nuclear capabilities, despite qualitative U.S. leads in the submarine and bomber legs of the triad (missiles, submarines, and bombers). At his March 31, 1982 press conference, President Reagan characterized the Soviet nuclear superiority as follows: "But the truth of the matter is that on balance the Soviet Union does have a definite margin of superiority—enough so that there is risk and there is what I have called...a window of vulnerability.... the Soviet's great edge is one in which they could absorb our retaliatory blow and hit us again." For the first time in Russian history, the Soviets have built a power projection force consisting of naval and air forces. That growing power projection capability can make use of an increasing number of foreign bases to influence political developments or conduct combat operations. Map 3 shows the wide extent of the Soviet overseas base structure which, coupled with forces in being and power projection capability, gives the Soviets worldwide reach. The Soviets clearly understand the key facts of the resource future:

# SOVIET GLOBAL POWER PROJECTION



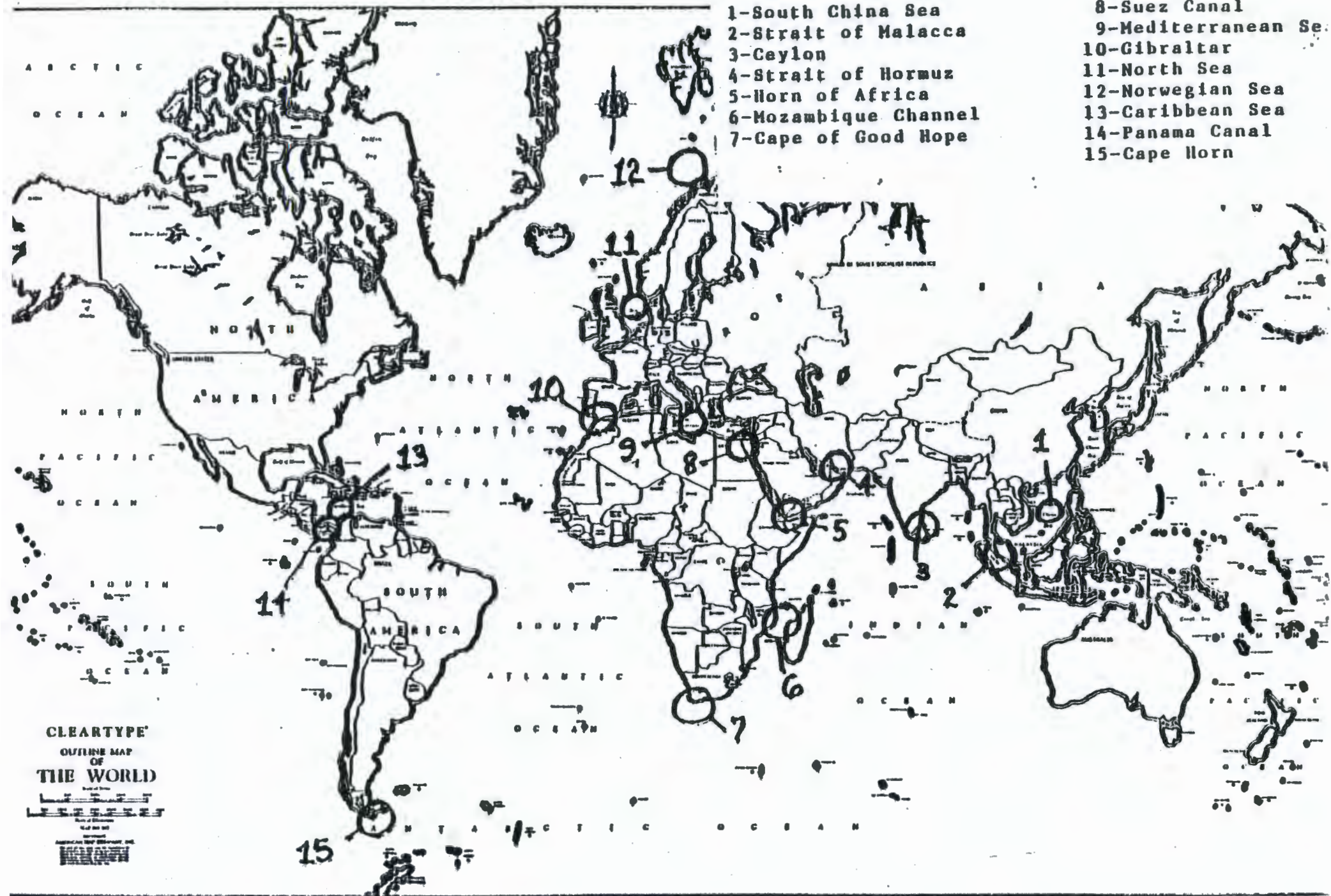
SOURCE: Department of Defense

- Population increases, pressures, and growing consumer demands place a premium on control of the world's limited natural resources.
- The three modern "factories" of the world—the United States, Western Europe, and Japan—rely heavily upon imported minerals and energy.
- The main worldwide flows of raw materials and finished goods are channeled through 15 funnels or choke points shown on Map 4. These include eight constricted passages: Malacca Straits, Ceylon, Strait of Hormuz, Horn of Africa, Mozambique Channel, Cape of Good Hope, Gibraltar, and Cape Horn; five inland seas: South China, Mediterranean, Norwegian, North, and Caribbean; and two interoceanic canals: Suez and Panama.

In sum, the Soviets have demonstrated a keen appreciation of the world's geopolitical situation and have advanced very far along the path of building military superiority and ways to make it felt. The Caribbean Basin is naturally an attractive area to the Soviets, because it contains two of the choke points, possesses significant energy and mineral resources, and is ideally located to demonstrate U.S. irresolution. Clearly, if the Soviets, can achieve domination or significant influence right at our southern doorstep, can any area in the world feel safe from Soviet pressure?

Soviet political strategy has sought to solidify control of its empire through threat or actual use of the Brezhnev Doctrine. On a broader front, using a large, effective propaganda apparatus, the Soviets seek to appear as champions of "anti-imperialism," economic development, and social justice to Third World peoples. The Soviets continually strive to disrupt Western unity and resolve by a clever, insidious, widespread disinformation campaign. That effort puts forth the perfectly inconsistent and ludicrous claims that the Soviets seek peaceful coexistence, self-determination, and a better life for disadvantaged people. Soviet political strategy opportunistically seeks to control local insurgent forces and encourages terrorism to disrupt target societies. The Caribbean Basin presents an ideal locale for Soviet political operations. Differing American and European assessments of the Caribbean situation present the Soviets a golden opportunity for exploitation as do the decidedly uneven income distribution and repressive systems in some Caribbean Basin nations.

The principal Soviet weakness and vulnerability lies in the economic area. Recognizing that a resource war is underway, but faced with economic constraints, the Soviets have taken advantage of Ostpolitik and detente to obtain Western technology, credits, and soft-term loans. In effect, the Soviets have indirectly financed much of their military buildup with Western help. The Soviets must walk a narrow line lest their aggressive military and political actions induce the West to bar or restrict technology, trade, and credit which the Kremlin needs to modernize its economy and support its military buildings. Thus, in selecting operational moves in zones of contention with the United States (such as Poland, Afghanistan, and the Caribbean Basin), the Soviets must consider the possible impact on the continuance of favorable Western economic policies. So far, Western disunity and irresolution have precluded effective use of Western economic power to curb Moscow's military and political boldness.



Map 4. Maritime Choke Points

It is clear that the Soviets regard the Caribbean Basin as one of five major zones of contention with the West. Together those zones (Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Southern Africa, Caribbean Basin) encompass most of the Third World. In the past four decades, the Soviets, although suffering some setbacks as in Egypt and Somalia, have made major gains as chronicled by Maps 5-8. Resolute action by the West is essential in order to prevent more of the Caribbean Basin coming under direct or indirect Soviet control.

Since 1978 the Soviets have accelerated operations in the Caribbean Basin to implement their global strategy. Such operations have included:

- Greatly increased military and economic aid to Cuba.
- Through Cuban actions:
  - Domination of the Nicaraguan revolution.
  - A huge buildup of Nicaragua's military forces and base structure.
  - Active support for insurgency in El Salvador.
  - Commencement of support for future large-scale insurgencies in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala.

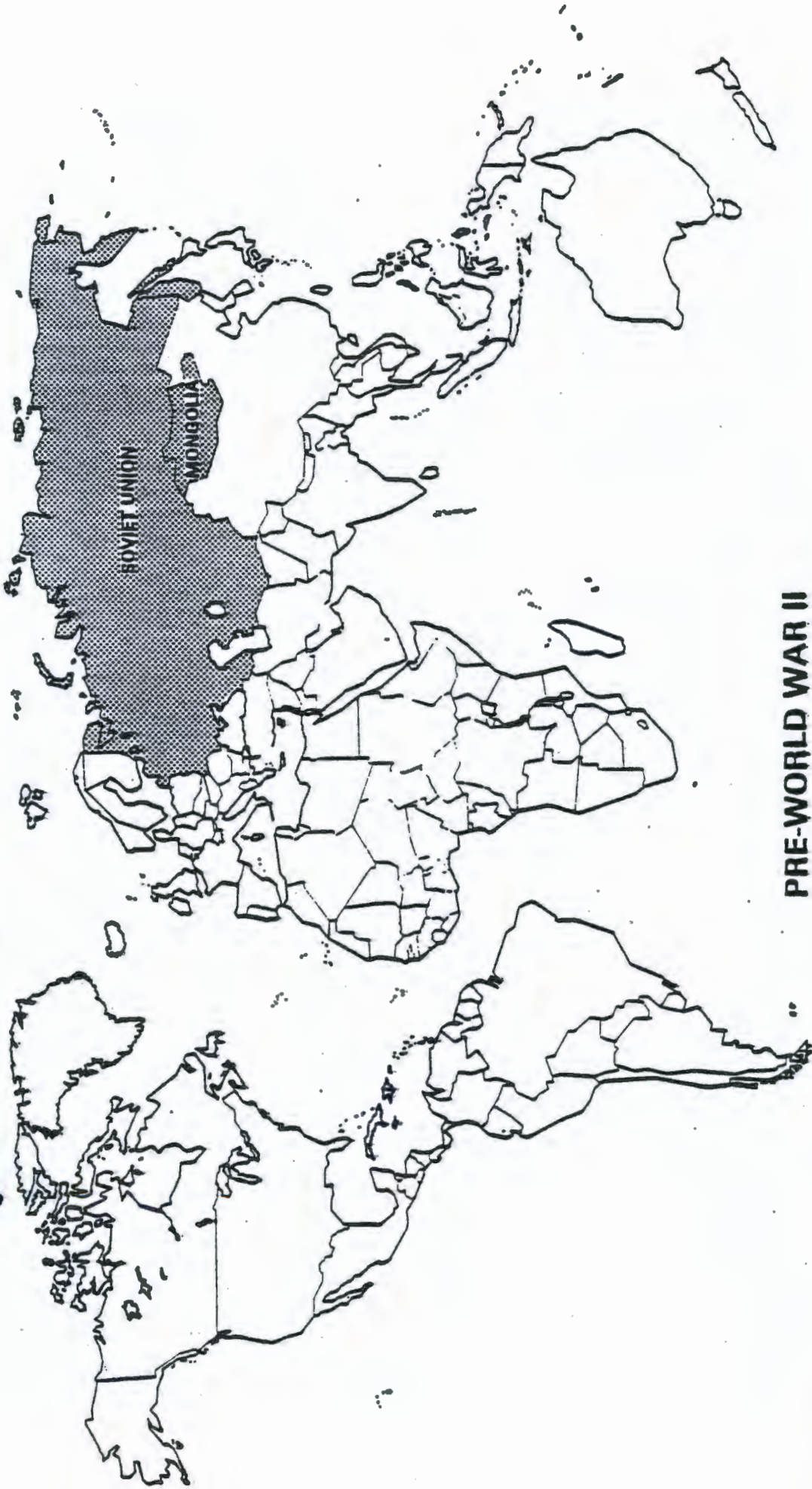
Before examining specific details, Figure 1 details the general picture of expanded Soviet involvement in Latin America. It shows a drastic increase in Soviet-Cuban military efforts in Latin America and a corresponding marked decrease by the United States. Those comparative figures highlight the growing Soviet commitment of resources to Latin America (especially Cuba) and the virtual neglect exercised by the United States until the past few months.

It is truly incredible to realize that a poor, tiny nation like Cuba plays such a large international role. Having a population of only about 10 million, Cuba nevertheless provides military and technical advisors and assistance in such distant spots as Libya, Iraq, South Yemen, Angola, Ethiopia, the Congo, Mozambique, Vietnam, and Nicaragua. Cuba currently has 60,000 personnel serving overseas: 25,000 civilian technicians, mostly construction workers but many having subversive missions, and 35,000 military, including 20,000 in Angola and 12,000 in Ethiopia.

Cuba's armed forces are proportionately larger than any other nation's in the Western Hemisphere. Cuba has 2.3 percent of its population in the regular armed forces while Mexico, for example, has 0.2 percent and the United States has less than 1.0 percent. Nine active and 18 reserve divisions comprise Cuba's army. Additionally, Cuba has hundreds of thousands of reserves and militia. The Cuban armed forces have sophisticated equipment including 650 tanks, over 200 MIG fighters (including two MIG-23 squadrons), 50 torpedo and attack boats, two attack submarines, and one frigate. This large and growing military force is underwritten by Soviet assistance.

