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September 2, 1983

Editor, The Buffalo News
One News Plaza
P.O. Box 100
Buffalo, N.Y. 14240

Dear Sir:

In your August 22 editorial "Reagan Shouldn't Blame Media for Giving Facts" The Buffalo News assures its readers that the U.S. media is simply giving Americans the unpleasant truth about Central America. "Their role is to get the facts out- good or bad- and let the people judge", you state.

Although you quote Reagan's charges that the media is distorting the truth, you claim that "rarely are there any specifics in these broadsides against the press."

In fact, there is a great deal of factual evidence of media bias and distortion in reporting the situation in Central America.

Accuracy in Media has analyzed CBS-TV News dealing with Central America since President Reagan's speech on the subject to Congress on April 27. Out of a total of 43 news items only two could be considered supportive of the administration policies in Central America. 19 were negative and 23 were classified as neutral. More lengthy interviews and news special on CBS were also weighed heavily against U.S. policy.

TV Guide's August 27th issue carried an article entitled "Who's Toughest on the White House- And Why". The article concluded CBS, by a margin of more than 7 to 1, tended to cast the Reagan Administration in a more negative light than either ABC or NBC.

Turning to newspapers, we note that the foreign editor of The Washington Post, Karen DeYoung, said in a lecture "Most journalists now, most Western journalists at least, are eager to seek out guerrilla groups, leftist groups, because you assume they must be the good guys."

Such a bias in favor of the left results in distortion. CBS has had two major specials on Central America. Using CBS transcripts, Accuracy in Media found that the commentator on "Central America in Revolt" expressed the U.S. government position in 80 words and the Marxist guerrilla position in 3516 words. On the CBS special "Guatemala" the commentator's comments supported the U.S. position in 348 words and the Marxist guerrilla position in 1947 words. CBS, incidentally, has never contested these figures.

The Buffalo News needs to inform its readers that the "deliberate distortions" the White House claims do exist. There is a great deal of factual evidence to show that the U.S. media often goes beyond the innocent recital of facts the Buffalo News claims. As the Washington Post's foreign editor claims: "Most journalists now... are eager to seek out guerrilla groups, leftist groups, because they assume they must be the good guys."

This bias in favor of the left results in a clear distortion in much of media coverage of Central America.

Sincerely yours,

Reed Irvine
Chairman

AIM RESEARCH REPORT

Accuracy in Media, Inc. • 1341 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 783-4406

No. 1 February 1983

Guatemala Through CBS's Eye

By Joan M. Harris



INTRODUCTION

CBS's two prime-time documentaries on Central America "Central America in Revolt", aired Saturday March 20, 1982 from 9:30-11:00 EST, and "Guatemala", aired Wednesday September 1, 1982, from 8-9 EDT, have been challenged on grounds of factual accuracy. Accuracy in Media has examined both programs carefully and checked the facts with standard reference works and with scholars who are knowledgeable about Guatemala. AIM has concluded that there are numerous factual inaccuracies in these programs.

The inaccuracies have been called to the attention of CBS. CBS has not rebutted any of the specific criticisms of CBS inaccuracies which were called to its attention by AIM.

The errors made by CBS have been widely disseminated throughout society, and Accuracy in Media has produced this compendium for the benefit of those who are interested in Guatemala.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix I notes the current disinformation themes found in the CBS documentaries "Central America in Revolt" and "Guatemala".

Appendix II evaluates the "line" of various speakers on CBS's documentaries "Central America in Revolt" and "Guatemala" and notes the number of words each position was given by CBS.

Appendix III lists the contributing advertisers on the CBS documentaries "Central America in Revolt" and "Guatemala".

Appendix IV lists the staff of the CBS News department.



"democratically elected"

page 1

CBS News

"When a democratically elected president named Jacobo Arbenz..."

"In 1954, in a plot called Operation Success, the CIA overthrew perhaps the only democratically elected president in Guatemalan history, Jacobo Arbenz."

Fact

"Arbenz engineered the assassination of his main rival, Arana, in the presidential election, clearing the way for his victory."

"Arbenz was a Marxist, as was his wife."

-letter from Ambassador William P. Stedman, Jr.
former State Dept. desk officer for Guatemala
October 9, 1982



"tried to institute land reform"

page 2

CBS News

"...Arbenz tried to institute a land reform program in 1954 so poor farmers could have land of their own..."

Fact

"Arbenz enacted a land reform program and confiscated land including properties of United Fruit, but it did not give the land to the farmers, rather it operated the farms through government agencies."

"Arbenz paid no compensation for the land taken..."

"Arbenz allowed Communists to operate freely and they dominated several government agencies, including the Agrarian Reform Agency."

"Arbenz used terrorist methods in repressing opposition to his leading the country to communism".

letter from William P. Stedman, Jr.

former State Dept. desk officer for Guatemala

to President Van Gordon Sauter of CBS News, Oct. 9, 1982.



CBS News

"When a democratically elected president named Jacobo Arbenz tried to institute a land reform program in 1954 so poor farmers could have land of their own, United Fruit lobbied the Eisenhower Administration to intervene. The CIA stepped in and overthrew the Guatemalan leader."

Fact

"Arbenz enacted a land reform program and confiscated land including properties of United Fruit, but it did not give the land to the farmers, rather it operated the farms through government agencies."

"Arbenz paid no compensation for the land taken, and the U.S. government, acting under international law, took the matter up with the Guatemalan government. The matter was never settled."

-letter from Ambassador William P. Stedman, Jr.
former State Dept. desk officer for Guatemala
to Pres. Sauter of CBS News, October 9, 1982

As Guatemala moved into what the Encyclopedia Brittanica calls "open class warfare and became the center of international controversy", forty-four men crossed the border from Honduras to