In 1981, the Soviets provided at least \$500 million of military assistance and \$3 billion of economic aid (one fourth of Cuba's gross national product). The Soviets tripled their military assistance to Cuba in 1981 as compared to 1980, reaching the highest level since the Cuban missile crisis. The Soviets maintain a considerable presence in Cuba. A Soviet brigade (2,600-3,000 men) is located near Havana. The Soviets have a major intelligence collection

# COMMUNIST EXPANSION



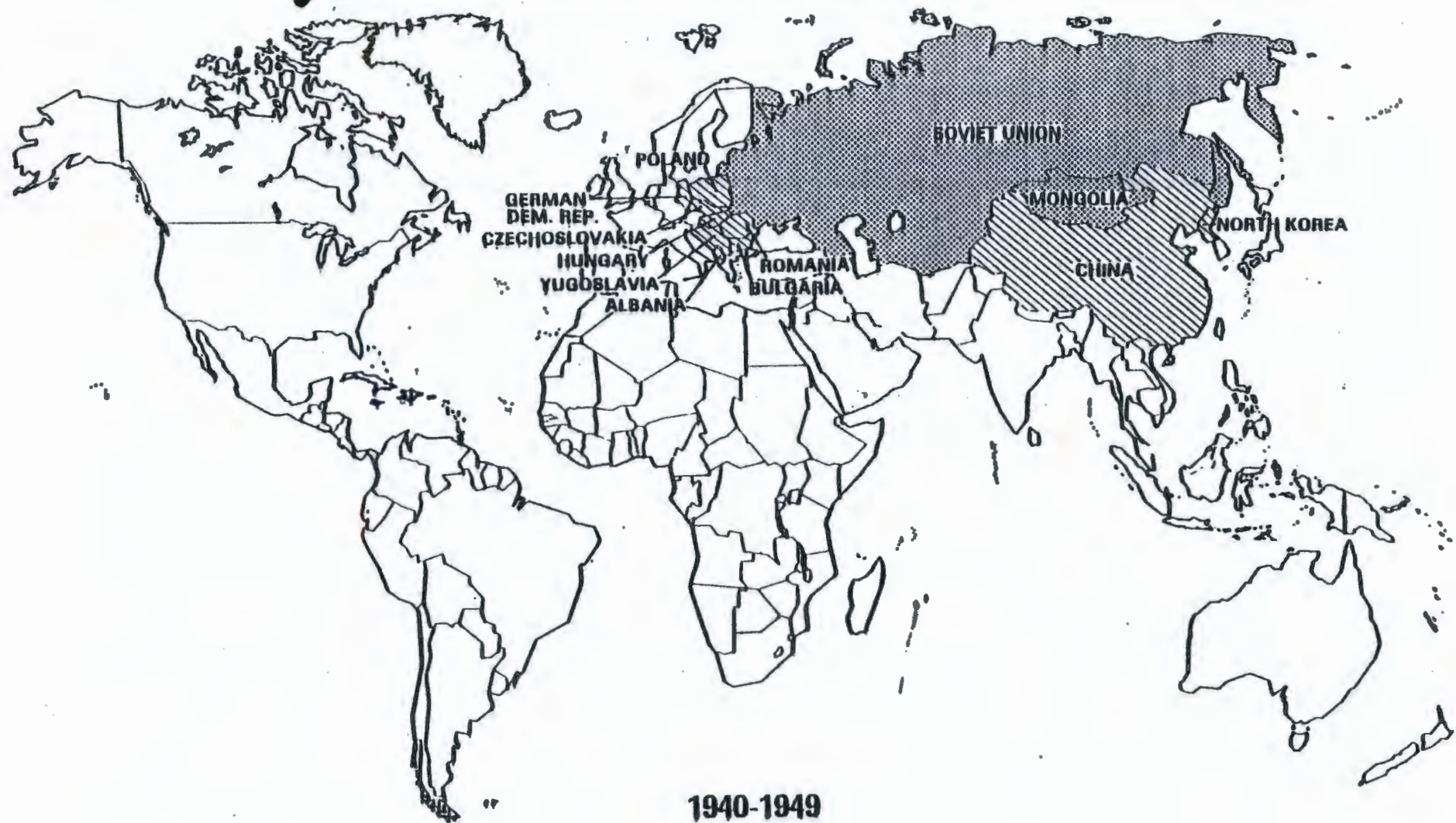
PRE-WORLD WAR II

-  USSR
-  MONGOLIA

Source: Department of Defense



# COMMUNIST EXPANSION



1940-1949

- USSR
- MONGOLIA
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA
- ESTONIA
- NORTH KOREA
- EASTERN EUROPE
- CHINA

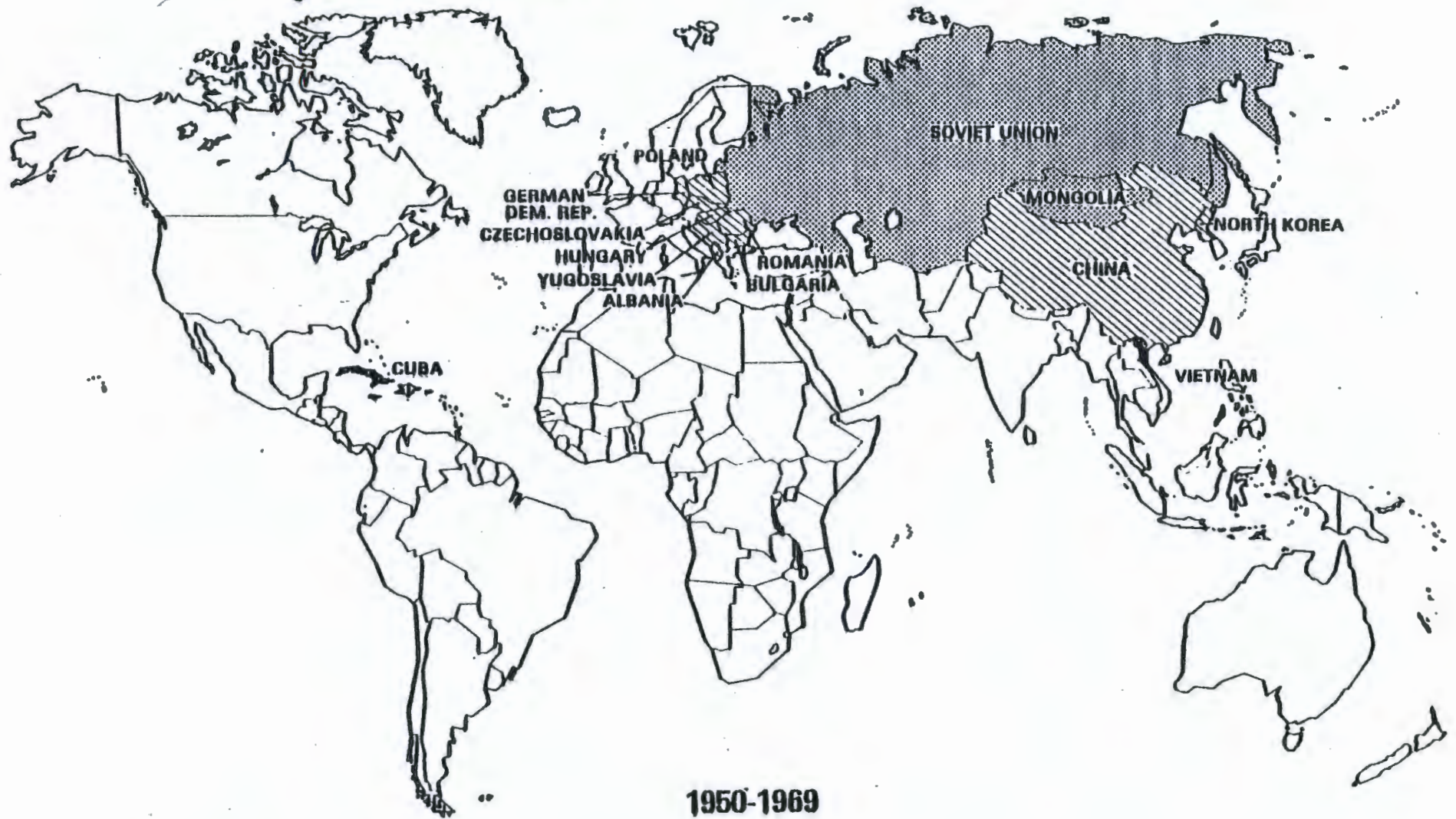
Source: Department of Defense

Map. 6





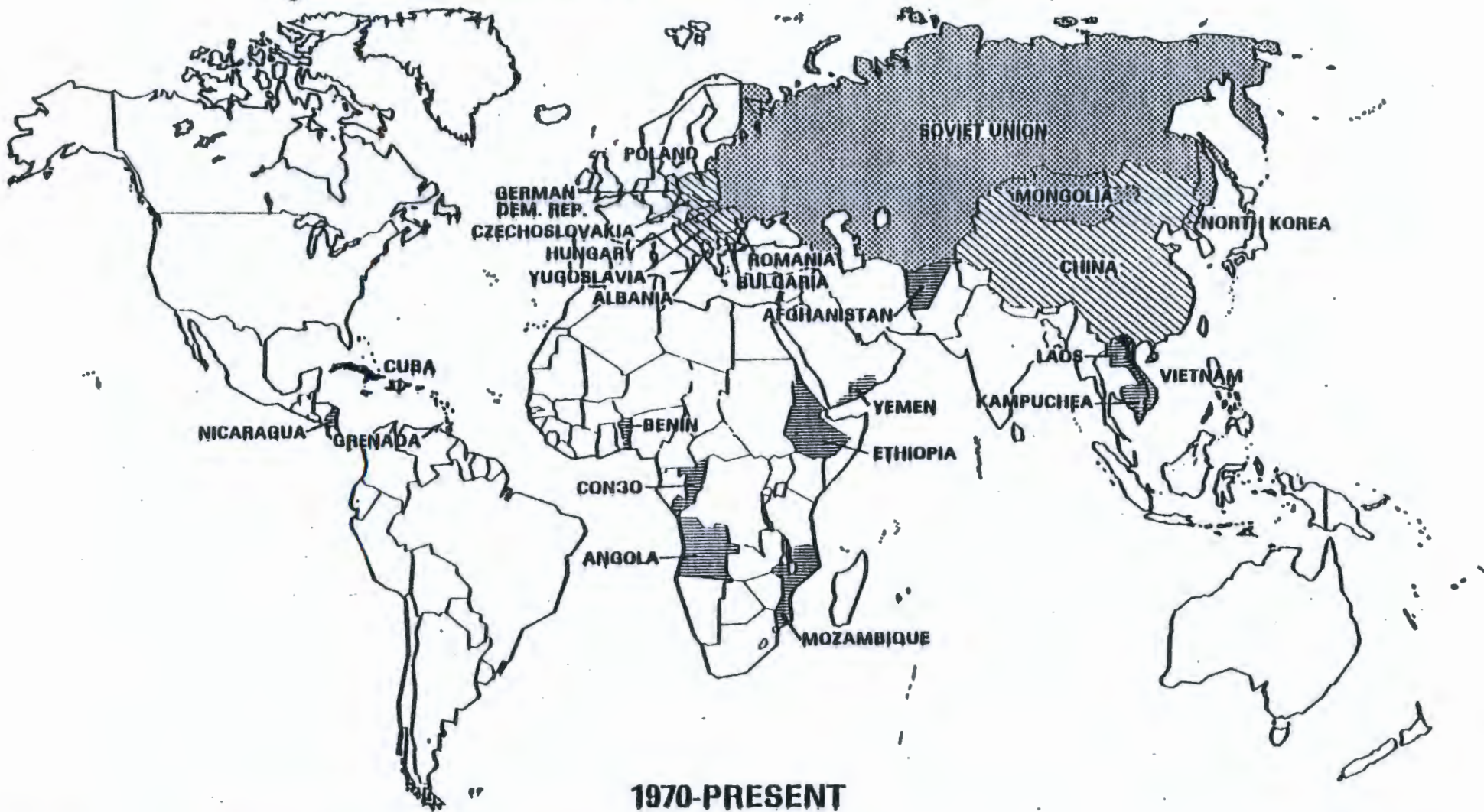
# COMMUNIST EXPANSION



- USSR
- MONGOLIA
- NORTH VIETNAM
- CUBA
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA
- ESTONIA
- NORTH KOREA
- EASTERN EUROPE
- CHINA

Source: Department of Defense

# COMMUNIST EXPANSION



- |            |                  |                 |                 |                          |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| ■ USSR     | ■ LATVIA         | ■ NORTH VIETNAM | ■ SOUTH VIETNAM | ■ LEFTIST/MARXIST STATES |
| ■ MONGOLIA | ■ LITHUANIA      | ■ CUBA          | ■ LAOS          | ■ NICARAGUA              |
|            | ■ ESTONIA        |                 | ■ KAMPUCHEA     | ■ GRENADA                |
|            | ■ NORTH KOREA    |                 | ■ AFGHANISTAN   | ■ ANGOLA                 |
|            | ■ EASTERN EUROPE |                 |                 | ■ ETHIOPIA               |
|            | ■ CHINA          |                 |                 | ■ BENIN                  |
|            |                  |                 |                 | ■ CONGO                  |
|            |                  |                 |                 | ■ MOZAMBIQUE             |
|            |                  |                 |                 | ■ SOUTH YEMEN            |

Source: Department of Defense

SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO CUBA

	<u>Thousands of Metric Tons</u>	<u>Military Assistance (\$ in Millions)</u>	<u>Economic Assistance (\$ in Billions)</u>
1974-1977	65	360	5.2
1978-1981	126	1300	12.1

SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO LATIN AMERICA

(\$ in Millions)

	<u>USSR</u>	<u>USA</u>
1974-1977	1000	495
1978-1981	1835	189

MILITARY ADVISORS IN LATIN AMERICA

	<u>USSR</u>	<u>CUBA</u>	<u>USA</u>
1974	3000	5	283
1981	2000	1600+	70

Source: Department of Defense

Figure 1. Rapidly Increasing Soviet-Cuban Involvement in Latin America

facility in Cuba, which monitors U.S. communications. The large Soviet advisor contingent numbers 6-8,000 civilians and 2,000 military.

A major ongoing Cuban project is the construction in Grenada of an airfield having a 9,800 foot runway which will be capable of accommodating any aircraft in the Soviet or Cuban inventories. The Cubans are also building a deepwater naval port. That Grenada is viewed as an extension of the Soviet base in Cuba was demonstrated by a December 1981 statement of the Grenadian Minister of National Mobilization, Selwyn Strachan. He asserted that Cuba will use the new airbase to support its Angolan operations and that the Soviets may also use the new airfield. Since gaining power in a March 1979 coup, the New Jewel Movement of Maurice Bishop has placed Grenada firmly in the Soviet-Cuban camp.

Cuba played a key role in organizing, directing, and equipping the insurgents in Nicaragua. Initially, in 1978, it brought about the unification of the three factions comprising the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Later, Cuba provided military equipment, helped organize, arm, and transport an "internationalist brigade" to assist the FSLN; and provided military advisers to the FSLN. Following their victory, as the Sandinistas evolved from a united front organization to a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist regime, Cuba has provided substantial military, technical, and political assistance. In 1981, Nicaragua received about \$28 million worth of military equipment from the USSR, Eastern Europe and Cuba. About 2,000 Cuban military and security advisers are providing military instruction and combat training. There are also 3,000 Cuban teachers medical advisers, and government advisers operating in Nicaragua. About 750 Cuban engineers are participating in airfield and garrison construction. Cuba uses Nicaragua as a base for providing training and other facilities to guerrillas operating in Central American countries. On April 6, Cuba and Nicaragua announced new Cuban financial and technical aid. Under the agreement, Cuba will send 3,800 technical advisors to Nicaragua and will train 1,200 Nicaraguans in Cuba. Cuba will also provide \$80 million technical economic assistance and \$50 million to finance a new sugar mill in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua, supported by the Soviets and Cubans, has undertaken what is by Central American standards a massive arms buildup. Starting from a 5,000-man base, the army has been increased to 25,000. A 50,000-man militia supplements the army. The Sandinistas have announced their intention to expand their total force to 250,000. That would place 10 percent of all Nicaraguans under arms. The scope of the buildup is substantiated by the fact that Nicaragua now has 49 active military garrisons compared to the 13 it had under Somoza. Nicaragua is also acquiring heavy equipment, including 25 Soviet T-55 tanks, 12 howitzers, 2 helicopters, and 12 armored personnel carriers. Two indicators point toward impending receipt of Soviet MIGs: seventy Nicaraguans are being trained as pilot or mechanics in Bulgaria; four major Nicaraguan airfields are being configured to accommodate heavy jet attack aircraft. Nicaragua has already upset the arms balance in Central America and, with Soviet-Cuban help, is evidently intent on developing a military force greater than the total capabilities of all other Central American nations.

Nicaragua is the primary transit point for arms and ammunition being provided by the Soviet bloc to guerrillas in Guatemala and El Salvador. About 2,000 Salvadoran guerrillas have received military training in Nicaragua. The United States suspended its aid to Nicaragua in April 1981 because of that nation's escalating interference in El Salvador.

The Sandinistas, reneging on their promise of free elections, have postponed them until at least 1985. Even that election will be a sham, since an electoral agency will designate the candidates for office. Sandinista actions such as arbitrary expropriations of property, persecution of the Miskito Indians, suppression of the media, and establishment of organs to control the public, clearly demonstrate that Nicaragua has become a communist totalitarian dictatorship.

The military buildup in Nicaragua, added to the expanded Cuban base and the developing Grenadian air and sea bases, provides the Soviets and Cubans a triangular-shaped geographical network of bases which their air and naval forces could try to control all of the vital sea lanes in the Caribbean. The Nicaraguan buildup also provides an excellent training, supply, and command and control base to lead and support guerrilla operation throughout Central America.

Soviet, Cuban, and Nicaraguan support for the Salvadoran insurgents takes three forms: external arms supplies, training, and command and control. Arms and ammunition flow from Cuba to Nicaragua primarily by sea and occasionally by air. The guerrilla headquarters near Managua arranges for deliveries to El Salvador by air, land, and sea. Supplies also flow from Nicaragua to guerrillas and terrorists in Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Beginning in mid-1980, many Salvadoran guerrillas have received training in Nicaragua from Nicaraguans, Cubans, and other foreign communist advisors. Some guerrillas are sent onward to Cuba for specialized training. Increasing tactical skills shown by the Salvadoran guerrillas in attacks on the El Ocho bridge in October 1981 and on the Ilopango airport in January 1982 reflect the efficacy of the training. Before supplying modern equipment to the Salvadoran guerrillas, Castro demanded they form a unified military command, including the Moscow-line Salvadoran Communist Party. This unification step is a prerequisite demanded by Moscow and Havana to ensure Marxist-Leninist control of the insurgency (and any government formed later) through Cuban-trained military cadres. Unification had occurred first in the Nicaraguan FSLN during 1978 and has subsequently been partially achieved in Guatemala. Under Castro's aegis, the five Salvadoran guerrilla factions formed the Unified Revolutionary Directorate (DRU) in Havana during May 1980. The DRU is the supreme guerrilla executive body and acts as the insurgent military high command. The DRU command headquarters is located near Managua, Nicaragua. The DRU plans and controls Salvadoran guerrilla operations at this headquarters, with the involvement of Cuban and Nicaraguan officers. The DRU Headquarters also coordinates logistical support for guerrilla operations in El Salvador. The DRU is supplemented by two other entities. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was formed in October 1980 as the politico-military umbrella group for the five guerrilla factions and their political front groups. The Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), a separate political wing attached to the FMLN, was formed in April 1980 and operates out of Mexico City. The FDR has no

control over military operations. Its function is to obtain worldwide support for the insurgency. The foregoing description of external communist support for the Salvadoran insurgency shows a complete pattern of Soviet and Cuban resources being applied through Nicaragua to subvert the Salvadoran government.

Despite their heavy commitments in Nicaragua and El Salvador, the Cubans have stepped up subversive activities elsewhere in Central America. Following its usual pattern, Cuba has achieved partial unity among the four Guatemala guerrilla factions and has made increased aid dependent upon armed struggle and cooperative military strategy. In November 1980, the four Guatemalan factions met in Managua and formed the National Revolutionary Union and its revolutionary directorate, the General Revolutionary Command (CGR). The CGR implements a unified military strategy, but a political front group has not yet been formed. Following formation of the CGR, Cuba expanded training and logistical support to the CGR. Cuban operations in Honduras have focused on using that nation as a supply route to Guatemala and El Salvador. Cuba has encouraged divided Honduran leftist groups to unify. Cuba also has increased political and military training for Honduran extremists. Costa Rica, a democratic state having no armed forces, has started to experience the initial stages of Cuban-inspired or supported activity. Terrorist incidents commenced in March 1981. Cuba also used military stocks left over in Costa Rica after Somoza's fall to supply Salvadoran guerrillas. Cuban agents also use Costa Rica as a stopover for Salvadoran guerrillas en route to training in Cuba. Cuba's intensified support for insurgency has cut into Cuban diplomatic acceptance in Latin America. Except for the English-speaking Caribbean nations, only four countries (Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama) continue to have normal diplomatic relations with Havana.

Since 1978 the communist operational actions have been very successful in implementing the Soviet global strategy in the Caribbean Basin. Cuba military capabilities and support of insurgency have increased greatly and the Soviets are rapidly expanding the resources they devote to the area. Bases are being constructed in Grenada, Nicaragua has joined the Marxist camp and become the operational base for insurgency control and support, and divided guerrilla factions in Guatemala and El Salvador have unified their efforts. The Salvadoran guerrillas have acquired better training and more effective weapons, and arms supply routes have been established through Honduras.

Overt Soviet-Cuban aggression in Central America is being supported by a Soviet disinformation campaign, which uses a variety of what the Soviets call "active measures" directed at influencing other nations' policies. "Active measures" are separate from espionage and counterintelligence activities. "Active measures" used by the Soviets include:

- Written or spoken disinformation.
- Efforts to control media in other countries.
- Use of communist parties and front groups.
- Clandestine radio broadcasts.
- Personal and economic blackmail.
- Political influence operations.
- Activities of Soviet academicians and journalists visiting other countries.

The State Department's Special Report No. 88, October 1981, "Forgery, Disinformation, Political Operations," summarizes the Soviet disinformation campaign concerning El Salvador as follows:

Complementing their overt public support for the leftist insurgency in El Salvador, the Soviets have also engaged in a global "active measures" campaign to sway public opinion. These activities include a broad range of standard techniques, including forgeries, disinformation, attempted manipulation of the press, and use of front groups. The obvious dual purpose has been to increase support for the insurgency while trying to discredit U.S. efforts to assist the Government of El Salvador.

Future prospects portend an increasing communist threat and stepped-up insurgency in Central America. As it has always done, the Kremlin will continue to exploit success unless it encounters superior strength. Additional work will also continue to upgrade the "Caribbean Communist Triangle" composed of the Cuba-Grenada-Nicaragua base structure. Three recent Soviet moves on the international scene indicate their intention to escalate confrontation with the West. First, President Brezhnev threatened to retaliate if the U.S. deploys intermediate range ballistic missiles to NATO Europe in late 1983. He said the United States must be placed within range of Soviet medium range missiles in retaliation. Short of the Soviets developing cruise missiles, this could only be done by reinstalling nuclear missiles in Cuba or emplacing them in Nicaragua. The United States would have to respond to such a provocative step. Thus, the Cuban Missile Crisis could be replayed; on the replay we would not enjoy the overwhelming nuclear superiority we had in 1962. Second, the Chief of Staff of Soviet Armed Forces, Marshal Ogarkov has called for placing the entire Soviet economy on a war footing. Third, President Brezhnev has publicly invited Mainland China to heal its schism with the USSR. Past Caribbean successes, reinforced by the three strong strategic intentions cited, all point toward escalating trouble in the Caribbean Basin.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: Since 1978 communist insurgencies have been partially stimulated by a massive economic recession generally affecting much of the Caribbean Basin. The destruction and destabilization caused by insurgencies have, in turn, worsened the recession. The economic causes of the recession have been falling export prices, continued high costs for energy and capital imports, rising interest rates, capital flight, and the choking off of foreign investments. Most economies in the area are small and depend heavily on exports of one or a few agricultural products or minerals to finance needed imports of capital goods and consumer items. The relatively high growth rates of the 1960s and early 1970s have given way to negative growth, inflation often reaching 50 percent, high unemployment of 20-30 percent, and despair.

Democratic Costa Rica saw its gross domestic product (GDP) decline by 5 percent in 1981. Inflation accelerated to an annual rate of 60 percent. Costa Rica's external debt rose to an incredible \$3.6 billion, while its foreign exchange reserves plummeted to negative \$400 million.

Honduras, which is not yet subject to large-scale insurgency, has been evolving toward democracy. Its efforts are being severely undercut by falling

coffee and banana prices. In 1977 one barrel of oil equated to five pounds of coffee; now it equates to twenty-six pounds of coffee. Honduran economic growth for 1981 was only 0.3 percent and foreign exchange reserves dropped substantially.

Violent conflict and resultant sabotage have almost felled the Salvadoran economy. The GDP declined by 10 percent in both 1980 and 1981. Capital flight has been massive. Confidence by the small businessman and farmer has been badly shaken.

Among the Caribbean Islands, the Dominican Republic had no economic growth in 1981. Its earnings from the major export, sugar, are expected to drop by 40 percent in 1982, and its current account deficit may be as high as \$1 billion.

Jamaica, where the conservative Seaga government replaced the leftist Manley regime in 1980, still faces severe economic problems. During the Manley years (1973-1980), Jamaica had experienced economic disaster. Real GDP per capita fell by 22 percent. When the change of government occurred, unemployment had reached 27 percent. The Seaga government has stressed free enterprise to lead the economic recovery. A 1.5 percent growth rate was achieved in 1981 and inflation was trimmed to 5 percent; however, further assistance will be required to get Jamaica back on its feet.

The magnitude of the economic crisis in the Caribbean Basin is seen in the projected total current account deficit in 1982 for the entire area of \$1 billion. International institutions have pledged to offset \$400 million of that deficit. The other \$600 million must be financed by other external means since it is unlikely the gap can be narrowed by increased export income or falling import costs.

Continued economic turmoil and recession in the Caribbean Basin can only benefit the Cubans and the insurgents.

U.S. POLICIES: Throughout American history, U.S. attitudes toward the Caribbean Basin have undergone marked swings from expressions of intense concern to virtual neglect. We have never achieved a steady policy, based on an accurate assessment of U.S. national security interests, applied over a long time span, supported by adequate resources, and resting on a bipartisan consensus. Perhaps a policy possessing all those desirable attributes could only be achieved in a perfect world; nevertheless, we certainly should be able to improve our poor past performance.

For establishing a balanced perspective, it is important to remember that communist victory in the area is not inevitable and that U.S. policy does have a decided impact in the area. Although the communists have achieved important successes in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua, our interests have also prevailed in several significant instances. Chief among these is in regard to Mexico, the largest and most important country in the area. Many Americans do not realize that the Mexican Revolution occurred over seven decades ago and caused a major readjustment of U.S.-Mexican relations. Despite the problems caused for U.S. interests in Mexico (e.g., expropriation of oil lands) and the nationalistic, socially radical post-revolutionary Mexican constitution (curbed



foreign land, mines, and oil ownership; restricted church power, instituted agrarian reform), the U.S. and Mexico have increased mutual cooperation over a period of many years. The Organization of American States' intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, led principally by the United States, succeeded remarkably well. The Dominican Republic is now democratically governed and (benefiting from large U.S. economic aid) has made great economic strides with real growth rates of 5 to 10 percent until recently. In retrospect, President Johnson's goal to prevent "another Cuba" was certainly achieved. In the early 1960s Venezuela was seriously threatened by communist guerrillas. Yet, today, Venezuela is a prosperous, free nation sharing some of its oil wealth with its neighbors. These examples show that wise policy, appropriate to local circumstances, can help achieve long-range U.S. interests.

The purpose of this section is to evaluate whether current and proposed U.S. policies toward the Caribbean Basin are adequate to fulfill U.S. national security interests in the area. such an assessment requires answers to four questions:

- (1) How does the Administration view U.S. national security interests in the Caribbean Basin?
- (2) What are the Administration's current and proposed policies?
- (3) What other policy options are there?
- (4) How well do the Administration's policies meet the objectives of The American Legion resolutions?

In an earlier section, statements by President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig established that the Administration sees the Caribbean Basin as a matter of vital interest and requiring urgent action. The Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Thomas O. Enders, on February 2, 1982, applied their concern directly to El Salvador in very clear terms:

The decisive battle for Central America is underway in El Salvador. If, after Nicaragua, El Salvador is captured by a violent minority, who in Central America would not live in fear? How long would it be before major strategic U.S. interests—the canal, sea lanes, oil supplies—were at risk?

Overall, the Administration has adopted an accurate, realistic view of the U.S. vital interests in the Caribbean Basin and of the Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan threat to our friends in the area. Furthermore, the administration has attempted to develop congressional and public support for its stronger position on the area.

On December 14, 1981 Assistant Secretary Enders spelled out the six elements of U.S. strategy for the Caribbean Basin:

First, we must make sure that our friends have the means to defend themselves.

Second, we must join with others to provide the Caribbean Basin countries the opportunity to achieve long-term prosperity.

Third, we must not falter in our pursuit of democratic values—for they assure the legitimacy of governments we hope to help.

Fourth, we must continue the pursuit of justice for the countries of the area.

Fifth, our emphasis should be on collective action.

Finally, we must communicate to Cuba that the costs of escalating its intervention in the region will be very high.

How the Administration has tried to convert the above strategy into concrete policies must be examined in regard to three areas: Caribbean Basin, Central America, and El Salvador.

President Reagan announced the keystone of his policy for the Caribbean Basin in a speech to the Organization of American States on February 24, 1982. He proposed a Caribbean Basin Initiative designed to assist area nations to overcome the short-term economic problems discussed earlier and to achieve long-term prosperity. This initiative, submitted for Congressional approval, includes provisions for:

- Free trade for Caribbean Basin products (other than textiles, apparel, and sugar beyond certain limits) for a 12-year period.
- Tax incentives for U.S. investment in the area.
- Supplemental fiscal year 1982 appropriation of \$350 million for economic support funds.
- Technical assistance and training to aid the private sector.
- Cooperation with other donor countries (Mexico, Canada, and Venezuela).
- Special measures to aid Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Figure 2 shows the proposed total increase in both economic and military aid for 1982-83 compared to 1980-81. The total increase for economic aid would be 100 percent; for military aid 348 percent.

Figure 3 displays the total economic and military aid figures broken down into their components. The two figures also visually underline the fact that the vast bulk of U.S. aid is economic, not military. Military aid as a percentage of total assistance is as follows: 1980—3%, 1981—11%, 1982—17%, 1983—14%.

Figure 4 shows the percentage increase in economic aid to various nations. The computations demonstrate that the most critical areas are receiving the highest proportional increases:

- Costa Rica, a democratic nation having no armed forces.
- El Salvador, site of the primary communist aggression.
- Jamaica, a democratic nation containing large bauxite reserves and having elected a conservative, pro-free enterprise government in 1980.

The Administration worked closely with Venezuela, Mexico, and Canada in preparing the initiative. Their help is an important source of aid to the area and emphasizes the multilateral responsibility of Western Hemisphere nations. Venezuela and Mexico jointly provide about \$700 million in concessional financing annually for other area nations to import their oil. Canada plans to increase its development assistance to the area from C\$43 million in 1981-82 to C\$90 million in 1986-87. A recent meeting of the leaders of the 10 European Community countries decided to coordinate and increase their aid, which was \$27

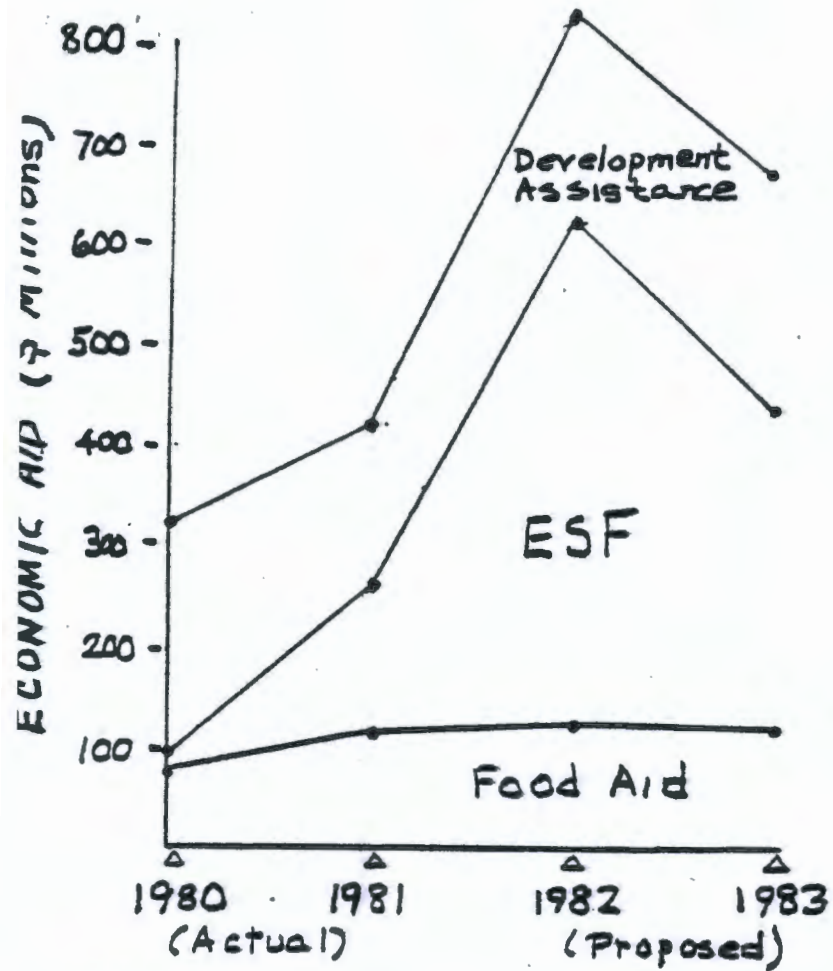
(\$ in millions)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>1980 (Actual)</u>	<u>1981 (Actual)</u>	<u>1982 (Proposed)</u>	<u>1983 (Proposed)</u>
Economic Aid	324	420	825 *	665
Military Aid	<u>11</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>106</u>
Totals	335	471	997	771

\* \$350 Million is economic support funds proposed in the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Source: Department of State

Figure 2. Summary of U.S. Economic and Military Aid to the Caribbean Basin Nations



Development Assistance-

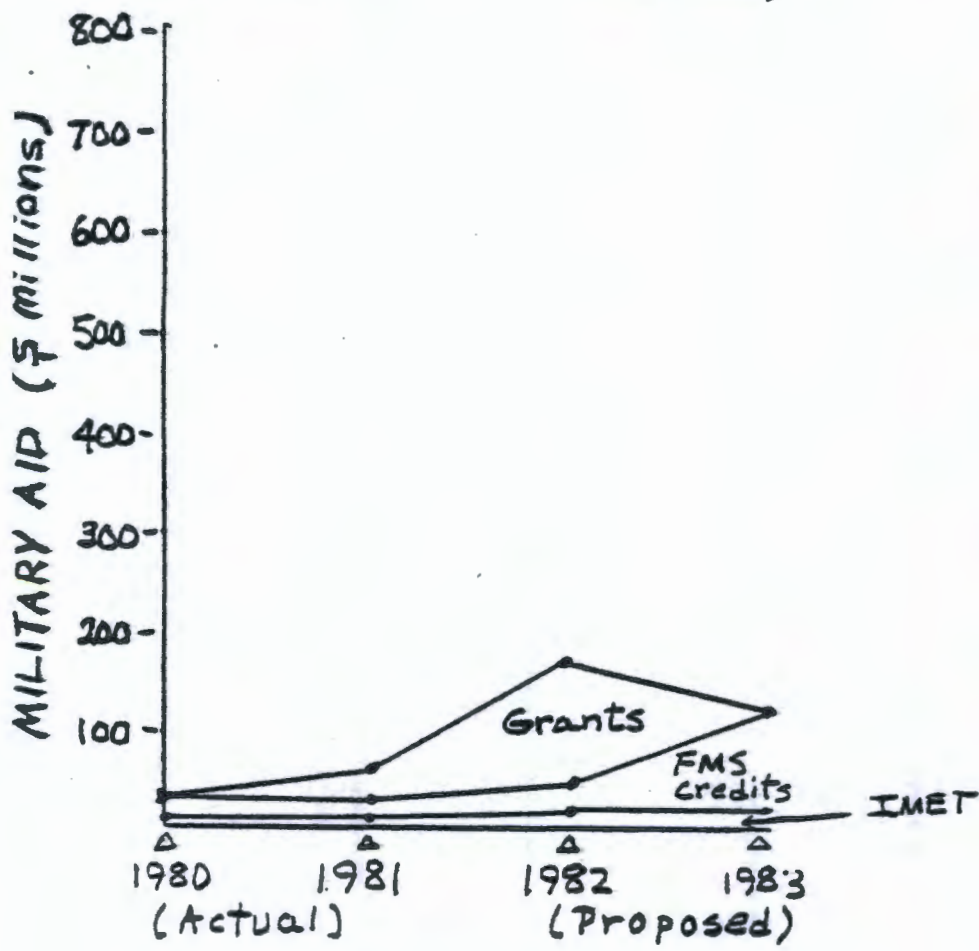
aid for specific projects, emphasizing agriculture, health, and population problems

Economic Support Funds (ESF)-

direct balance-of-payments support or credits for crucial imports

Food Aid-

food shipments which also provide foreign exchange and generate local counterpart development funds



Grants-

equipment provided under The Military Assistance Program or, in emergency conditions, by the President under Section 506a of The Foreign Assistance Act

Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Credits-

credits extended to cover purchase of U.S. military equipment.

International Military Education and Training (IMET)

mainly individual training conducted in the United States

Source: Department of State -24-

Figure 3. Components of U.S. Economic and

NATION	(\$ in millions)				Percent Change 1982-3 over 1980-1
	1980 (Actual)	1981 (Actual)	1982 (Proposed)	1983 (Proposed)	
C A Guatemala	11	17	12	13	-11
E M Belize	0	0	10	0	—
N E Honduras	51	36	73	63	+56
T R El Salvador	59	105	233	165	+143
R I Nicaragua	37	60	3	0	suspended
A C Costa Rica	14	13	121	85	+662
L A Panama	2	11	11	12	+77
I Dominican C S Republic	55	37	85	47	+43
A L R A Jamaica	13	69	137	112	+204
I N B D Others	75	61	97	95	+41
S N Guyana & L* Suriname	5	1	2	4	0
Regional	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>+494</u>
TOTALS **	324	420	825	665	+100

\* NL = Northern Littoral of South America

\*\* Due to rounding, some columns may not total.

Source: Department of State

Figure 4. Allocation of U.S. Economic Aid to Caribbean Nations

million in 1981. Japan's aid to area has been minimal, but the administration is urging an increase in it.

In summary then, the U.S. Government has recommended in the Caribbean Basin Initiative short-term economic aid increases to help solve current balance-of-payments problems and long-term structural changes in trade and investment policies to help increase the economic development of area countries. All parts of the initiative emphasize aiding the private sectors of recipient nations and promoting free enterprise, market economies.

In regard to Cuba, the Reagan Administration has toughened the U.S. line. While dropping earlier overtures aimed at normalizing relations with Castro, the administration has tried to isolate Cuba as much as possible and inform the world about the key role Cuba is playing in spreading communist subversion. The administration also is planning to operate Radio Marti, broadcasting to Cuba, as a means of undercutting Castro by providing accurate Cuban news to the people of Cuba.

Turning to Central America, the earlier cited figures have shown the dramatic economic aid increases sought for Honduras and Costa Rica. Costa Rica is particularly important. It has been a democracy since 1948. Figure 5 shows that Costa Rica has achieved the high levels of quality of life indicators among the four nations now experiencing various levels of communist insurgency. Honduras recently had an election and is evolving toward effective democracy. Additionally, it is an unwitting funnel for arms supplies moving from Nicaragua to El Salvador. Due to what it perceived as a continuing, unreasonably excessive number of human rights violation, the administration has not recommended resuming large-scale aid to Guatemala. However, the administration will eventually have to consider aiding Guatemala. Guatemala is the most populous Central American nation; has relatively well-trained, professional armed forces; has a comparative dynamic group of entrepreneurial businessmen; and borders the ultimate domino—Mexico.

The Reagan Administration has made very modest increases in direct U.S. military capabilities in the Caribbean Basin by:

- Strengthening the organization of the joint U.S. command in the Caribbean, the U.S. Forces Caribbean Command at Key West, Florida.
- Employing U.S. Navy electronic surveillance ships in international waters to monitor the arms flow from Nicaragua to the Salvadoran guerillas.
- Requesting airbase rights from Honduras and Columbia.
- Using some aerial surveillance means (attested to by the aerial photographs of Nicaragua publically revealed in March 1982).

The U.S. policy toward El Salvador has included these elements:

- Increase economic and military aid.
- Provide military training both in El Salvador and in the United States.
- Assist El Salvador to increase its army from 25,000 to 30,000 (fighting an estimated 5,000 guerrillas).
- Support evolution toward legitimacy and democracy through the March 28 constituent assembly election.

	<u>Population (millions)</u>	<u>Annual GDP per capita (dollars)</u>	<u>Literacy (percent)</u>	<u>Life Expectancy (years)</u>	<u>Infant Mortality (per 1000 births)</u>
Costa Rica	2.24	2,164	90	70	22
El Salvador	4.50	774	62	62	51
Guatemala	7.26	1,082	46	58	77
Honduras	3.69	687	57	57	103

Sources: Department of State and House Republican Research Committee

Figure 5. Quality of Life Indicators in Central American Countries Experiencing Communist Insurgency

- Support the governing junta as the best centerist alternative to dictatorship of the right or left.
- Use quiet diplomacy to induce the government to reduce human rights violations.
- Support economic reforms designed to give more Salvadorans a direct stake in the economy (land reform; nationalization of banks; and nationalization of coffee, sugar, and cotton exports).

On the plus side, the March 28 election showed that Salvadorans overwhelmingly do not support the guerrillas. The fair, democratic election, supported by 80 percent of the people, represented a psychological victory over Nicaragua, which has postponed "so called" elections until at least 1985. Of course, the effectiveness and composition of the resultant government will largely determine the future course of the war. The new government's potential and performance will determine how much aid the U.S. Congress will approve as well as the level of support and cooperation the Salvadorans extend to their new leaders.

On the minus side, the army has been unable to cripple the guerrillas and has suffered relatively high casualties. The economic situation worsens daily as the guerrillas destroy bridges, interdict normal economic activity, burn crops, etc. Currently, there is a military stalemate with the army controlling cities and the guerrillas controlling or influencing large rural areas. Thus, U.S. policies in El Salvador appear to have achieved a military stalemate but with no clear indication that a military victory is likely.

In February 1982, President Lopez Portillo, speaking in Nicaragua, proposed negotiations as the appropriate way to solve problems among Cuba, Nicaragua, and the United States. Initially, the Administration rejected his proposal. Later it authorized his foreign minister "to carry U.S. ideas" to Cuba and Nicaragua. There is little likelihood the negotiations will produce any results unless the Administration completely reverses field and uses them as a means to cut its involvement in Central America. Such a development seems extremely unlikely because the administration has clearly committed its prestige to achieving success in Central America.

Neither Congress nor the public have expressed strong support for the Administration's policies. There is much sentiment in Congress for minimal U.S. economic aid and a negotiated settlement in El Salvador. In early March, the House voted 396 to 3 for "unconditional discussions" between the Salvadoran government and the guerrillas. The Caribbean Basin Initiative has a little more congressional support, but its provisions for free trade and investment incentives may be blocked or watered down by domestic economic interest groups. Really large-scale economic and military aid would probably encounter opposition because of current economic problems in the United States. In the private sector, several hundred students and faculty members at 10 major U.S. graduate schools of international and public affairs recently signed a statement fearful of U.S. involvement. It said that the Salvadoran government would require "ever increasing quantities of military assistance and perhaps American combat troops in order to survive." The U.S. Catholic Conference, which speaks for U.S. Catholic bishops, seeks a political solution to the Salvadoran war. Reverend J. Bryan Hehir of that organization pointed out



its members believe the Salvadoran insurgency results from internal causes. He said:

The continuing administration emphasis on the geopolitical aspects of the Salvadoran case keeps raising the stakes of the U.S. commitment in El Salvador. This escalation of interest in turn narrows the range of political options which we could accept.

On March 19, 1981 the National Council of Churches announced a major letter writing campaign. During the campaign, leaders of several Protestant denominations urged their members to oppose U.S. Government policy in support of the Government of El Salvador. A study used during the campaign, prepared by the Inter-Religious Task Force on El Salvador, recognized the Salvadoran guerrilla's political front group (Democratic Revolutionary Front) as the "legitimate representative" of the Salvadoran people. The National Council of Churches, which includes 32 protestant and orthodox church organizations, has opposed U.S. military aid to El Salvador since May 1980.

Within El Salvador itself, the Catholic Church has been internally divided. Lately, it has taken a line basically supportive of the Salvadoran government. In January 1982, for example, the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador approved the constituent assembly elections and urged people to participate. At the local level some priests overtly or covertly support the guerrillas. Those priests espouse "liberation theology" which links Christianity to Marxism as the two united roads toward "liberating" the people from injustice.

Three recent national sample public opinion polls by Newsweek/Gallup, New York Times/CBS, and Washington Post/ABC all found similarly strong public opposition to U.S involvement in El Salvador:

- 54-63% want the U.S. to stay out of El Salvador.
- 23-37% favor sending more U.S. military aid to El Salvador.
- 62% favor providing U.S. economic aid to El Salvador.
- 54-59% oppose sending U.S. military advisors to El Salvador.
- 51% would support U.S. draftees who refused to fight in El Salvador.
- 64% believed a communist victory in El Salvador would endanger U.S. national security.
- 81% thought an insurgent victory in El Salvador would lead to similar victories elsewhere in Latin America.

In sum, American public opinion recognizes El Salvador's importance, believes in the domino theory, but wants to provide only economic aid to beleaguered El Salvador. One final polling question is important because it shows, as is customary, very limited knowledge by the American public of foreign affairs. A majority (59%) of the respondents in the New York Times/CBS poll did not know which side the U.S. supports in El Salvador.

The failure of American public opinion to understand U.S. vital national security interests in Central America and support effective policies to achieve them may stem in part from biased or incomplete reporting by the media. The February 10, 1982 Wall Street Journal editorial entitled "The Media's War" summed up this problem as follows:

A crucial debate on whether the U.S. will step up its aid to the government of El Salvador or leave that government to the tender mercies of Fidel Castro is shaping up in Congress. Central to the debate are public perceptions of what has been going on in El Salvador, and it is quite evident that those perceptions are badly confused. No small part of the problem, it seems to us, is the way the struggle is being covered by the U.S. press.

Too often, elements of the media have portrayed the guerrillas as clean-cut "Robin Hoods" in contrast to undisciplined savages operating in the Salvadoran government forces. The extent of guerrilla influence and acceptance by the Salvadoran public has been greatly exaggerated. (Successful conduct of the March 28 elections went far to contradict such assertions.) U.S. policies, motives, and personnel have been unfairly criticized. Uninformed "nitpicking" by some parts of the media has greeted every attempt by the administration to substantiate Cuban and Nicaraguan involvement in, and support for, the Salvadoran communist insurgency. Lately, however, media coverage has appeared to become a bit more objective. In particular, coverage of the Salvadoran election on the whole was fairly objective and accurate. However, that welcome change may have been partially attributable to the presence in El Salvador of a U.S. Government team of election observers.

Much of the media's reporting on Central America has focused on alleged human rights violations by the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala. The media have given much less coverage to human rights violations by the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. The media, as a whole, give little credence to objective reporting of human rights violations by forces of both the government and guerrillas (such as the annual State Department human rights report or Amnesty International reports). Instead, the media frequently give prominence to reports by leftist groups, exaggerating government violations and ignoring or belittling those committed by the guerrillas.

The tendency among some media elements for selective reporting was recently demonstrated in a Wall Street Journal article by Allen Weinstein, a Georgetown University professor, who had participated in an onsite review of press freedom in Central America. He described the media's attitude toward the committee's report as follows:

The status of the press in Nicaragua alas, failed to interest most of the reporters who attended a New York City press conference called by the committee. The journalists present virtually ignored the Nicaraguan section of the report to concentrate on El Salvador....The Nicaraguan tragedy deserves at least as much attention from the press—and the U.S. Congress—as the question of American involvement in El Salvador.

Objective, complete reporting by the media is essential if the U.S. public is to be given a full opportunity to make informed judgments on critical developments in the Caribbean Basin.

There are several other policy options which could be considered for use in resolving the Salvadoran insurgency. They are as follows:

- Provide U.S. military or police training for elements participating in counterinsurgency operations alongside the Salvadoran army (national police, treasury police, national guard, customs police).
- Place an embargo on U.S. trade with Nicaragua until it is verified that the overt and covert support to Salvadoran guerrillas has ceased.
- Provide U.S. military advisors to advise Salvador forces on the conduct of counterinsurgency operations.
- Provide U.S. tactical airlift within El Salvador to improve the mobility of government forces.
- Provide U.S. fire support (air, artillery, naval gunfire) to Salvadoran government troops.
- Employ a naval blockade around Cuba and/or Nicaragua to cutoff the flow of arms to the guerrillas in El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America.
- Send U.S. combat forces to assist Salvadoran government forces in defeating the guerrillas.
- Invade Cuba to eliminate the source of communist aggression.
- Secure OAS approval of either of the last three options and active participation by Latin American nations under the Rio Treaty of 1947.

These options are generally listed in ascending order of the level of U.S. commitment. Each option requires discussion, consideration, and assessment of its likely impact. The invasion of Cuba would violate the 1962 Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement and would probably precipitate strong reaction by the Soviets. Additionally, it would require a very large, sophisticated military force which would divert forces from our other worldwide commitments. Finally, it would be extremely difficult to secure congressional and public support. Congress could force the President to withdraw an invasion force under the War Powers Resolution.

All the other options, except the first two, also call for direct military involvement by U.S. military forces to some degree. Given the existing climate of congressional and public opinion, it is very unlikely any of those options will be put into the effect. Furthermore, the Salvadoran government has not requested any direct U.S. involvement in military action.

Embargoing U.S. trade with Nicaragua would increase the Sandinista's economic problems somewhat as the United States is still Nicaragua's major trading partner. Applying an embargo would be an important symbolic step, indicating Nicaragua's exclusion from the Free World. In a related action, the U.S. could urge multilateral lending institutions not to grant loans to Nicaragua. This would be a very strong step, seriously hampering Nicaraguan economic growth.

The first option (providing training for all Salvadoran counterinsurgency elements) could be done relatively easily and could pay high dividends. Such training could help create more professional, better disciplined forces to assist the Salvadoran army.

In the economic field, the United States could adopt a comprehensive, long-term approach to assisting the development of a free, prosperous Caribbean Basin by enlarging the Caribbean Basin Initiative into a true "Marshall-type Plan" resembling the Marshall Plan of 1947 which led to European economic recovery following World War II. The Critical features of the Marshall Plan were:

- Conduct of a region-wide conference to plan and coordinate economic development by the recipient nations (this was the Conference on European Economic Cooperation, convened in Paris during July 1947).
- Development of a coordinated, region-wide, multi-year economic development plan (this was the 1947-1951 European Economic Recovery program).
- Establishment of a region-wide mechanism to coordinate efforts (this was the Organization for European Economic Cooperation).
- Provision of adequate funds (this time, other developed nations could share the burden with the United States).
- Provision of technical training, assistance, and advice in addition to provision of capital goods.
- At the outset, provision of humanitarian aid (food, medical supplies).
- Subsequent development of national infrastructures (hospitals, schools, power plants, roads, bridges, airfields, etc.).
- Provisions to ensure that U.S. and other aid benefits all levels of society.

Two particular Caribbean Basin circumstances must be recognized. First, the area's long-term economic viability can only be reasonably assured by either (1) encouraging countries to diversify their economies, reducing dependence on one, or a few, agricultural products or mineral exports, or (2) establishing some mechanism to assure more stable, relatively higher prices for such "single crop economy exports." The latter method should be a last resort since it requires, in effect, creation of a partial cartel for particular products. Second, we should seek to revive the Central American Common Market, which at one time was working toward integration and industrial diversification of the Central American regional economy. In devising a Marshall Plan for the Caribbean Basin (which probably would have two subcomponents for the Caribbean Islands and Central America), we would do well to recall, and heed, General Marshall's advice in 1947 to devise "a cure rather than a palliative." His summary could well serve as our guide today:

It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos....It would be neither fitting nor efficacious for this government to draw up unilaterally a program designed to place Europe on its feet economically. That is the business of the Europeans. The initiative, I think must come from Europe. The role of this country should consist of friendly aid in the drafting of a European program and of later support so far as it may be practical for us to do so. The program should be a joint one, agreed to by a number of, if not all, European nations.

AMERICAN LEGION POSITIONS: Figure 6 summarizes The American Legion's resolutions pertaining to the Caribbean Basin, which the National Conventions of 1980 and 1981 adopted. The policies adopted by the Administration have basically been in accord with those resolutions. Specific Administration actions supportive of Legion mandates have been:

- Proper assessment of the communist threat to the Caribbean Basin.
- Development of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to attack economic problems.
- Proposed increases in military aid.
- Strong denunciation of Cuban aggression and termination of the earlier trend toward normalizing relations with Cuba.
- Consultations with Mexico on political solutions to Central American problems.
- Cooperation with Mexico, Venezuela, and Canada in developing the Caribbean Basin Initiative.
- Suspension of economic aid to Nicaragua.
- Full assertion of U.S. naval rights in the Caribbean through the conduct of U.S. and NATO maneuvers.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The following conclusions reflect the discussions presented in earlier sections of this report and provide a logical basis for developing The American Legion's position on the Caribbean Basin:

1. Due to its proximity to the United States, resources, and sea lanes, the Caribbean Basin is an area of vital interest to the United States.
2. The Caribbean Basin faces three interrelated problems which the United States must help to solve: communist aggression, underdevelopment, and economic chaos.
3. Soviet-Cuban aggression has made great advances in the Caribbean Basin. The United States must play a decisive role in halting and eradicating communist gains.
4. Although slow in development, somewhat erratic in execution, and lacking a strong public-congressional consensus, the Administration's policies reflect a realistic assessment of the Caribbean Basin's problems and provide a start toward solving them.
5. The scope of the Administration's programs in the Caribbean Basin is too limited and must be increased. The Caribbean Basin Initiative should be expanded to become a true "Marshall-type Plan" for the area, including greatly increased funding over a number of years. Military training, assistance, and equipment should be provided as necessary and within the absorptive capacity of the recipients.
6. The Caribbean Basin's problems affect the entire Western Hemisphere; therefore, as appropriate, the United States should seek united hemispheric action under the Organization of American States or Rio Treaty.
7. The Administration has publicly, clearly, and repeatedly "drawn a line" against communist aggression in the Caribbean Basin. The United States, therefore, in order to establish its credibility with both friend and foe, must succeed in accomplishing its objectives of

	<u>Res. 197 (1980)</u>	<u>Res. 77 (1981)</u>
Western Hemisphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-U.S. establish new policy to protect interests</li> <li>-U.S. discredit communist regimes</li> <li>-Reestablish U.S. Naval Special Service Squadron</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support administration's strong stand against Soviet-Cuban aggression and do all possible to defeat communist efforts.</li> </ul>
	<u>Res. 66 (1980)</u>	
Cuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Terminate U.S. commercial and political negotiations with Cuba</li> <li>-Demand UN impose economic sanctions against Cuba</li> </ul>	
	<u>Res. 89 (1980)</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No U.S. trade with or diplomatic recognition of Cuba.</li> <li>-Retain Guantanamo Bay</li> <li>-Reinstitute SR-71 intelligence gathering flights</li> </ul>	
	<u>Res. 604 (1980) &amp; 478 (1981)</u>	
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-U.S. increase political and economic cooperation with Mexico</li> </ul>	
	<u>Res. 725 (1980)</u>	
Nicaragua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The American Legion protest foreign aid to Marxist governments.</li> </ul>	
Republic of Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-President assert U.S. naval rights in Caribbean Sea</li> <li>-Conduct planned military and naval exercises in Caribbean</li> </ul>	
Panama Canal		<u>Res. (1981)</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-U.S. maintain close vigil on on Canal operations</li> <li>-Resume canal modernization at no economic risk to U.S. and under U.S. sovereign control of Canal and its protective frame</li> </ul>

Figure 6. Summary of The American Legion Resolutions Pertaining to the Caribbean Basin Adopted at the 1980 and 1981 National Conventions

defeating communist aggression and assisting the area's nations in improving their economic lot.

8. As a means of developing a domestic consensus, expressing a long-term commitment of help to our friends in Latin America, and making our resolve known to adversaries, the United States should reassert the Monroe Doctrine's principles in modern terms along the following lines:

Being fully committed to the achievement of lasting economic prosperity, representative government, and national self-determination, the United States intends to provide assistance and resources to its friends in Latin America. The United States, strongly committed to collective security and hemispheric cooperation, will channel its efforts through multilateral means such as the Organization of American States and Rio Treaty whenever practicable. The United States reaffirms its unswerving opposition to the imposition of communist regimes (or other totalitarian regimes) by forceful means.
9. The Congress must become a fully informed and cooperative partner of the Executive Branch in adopting a comprehensive, long-range Caribbean Basin Policy.
10. The Executive and Legislative Branches, The American Legion, and concerned private organizations must cooperate in developing public understanding of, and support for, United States interests in, and policy toward, the Caribbean Basin.
11. Increased educational exchanges between the United States and Caribbean Basin nations of both students and faculty could make a major contribution toward developing mutual understanding, providing necessary technical training for students from the Caribbean Basin, and developing an accurate understanding by the American people of the true situation in that area.
12. The American Legion should continue to promote, publicize, inform and educate its membership, the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government, and the American public on the importance of the Caribbean Basin. Increased efforts should be made to prevent social, economic, political, and military events from usurping the emphasis The American Legion places on carrying out its objectives regarding the Caribbean Basin. Events in South America, the Continent of Africa, the Near and Middle East, and Europe should not be allowed to detract, diminish or in any way lessen the successful completion of The American Legion resolutions on the Caribbean Basin.

Based on the foregoing conclusions, it is recommended that the National Executive Committee approve the three resolutions submitted by the Foreign Relations Commission on the Caribbean Basin, Central America, and El Salvador.

## PART II

### FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TASK FORCE

This is the fourth report the WHTF has submitted to the NEC since the NEC established the WHTF by NEC Resolution 32 of April 30, 1980. The earlier reports were submitted in August 1980, October 1980, and October 1981. Between

now and the NEC's fall 1982 meeting, the WHTF will continue to focus its attention on the Caribbean Basin. This concentration is necessitated by the continuing communist buildup in that area and by impending congressional consideration of increased military aid for El Salvador and the Caribbean Basin Initiative. After next fall's meeting, the WHTF plans to study US-Mexican relations in detail because of Mexico's intrinsic importance, key role in determining the future of Central America, and position as the ultimate communist objective in that area. Looking beyond that study, the WHTF plans to examine the political and economic stability of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile and their roles in the Inter-American system.



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The  
American  
Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★



OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMANDER

March 4, 1983

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to address members of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary on Tuesday, February 21 during our annual Washington Conference.

It was an honor and a privilege to have you with us and on behalf of the national officers and our membership I extend our heartfelt appreciation. All those in attendance welcomed the opportunity to receive your remarks on foreign relations, and their enthusiastic response to your address certainly is an indication of their support.

With best wishes, I am

Respectfully,

*Al Keller Jr.*

AL KELLER, JR.  
National Commander

---

File Am. Legion

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

PHONE (202) 544-4221

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COL. SAM DICKENS, U.S.A.F. RET.

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FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044

PHONE (703) 534-6878

WEST POINT GRADUATE

FLEW F-80s IN KOREA

AND F-4s IN VIETNAM

QUIT THE LEGION BECAUSE OF  
THE FIRING OF FRANK MANSON

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

file  
Am. Legion

For Immediate Release

November 12, 1982

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be Members of the National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board of the Smithsonian Institution for terms expiring April 9, 1988:

HARRY W. BROOKS, JR., would succeed William I. Greener, Jr. He is Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Horticulture Group of AMFAC, Inc. He served in the United States Army in 1947-1976, retiring as a Major General. He has three children and resides in San Francisco, California. He was born May 17, 1928.

MYLIO S. KRAJA would succeed William H. Perkins, Jr. He is Executive Director of the American Legion's Washington Office. He is a Navy veteran of World War II. He is married, has two children and resides in Springfield, Virginia. He was born July 24, 1920.

GEORGE WILLIAM PIRTLE, JR., would succeed James M. Stone, Sr. He is in the private practice of medicine in Euless, Texas. He served in the United States Air Force in 1955-1957. He is married, has seven children and resides in Bedford, Texas. He was born August 29, 1929.

###

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1608 K STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

September 10, 1982

Mr. Edwin Meese, III  
Counselor to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

I respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you for thirty minutes on a very pressing problem to The American Legion. My election as National Commander in late August gives me vast responsibilities which I must address. The issue I wish to discuss with you is the Pershing Hall in Paris, France. It is important that I brief you on our position on this matter and, further, that I report to my National Executive Committee on October 13th. I hope that it will be possible to meet with you. Any of the following dates are open for me to be at your office:

September 27, 28, 29  
October 4, 5, 6

I will be accompanied by our National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle and Executive Director Mylio S. Kraja, both of whom you have met with on previous occasions on other matters. Mr. Kraja will be available to your secretary for the arrangements. Our telephone number in Washington, D.C. is 861-2711.

Sincerely yours,

AL KELLER, JR.  
National Commander

5  
Merton Blackwell

V. Thomas Gibbons  
Past Dept. Commander  
D.C. Dept. American  
Legion 1969-70



AMERICAN LEGION

KENNETH H. NASH POST NO. 8

224 D STREET, S. E. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003

TELEPHONE: (202) 543-9163

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1982

President Ronald Reagan  
the White House  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr President,

Enclosed An Article  
in the American Legion Advance, Which I  
Believe Will Be of Interest too you, We of  
the American Legion Support your Goals in  
many ways, And We do wish you Success  
in Efforts you are making to make our  
Country Stable. And sane.

As one Legionnaire to Another,  
I do remain

Yours In Comradeship

V. Thomas Gibbons

U.S. Navy Combat Veteran  
W.W. II

"God Bless you And yours"





# ADVANCE

A National Headquarters Monthly Publication For Post Commanders and Post Adjutants

Vol. XXV

September, 1982

No. 9

## Commanders have important role . . .

# Legion seeks sites for new posts

**C**OMMANDER, take a good look at your community. Examine it along with your membership roster. Note the general area from which your post derives the bulk of its membership.

Now, are there some areas of population from which your post does not draw any membership? Are there some new residential communities being established which are not all that close to your post?

In other words, are there areas which, for one reason or another, are not served by your American Legion post and which deserve a Legion Post of their own?

### New Posts Constantly Needed

Post and District Commanders have a special responsibility to assist in locating areas for new American Legion Posts and in helping organize them. New posts are constantly needed where veterans can gather for social and recreational benefits and give their strength to programs and services for the veteran and community.

All veterans, wherever they live, deserve the opportunity to belong to an active American Legion Post. And, as motor fuel costs continue to take a sizable chunk out of the family budget, that post, more than ever before, needs to be located where it is easily accessible.

Commanders who sincerely want to "Help America Work" should re-

member that the interest generated by the formation of a new post actually helps build the membership of an existing post.

### Whose Territory?

All too often, a Post Commander will consider recently developed neighborhoods or residential communities, which may be located nearby, as part of the existing post's potential membership territory. However, the veteran's residing in these areas may not see it that way.

Residents of these new areas usually are looking for ways to establish community identity. A new American Legion Post is one way of getting that job done. So, the Legion Post which has been struggling (with little or no success) to enroll veterans from that area (and — let's face it — it's actually farther from the post than you and your officers want to admit) might be more successful in the long run by helping that new area organize an American Legion Post of its own.

First, ask your membership chairman to report on the existing post's efforts to sign up the veterans who reside in the new area. Ask that the report include the types of responses given by those veterans when they are asked to join. Then, let your post decide whether the eligible veterans in that new area will join your post simply because they don't have one in their own community.

### No Threat to Existing Post

Your post should not consider the possibility of a new post in a new area as a threat to your own membership. The result of such thinking is a community where American Legion programs and services are not available.

The effectiveness of American Legion programs relates directly to each post's ability to recruit and retain members. Without an active American Le-

gion post, a community certainly does not benefit from Legion programs and services. Therefore, the absence of such programs and services will obviously detract from the membership enrollment efforts of the post located elsewhere.

The Post Commander who becomes involved in the crusade for more new posts will discover a concept in the spirit of cooperation which adds dimension to "our devotion to mutual helpfulness." This is the "big brother" post program. Although it originated as part of the Legion's Metropolitan Area Post Marketing Plan, designed to organize posts in urban areas, its basics can be adapted to use in smaller "more-than-one-post" communities.

### 'Big Brother' Post Helps

Under the "big brother" concept, an existing post is encouraged to provide a new post with expertise and assistance, such as —

- "Big brother" post provides the new post with a place to meet until it can find a suitable one of its own.
  - "Big brother" posts invites the new post to participate in its programs and activities in order that the fledgling post's leaders can see how they might want to function.
  - Officers of the "big brother" post offer the leaders of the new post advice on how to keep records, establish service programs, and post administration.
- And so on.

The new post program results in increased and better quality American Legion services for both the veterans and the community as a whole. The entire area becomes more "Legion-conscious," benefiting the membership strength of both existing and new posts.

*(continued on next page)*

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# Legion to honor firms employing handicapped

**T**O PROMOTE the employment of the handicapped, The American Legion each year, in cooperation with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, emphasizes the first full week in October as "Employ the Handicapped Week." This year President Reagan will proclaim Oct. 3-9 as this special week to recognize that the handicapped make excellent employees and to urge all employers to utilize their skills.

Each American Legion Department may further recognize the good records of handicapped workers by presenting a plaque, provided by the National Economic Commission, to an outstanding employer of the handicapped in that state. Although only one plaque is provided for department presentation, posts nominating employers for such an award are encouraged to present them an appropriate certificate, accompanied by appropriate post and public recognition.

Although many handicapping conditions are invisible, or become taken for granted, it should be easy to find companies with handicapped employees.

Most communities have organizations that help the handicapped, with employment as a goal. Posts that contact such groups not only can obtain valuable leads on employers, but also spread the word of the Legion's interest in helping the handicapped.

Because the Auxiliary's Community Service Chairman has as one of her interests the helping of the handicapped, your Auxiliary Unit also could be a possible source of contacts. The local office of the state employment service can also help, especially if it has a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist.

The National Economic Commission has developed a new format for its employer award programs: Employ the Handicapped; Employ the Older Worker; and Employer of the Year for Hiring Veterans. Instead of sending out nomination forms and announcements several months in advance of the special week for the first two awards, and well ahead of the deadline for the last, a packet of nomination forms, instructions, and suggestions will be sent once

*(continued on back page)*



## SEPTEMBER

- 2 37th anniversary of V-J Day, 1945.
- 2-6 World Series of American Legion Baseball, Boyertown, Pa.
- 6 Labor Day.
- 10-12 Leadership Training Conferences. Charlotte, N.C., and Seattle, Wash.
- 17 Citizenship Day.
- 17-19 Regional Leadership Conferences, Burlington, Vt., and Minneapolis, Minn.
- 24-26 Regional Leadership Conferences, Columbus, Ohio, and San Mateo, Calif.

## OCTOBER

- 1-3 Regional Leadership Conference, Baton Rouge, La.
- 3-9 National Employ the Handicapped Week.
- 11 Columbus Day.
- 11-12 Annual Conference of Department Commanders and Adjutants; standing commissions and committees meet; Indianapolis, Ind.
- 13-14 National Executive Committee, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 15-17 Regional Leadership Conference, Atlantic City, N.J.
- 20 1983 dues now payable.
- 31 Halloween.  
(Coming up in November; Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Get post's plans for participation in gear.)

## New post sites . . .

*(continued from preceding page)*

The major problem of the new post program is recognizing and defining the community or area where a new post is needed and could function effectively. Is there a high school nearby whose students are not represented at your American Legion Boys State . . . whose students do not have a chance to compete in the Oratorical Contest . . . where there is no American Legion Baseball?

Has there been a major shopping center established where it is impossible or impractical for your post to set up an occasional promotional or service officer booth?

### Commander Should See Need

If there is a "yes" to any of the above, you've just found an area that needs its own American Legion Post! As Post Commander, you should recognize the need that exists and your responsibility to assist in the formation of that new post.

American Legion Posts, yours included, were formed to provide services. If there is a need for those services beyond the effective reach of your post, then it is up to you to help organize one

which will be in a better position to serve those needs.

### Wide Area of Service

That new post can be a continuing adventure for its members whether it is through the assistance of a Vietnam veteran who suffers the effects of exposure to Agent Orange, getting an older veteran admitted to a VA Hospital, helping a veteran find a job, or turning out in force to help put over a community betterment project. Such a post becomes a source of pride for the "big brother" post and the Legionnaires who made it possible.

Your District or County Commander is also aware of his responsibilities in helping to locate new post sites. If you have an idea about where such a post is needed, get in touch with him.

Be a part of this search party to bring The American Legion to the veteran. Your guidance and assistance are needed now.

For further details on how you can assist in this program, contact your department headquarters or Membership & Post Activities Section, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

**The American Legion**

## ADVANCE

Published monthly by: National Headquarters, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. A publication for American Legion Post Commanders and Post Adjutants.

MEMBER

AMERICAN LEGION  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

Editor: Frank L. Megala

September, 1982 Vol. XXV No. 9

The ADVANCE, September, 1982

# Prudent planning pulls post publicity

**G**ETTING PUBLICITY for a post event is not as difficult as it first might appear.

Most attempts in getting publicity go awry because of poor planning and little or no contact with the "gatekeeper" of the news medium in which you want publicity.

For some reason, newspaper editors and radio news directors are looked upon as a "strange animal" who doesn't want to be bothered even during working hours. So, he or she remains a mystery because no attempt is made to discuss the matter.

As for planning, many times post public relations officers will try to tubthump an event without finding out

many of the details from the post commander, adjutant, or planning committee about the event to be publicized. You need the facts first before you can go to work.

Suppose you wanted to draw attention to a Veterans Day parade your post is having in your community. What should you do?

Find out what units are to be in the parade, parade route, dignitaries taking part, judges, festivities preceding and following the parade, and—equally important—the names of the general chairman and planning committee members.

Then analyze two or three of the more interesting facets of the parade:

Why was the grand marshal chosen?

Perhaps a dignitary is a war hero with interesting battle experiences to tell.

Maybe the post will have a float that commemorates what The American Legion best represents in that community.

Then write your story and have it typed, double spaced to allow room for the editor's marks. If it covers the who, what, where, when, why, and how, the story should be basic enough for the editor or news director who is likely to edit to their medium's style. Be careful to check for accuracy on spelling of names and places, being sure the times and dates are correct.

What about photo possibilities? It's always a good point to have a photo idea several days before the event. Have no more than three individuals in the photo, and have them involved in an activity.

The newspaper will assign a photographer in most cases. But if you do it, use a 35 mm. camera and get close enough to the subjects so their faces are easily recognized, and it is easy to tell what activity they are doing.

As for radio, news directors are interested in interviewing someone knowledgeable. Such a "voice" could be the parade general chairman.

Next, call the editor and news director for a meeting to discuss the matter. It's best to call an evening newspaper editor in the afternoon and a weekly newspaper editor after mid-week when deadlines are passed.

Your presentation should be made well within 15 minutes, out of respect for the editor's time.

What you may find out about newspaper editors and radio news directors is that they do want to be bothered—if you've got something that will interest their readers or listeners.

The fact that you represent The American Legion automatically gets you on first base. Most editors and news directors know you represent a large veteran's organization which is active in the community.

Present your well-thought-out story idea, along with the times that interviews and photos can be arranged.

You may surprise yourself and please your post . . . as well as the newspaper and radio station. The news medium and the post you represent, after all, are wanting the same thing—news about people.

## Crime resistance program provides valuable service

**C**RIME IS a problem — everyone's problem. And because it's everyone's problem, all Americans have a responsibility to do something about crime by resisting it.

The American Legion's Crime Resistance program teaches your friends and neighbors the passive prevention measures to protect family and property against crime. It's a vital community service which your post can provide.

Make crime resistance safety a part of your life. Begin by thinking about crimes to which you are especially vulnerable when considering such factors as your age, sex, and the area in which you live. Then be wary of these crimes just as you are to other hazards to life and property, such as disease and fire.

The American Legion Crime Resistance Program is a good way your post can enhance the quality of life in your community. An adequate plan helps the implementation of the program.

An effective plan for such a program recently was outlined by 8th District Commander Glenn Ferguson, Department of Tennessee. He recommended it to his Post Commanders as a viable method of getting a crime resistance program started in their respective communities.

First, visit the Chief of Police and give him one of the Legion's Crime Resistance booklets. Tell him about the imprint that can be put on each booklet, pointing out that his Police Department and the Legion Post are co-sponsoring its distribution. Then discuss means of

distribution. District Commander Ferguson suggests that some of the best sources of help in distribution comes through civic and church groups, senior citizen centers, the Jaycees, etc.

It's the rare Chief of Police who will turn down a concerned citizen's offer to help reduce crime in the community. And the Chief's support will help draw attention of the news media to the program.

The next step is get together with your post public relations chairman and plan how to publicize the program. In one instance of District 8's program, the police chief assigned the head of the crime prevention unit to assist the Legion. Their efforts resulted in thorough newspaper and tv coverage of the program.

Your post's participation in the Crime Resistance program begins with the appointment of a post chairman. Then, map out implementation of the program just as was done in the 8th District of Tennessee.

Further details on the establishment of a Crime Resistance program in your community or neighborhood may be obtained by writing to the National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

Marking equipment and other post home security devices are available from National Emblem Sales, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

# They served. They sacrificed. HONOR THEM!

The men and women who served in Vietnam:  
honor and recognize them  
at the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans,  
in Washington, D.C.  
beginning on the eve of Veterans Day  
Wednesday, November 10,  
continuing through Sunday, November 14, 1982

It's a time of remembrance of those who gave their lives and those who remain missing. It's a time to share heart-felt gratitude with all the valiant people who answered their country's call.

The National Salute will be a celebration of patriotism and a focus of reflective emotion. Reunions of military units, Parades, Entertainment, and Religious Services will finally pay tribute to those 2,700,000 Americans who served in Vietnam.

## NATIONAL SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS



**Americans, participate!**  
**Make plans now to remember them in November.**

**Please complete and print clearly:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to attend. Please send more information.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a Vietnam Veteran.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A member of my family gave his life in service to his country in Vietnam. | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like information about the unit reunions.<br>(Army: Brigade or Division; Marines: Regiment;<br>Navy: Ship or Detachment; Air Force: Wing Level;<br>Coast Guard: Squadron). My unit was _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like information about the Welcome Home Parade.                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like information about lodging in the D.C. area.                  |  |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you return your participation form. Thank you.**

Mail your completed participation form to: **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund\***,  
1110 Vermont Avenue, NW Suite 308, Washington D.C. 20005

\*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is a non-profit organization established to build a national memorial in honor of all Americans who served in Vietnam.

Advertisement: Courtesy of Tyl Associates, McLean, VA

# The American Legion

## 46th Annual National High School Oratorical Contest



### FOREWORD

The purpose of The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The scholarships awarded by the National Organization of The American Legion to the four finalists, to the Department winners, and to the Regional winners who are eliminated at the Sectional level of competition may be used to attend any college or university in the United States. Funds for the scholarships awarded by the National Organization are provided by the American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

In addition to the scholarships awarded by the National Organization there are several hundred scholarships awarded, at the discretion of the intermediate organizations, to participants at Post, District or County, and Department levels of competition.

\$66,000 In

### Scholarship Awards

Scholarship awards are presented to the four finalists in the National Contest as follows:

- 1st Place ----- \$16,000
- 2nd Place ----- \$10,000
- 3rd Place ----- \$ 6,000
- 4th Place ----- \$ 4,000

Each Department (State) Winner who is certified into the next (Regional) level of the National Contest and each Sectional participant who does not advance to the National Finals will receive a \$500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

#### Sponsor:

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
National Americanism Commission  
P. O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

#### Approved since 1943 by:

National Association of  
Secondary School Principals

### 1983 National Contests Schedule

#### Regionals

(12 sites to be announced)

April 18

-----

#### Sectionals

(4 sites to be announced)

April 20

-----

#### National Finals

Annapolis, Maryland

April 22

### Department Contests

Arrangements for contests leading to the Department Finals shall be the responsibility of each Department. For those levels of competition prior to the Department Finals, the rules and regulations as set forth in this brochure are not mandatory — they are offered as a guideline. However, all Department Finals Contests shall conform with National Contest procedure, rules and regulations. A winner certified to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division of The American Legion by a Department which did not conduct its final competition in conformity with the rules and regulations as set forth herein may, in the judgment of the Director, be disqualified from competition in the National Contests — Regional, Sectional and Finals.

Each Department may certify one (1) contestant into the National Regional Contest. If for any reason the Department Winner is unable to compete in the National Regional Contest, the Department First Runner-Up may be substituted and will be entitled to all National awards, entitlements and compensation that the Department Winner would have received had he/she participated in said National Regional.

DEPARTMENT WINNERS MUST BE CERTIFIED TO THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM AND CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, NO LATER THAN MARCH 18, 1983.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest shall be citizens and/or residents of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military or private) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

The four finalists of the National Finals Contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.



(Left) Winners of the rounds of National competition are awarded the medal illustrated (in reduced size): Regionals - Bronze; Sectionals - Silver; and Finals - Gold. Pictured elsewhere are medallions which may be awarded at the discretion of the sponsoring echelon: Post, District or County, and Department.

## PREPARED ORATION

The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. Each contestant, before beginning the prepared oration, shall announce the title of his speech, which must relate to the United States Constitution. Failure to do so will result in an automatic three (3) point penalty. The same subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

**THE PREPARED ORATION MUST BE THE ORIGINAL EFFORT OF EACH CONTESTANT AND MUST NOT TAKE UP LESS THAN EIGHT MINUTES OR MORE THAN TEN MINUTES FOR DELIVERY.**

In the Prepared Oration, as well as in the Extemporaneous Discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

## EXTEMPORANEOUS DISCOURSE

The Extemporaneous Discourse must not consume less than three minutes or more than five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the Extemporaneous Discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his research, and the ability to discuss extemporaneously the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.



The Extemporaneous Discourse topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience, immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his Prepared Oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under Extemporaneous Topics for the current year's contest in this pamphlet.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak on the same Extemporaneous Topic which is drawn.

## TV AND RADIO

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests as well as kinescopes, filming or other types of media for later showing, provided:

1. The American Legion is in no way financially obligated.
2. Satisfactory arrangements are made in advance with the contest official.
3. The filming or broadcasts shall in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the preannounced scheduled time of contest.
4. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium.

## DRESS

Uniforms of all kinds will be barred because a uniform worn by one contestant and not by the others might create an unfair advantage. Informal dress will be required.

## FINANCES

The National Organization of The American Legion will pay the travel cost of Department Winners as they progress in National competition. Travel costs for chaperons of all contestants certified into the National level of competition will be paid by The American Legion. Female contestants must be accompanied by a chaperon.

The National Organization of The American Legion will not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperon enroute to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into National competition.

## CONTEST REGULATIONS

Contestants shall draw for the order in which they appear. The drawing will be conducted by the National Representative of the Americanism Commission, who will introduce the speakers as Contestant No. 1, Contestant No. 2, etc. The National Representative will request the audience to refrain from applause until the Judges have made their decision.

A raised platform is not compulsory, however, it is strongly recommended. THE USE OF NOTES, AMPLIFICATION, LECTERN OR SPEAKER'S STAND BY CONTESTANTS OR PROMPTING IN ANY MANNER IS NOT PERMITTED.

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver his Prepared Oration shall not be less than eight or more than ten minutes and for the Extemporaneous Discourse, not less than three or more than five minutes.

An official timer shall be named by the Local Representative, whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate time record of each contestant, and he shall be located on the main floor in full view of the contestants. The timekeeper will begin timing each contestant at the start of the Prepared Oration — not when the title of the speech is announced. The timekeeper will mark a three (3) point penalty on the time card if a contestant fails to announce the title of his Prepared Oration. The timer should be equipped with a stopwatch and time cards for the Prepared Oration carrying the figures 8, 9 and 10. When eight minutes have been used the time warning card with the figure 8 thereon shall be placed in full view of the speaker, following with 9 and 10 as the speaker

(continued on next page)

**CONTEST REGULATIONS**

(continued from preceding page)

progresses. The same procedure shall be used with cards bearing 3, 4 and 5 during the Extemporeous Discourse. The National Representative shall announce the time consumed by each contestant for the Prepared Oration and the Extemporeous Discourse immediately after each contestant speaks for the benefit of the Judges.

Contestants are required to remain in a private room where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard until it is their turn to speak (contestants will be under the supervision of an individual appointed by the Local Representative). As each contestant concludes his Prepared Oration and Extemporeous Discourse, he will return to the soundproof waiting room.

Approximately five minutes prior to the time of the delivery of the Extemporeous Discourse, Contestant No. 1 will be informed of the topic drawn for the Extemporeous Discourse and shall be permitted to retire to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the Local Representative, whose duty it shall be to see that no contestant is permitted to consult any text matter or notes having any connection with the subject matter upon which he is to speak, other than the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which he previously appeared. He shall also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the Extemporeous Discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for Contestant No. 1.

The National Representative will be expected to introduce each contestant by name immediately before he announces the decision of the Judges. Only the winner shall be announced in Regional and Sectional Contests.

**JUDGES**

The Judges are a very integral part of the Oratorical Contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the Judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and success of the program which results in the selection of a National Champion.

Arrangements for Judges shall be made by the Local Representative of the Regional, Sectional, and National Finals Contests. The names shall be submitted to the National Americanism and Children &

Youth Division for approval prior to the contest. Each contest shall have five Judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of the Judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the Judges shall be seated in different locations in the auditorium, and each Judge shall render his final decision without consultation with other Judges or any other person. Official Score Cards will be furnished by the National Americanism Commission for the use of Judges in National Contest.

The National Representative will meet with the Judges at a time and place arranged by the Local Representative. The purpose of this meeting is for the final briefing and to ascertain that the Judges have a thorough understanding of their responsibility and have necessary materials for the contest. Judges should carefully study and possess a thorough understanding of the Score Card and scoring system. This is to include all areas under, and including, A) Content, and B) Speaking Skills, on the Score Card. A Judge having any questions should consult with the National Representative prior to the contest.

Lack of emphasis in the Prepared Oration and the Extemporeous Discourse on the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen must result in the Judges downgrading the contestant involved. Judges may downgrade a contestant up to a total of (10) points for failure to speak on the Constitution. The National Representative of the contest will announce any violation of time for each contestant. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score. The National Representative also will announce a three (3) point penalty for any contestant who fails to state the title of the Prepared Oration.

Immediately following the final Extemporeous Discourse, the Judges and the National Representative shall retire to a private room for final review and tabulation.

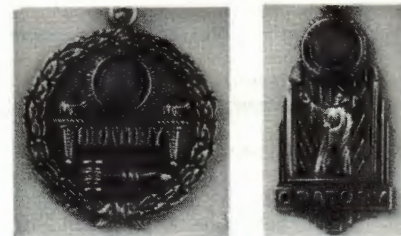
Each Judge shall insert the total number of points credited to the contestant and also insert in the Record of Choice column his choice of placement of each contestant in accordance with the highest total point scores. If a tie exists in the total point scores on a Judge's Score Card, the Judge must go back and make adjustments in his scoring of the tied contestants so that no two contestants have the same Total Point Score which will enable the Judge to rank one contestant above the other in the Record of Choice column.

**TABULATORS**

Each contest shall have three Tabulators who will be certain that the Judges have fully tabulated and signed their Score Cards before submitting them for final tabulation. The Judges' Score Cards will then be numbered one through five in the upper right-hand corner. Utilizing the Tabulation Card provided, enter the Judges' Record of Choice for each contestant (by speaking order). When this is accomplished for all five

Judges' Score Cards, total the contestants' scores. Tabulators must check the timekeepers card to determine if the three (3) point penalty has been assessed to a contestant for failure to announce the subject of his prepared Oration. The contestant receiving the low score when totaling the Tabulation Card will be declared the winner. (EXAMPLE: If one contestant receives two firsts, two seconds and a third on the Judges' Score Cards and Tabulation Card, his total Record of Choice points will be nine; if the second contestant receives two firsts, two seconds and a fourth, his total Record of Choice points will be ten. Even though the second contestant receives two firsts, his total Record of Choice point score of ten will place him second.

**TIEBREAKER:** If, after tabulation of the Judges' Record of Choice, two contestants receive the same placement point score total, the tie shall be broken by comparing the Record of Choice scores of the five Judges for the two contestants. One of the contestants will be the winner over the other by a majority of the Judges' Record of Choice when only the placement of the tied contestants is considered. (EXAMPLE: Consider that Contestants No. 1 and No. 2 are tied. If Judge's Card No. 1 reflects Record of Choice for Contestant No. 1 as 3 and Contestant No. 2 as 4, then it is considered that this Judge ranks Contestant No. 1 ahead of Contestant No. 2). Use this procedure for all five Judges' Score Cards and a majority of the five Judges will break the tie and determine the winner.



If, after tabulation of the Judges' Record of Choice, three or more contestants receive the same placement point score total, the tie shall be broken by reference to Final Total Points on the Judges' Score Cards. Only in this instance will the contestant with the largest Final Total Points be declared the winner. In the case of a tie on the Final Total Point basis, the Judges will then meet, compare their scores and discuss all features of the contest in order to arrive at a final choice. The decision of the Judges shall be final.

Judges' Score Cards are not to be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. National Representatives are required to send all Judges' Score Cards to National Headquarters following contests.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Prior to the contest, each Judge should have the opportunity to study carefully the criteria for scoring the presentation of the Prepared Oration and Extemporaneous Discourse by each contestant, the content of oration, and speaking skills. The following items should be considered (see listing of point values on the furnished official Score Card.)

### A. CONTENT

1. Originality, Freshness, Directness, Application of Knowledge to Topic. Original, fresh approach to topic. Relevancy to subject. Information applied to subject's aspects. Speaker stays on topic. Originality of extemporaneous speech.
2. Skill in Selecting Examples, Description, Analogies, Specific Data. Examples applicable, relevant. Illustrations related to subject. Adequate information on examples. Proper credit to quotations or borrowed subject matter. Utilization of specific data.
3. Logic (Correctness of Inference). Support to illustrations. Properly drawn conclusions. Inconsistencies in application. Inference without proper support or logic.
4. Comprehensiveness of Knowledge of Subject Matter. Plagiarism? Speaker's grasp of subject. Unity of thought or thoughts. Topic significance. Overall impression compared to component parts. Discussion value of extemporaneous speech. Informational and educational to audience.

### B. SPEAKING SKILLS

1. Voice and Diction. Voice detraction from content. Pitch. Utilization of proper inflection. Is speaker easily understood? Proper voice volume for physical conditions. Articulation. Enunciation. Pronunciation.
2. Style: Language Use, Word Arrangement, Transition, Word Selection. Appropriate language use. Succinct sentences. Ease of Interpretation. Grammar. Extraneous clauses or phrases? Smooth, continuous transition of sentences, paragraphs. Speech structure: Introduction, main body, summary or conclusion.
3. Body Action: Poise, Eye Contact, Posture, Gestures. Is speaker at ease while speaking? Establish eye contact. Alert nature of posture. Is speaker too dramatic?

## EXTEMPORANEOUS TOPICS

1983

### UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE II

SECTION 1, PARAGRAPHS 5, 6 and 7. No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services a Compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

#### ARTICLE III

SECTION 2, PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 and 3. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; — to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; — to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; — to controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; — to Controversies between two or more states; — between a State and Citizens of another State; — between Citizens of different States; — between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the Supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crime shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

#### ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

ARTICLES IN ADDITION TO, AND AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PROPOSED BY CONGRESS, AND RATIFIED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE SEVERAL STATES, PURSUANT TO THE FIFTH ARTICLE OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION.

#### AMENDMENT 2

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

#### AMENDMENT 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

#### AMENDMENT 14

SECTION 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an Officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.



# 1983 Post Membership Awards

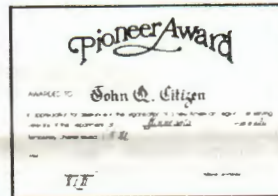
## Individual Awards



**National Commander's 1983 Cap Pin** — National Commander's 1983 cap pin is awarded when you enroll twenty-five new American Legion Members or an approved combination of twenty-five new and renewed American Legion Members. (Approved combination is determined by your Department.)



**Five Consecutive Years' All-Time High Post Award** — Awarded to Posts who have five or more consecutive years' All-Time High Membership.



**Pioneer Award** — The American Legion has authorized issuance of a beautiful citation entitled, "The American Legion Pioneer Award". Post may make nominations for this award through their Department, immediately after securing a temporary Charter. The Pioneer Award can play an important role in giving proper recognition to both the recipient of the award, and the Post. The Pioneer Award is a means of recognition for individuals or groups that have made the greatest contributions in helping to get a new Post chartered and insuring its successful operation.

## Post Awards



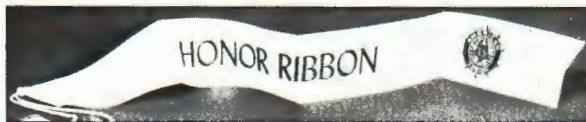
**Citation of Most Distinguished Service** Awarded to all Posts who re-enroll their entire previous year's Membership (as shown by the Membership books at the close of the 1982 Department Convention) for 1983 by November 11, 1982.



**Certificate of Meritorious Service** — Awarded to all Posts who enroll an advance of 1983 Membership equaling or surpassing the Post's previous All-Time High Membership, by December 31, 1982.



**New Post Kit** — Each newly organized Post must operate under a Temporary Charter for a period of at least 90 days before applying through their Department for a Permanent Charter. Upon the approval of an Application for Permanent Charter, National Headquarters will forward a New Post Kit (approximate value \$150.00) to the Department for formal presentation to the new Post.



**Post Honor Ribbon** — Awarded to all Posts whose 1983 Membership as of December 31, 1982, equals or exceeds the total of 1982 Membership.



**The American Legion Birthday Award — Post of Distinction** — Awarded to all Posts accomplishing the following:

- 1) Enrolling by March 17, 1983 a 1983 Membership equaling or exceeding the total 1982 Membership.
- 2) Observing the 64th Birthday of the Founding of The American Legion.
- 3) Continuation throughout the year of basic American Legion programs.

The New Post kit includes:

Deluxe Desk Flag Set  
Walnut Gavel  
Post Adjutants Lapel Tack  
Post Commanders Lapel Tack  
20 American Legion Emblem Lapel Tacks  
Official Cash Records  
Official Membership Ledger  
Official Minute Book  
Officers Guide  
Post Adjutants Manual  
Post Public Relations Guide  
Guidelines To Post Building Program

Post Operations Manual  
10 Counter Top Displays  
10 Window Posters  
Ad Slicks  
One TV & Two Radio PSA's  
100 "We Help America Work" Brochures  
50 "Welcome to the "American Legion" Booklets  
Emblem Sales Catalog  
National Constitution  
Service to God and Country Pamphlet  
Pad of Membership Applications  
100 "It's Great To Belong" Info Flyers

# 1983 District Membership Awards

## "Mr. District Commander" Competition

Competition will be divided into five categories based on District Membership without regard to geographic locations. Based on final 1982 totals, District Commanders will compete in each of the following categories. A Top District Commander for the National Award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards will also be presented in each category.

**First Place Awards** — Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District Membership represents the greatest percentage increase over the final 1982 District Membership represents the greatest percentage increase over the final 1982 District Membership\* on May 2, 1983.

**Second Place Awards** — Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District Membership represents the second highest percentage increase over the final 1982 District Membership\* on May 2, 1983.

**Third Place Awards** — Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1983 District Membership represents the third highest percentage increase over the final 1982 District Membership\* on May 2, 1983.

\*Final 1982 Membership as of December 31, 1982

- Category I — Districts of 15-1499 Members
- Category II — Districts of 1,500-2,999 Members
- Category III — Districts of 3,000-4,999 Members
- Category IV — Districts of 5,000-7,499 Members
- Category V — Districts of 7,500 and above Members

## Five First Place Awards The Winner's choice of:



**1 "National Convention" Trip** — A week in Seattle, Washington, site of the American Legion's 65th Annual National Convention. Transportation for winner and spouse as well as 7 days, 6 nights hotel accommodations in the National Headquarters Hotel. Also, tickets to the National Commander's Banquet and "Distinguished Guest" status while attending National Convention activities.



**2 Surprise "Get-Away" Weekend** — Transportation and resort hotel accommodations for winner and spouse. Three days, two nights in a fabulous resort, plus \$50 per day to spend as you wish.

## Five Second Place Awards



Winner will receive an American Legion uniform consisting of blazer, trousers, cap and tie.

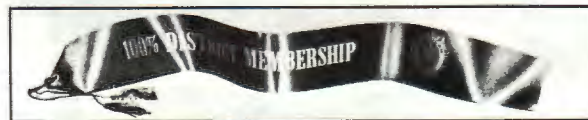
## Five Third Place Awards



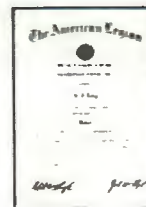
Winner will receive an official American Legion blazer.

## Additional District Awards For Membership Performance:

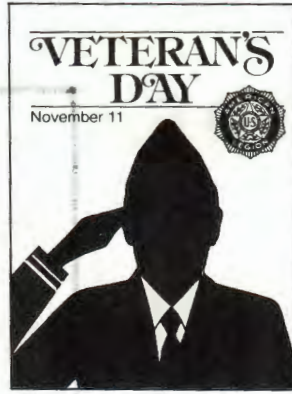
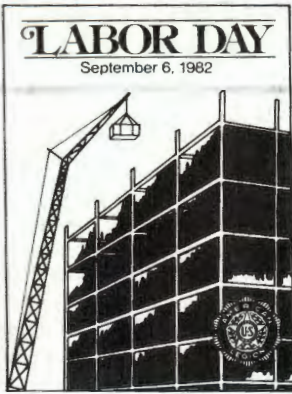
**Year End District Commander Award** — An executor desk folder will be awarded to the District Commander in each Department having the highest percentage of his District's 1982 official Membership enrolled for 1983 by December 31, 1982. County Commanders may qualify for this award in Departments not having District Commanders.



**District Honor Ribbon**  
Each District equaling or exceeding its 1982 total Membership for 1983 by May 2, 1983, will receive an honor ribbon for its District colors.



**National Commander's District Achievement Award** — All District Commanders who equal or exceed their District's previous year's total Membership (1982) for 1983, by May 2, 1983 will receive this District Achievement Award from the National Commander.



# Free artwork ready for Legion editors

EDITORS OF post publications usually are in need of "art."

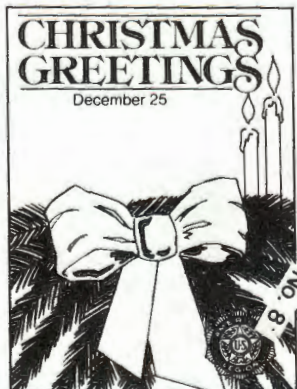
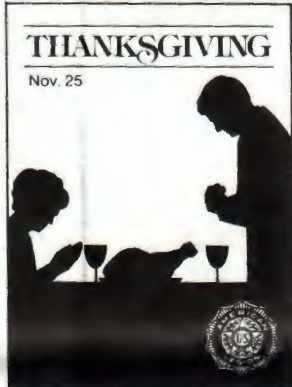
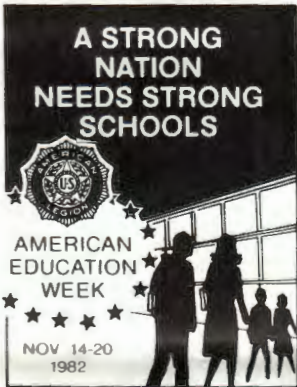
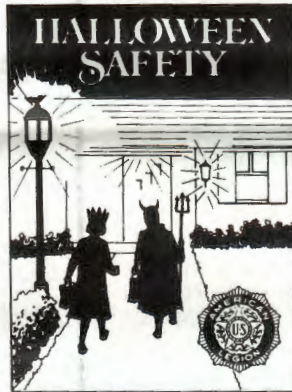
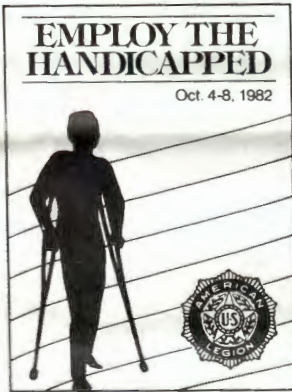
"Art" is a term referring to illustrations or photos used with stories in newspapers and newsletters.

"Art" draws attention to stories and makes for a more appealing look to a publication.

The Public Relations Division at National Headquarters in Indianapolis has available upon request eight (8) line drawings for offset paste-up and printing to note the following significant events on the calendar: Veterans Day, Halloween Safety, Employ the Handicapped Week, American Education Week, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

The proofs, as illustrated here, come in two sizes: Larger (3¼ in. wide × 4¾ in. deep) and Smaller (1¾ in. wide × 2¾ in. deep).

There is no charge for these proofs. Just fill out the order coupon on this page (please type or print clearly the information needed) and send to the National Public Relations Division at the Indianapolis address.



**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION**  
**The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055**  
**Indianapolis, Ind. 46206**

### Holiday Art

Please send me the \_\_\_\_\_ larger;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ smaller; \_\_\_\_\_ both selections  
 of the Holiday art for use in the American Legion  
 publication I represent.

(Please print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (City, state and zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Post No.)



## DATELINE: WASHINGTON

### SALT II defeated again

**I**N A DRAMATIC late-night session, Aug. 5, the House of Representatives defeated HR Jt. Res. 521, a resolution calling for an immediate nuclear arms freeze and adopted a substitute favored by The American Legion. The substitute, HR Jt. Res. 538, urges the U.S. and the Soviet Union to conclude "an equitable and verifiable agreement which freezes strategic nuclear forces at equal and substantially reduced levels."

It was a close vote, 204 to 202. In the final hours before the vote, uncommit-

ted Congressmen called the Legion's National Legislative offices, seeking the views of your organization.

President Reagan, who supported the substitute resolution and favors building the U.S. nuclear arsenal while conducting strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva, telephoned wavering House Republicans during the 8-hour debate. He persuaded a number of Congressmen that passage of the immediate freeze resolution, introduced by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.), would hamper his Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START).

In a letter to each of the 435 Representatives, National Legislative Director E. Philip Riffin pointed out that "HR Res. 521 is clearly an undesirable approach to nuclear arms control for several reasons. If a nuclear freeze were imposed as the first step in START negotiations, followed by the ratification of SALT II, all incentives for the Soviets to negotiate a mutual, equitable, and verifiable reduction would be removed. Further, the Soviet advantage that could be 'frozen in' would subject our Western European allies to the unchallenged Soviet SS-20 missile threat."

Though the Legion has won this round in Congress, the debate goes on. Referenda on proposals similar to the defeated House resolution—for freezing in the Soviet nuclear advantage and then negotiating — are expected to be on the ballots of seven states and a number of cities this fall. It is important

that Legionnaires in these communities and states actively participate in these debates.

### Illegal aliens draining economy

**T**HE HOUSE of Representatives may be the last battleground for The American Legion on the issue of amnesty for illegal aliens who hold millions of jobs in this country. Legislation moving through the Senate at press time provides generous amnesty for those in this country illegally. In the words of a former Senator: "Amnesty puts the government squarely behind the lawbreaker, and in effect says, 'Congratulations, you have successfully violated our laws and avoided detection — here is your reward. . .'"

The American Legion sees striking amnesty from the proposed immigration reform laws as a momentous opportunity to lower the budget deficit, interest rates, and unemployment.

Budget experts estimate that a reduction in unemployment of just one (1) percent reduces the budget deficit by \$28 billion through higher revenues and lower unemployment and relief expenditures. If unemployment were reduced just 2 percent by rejecting amnesty for illegal workers, the federal budget would be reduced by \$56 billion. This result can be reasonably expected if only a fraction of the jobs currently held by illegal aliens were made available to Americans.

The "ripple effect" would see reduced deficit, bringing down interest rates, stimulating new home construction and automobile sales, plus increased investments in new factories, industrial, business, and farm equipment.

This heightened economic activity would provide at least 700,000 new jobs throughout the economic spectrum. It would increase tax revenues, reducing the unemployment rate and relief expenditures to bring down further the deficit and interest rates.

The American Legion finds no legal or moral reason sufficient to continue allowing alien workers to drain our economic dynamo from within, or to take jobs from millions of Americans, many of whom are veterans.

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## Handicapped

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a year which will permit posts and departments to work out their own calendars.

At a minimum cost, the presentation of these employer awards benefits the employees, the employers, your post, and The American Legion.

The special employer award packets, scheduled for distribution after Oct. 1 to departments, may be obtained from your department adjutant or directly from the National Economic Commission, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N. W. Washington, D.C. 20006.



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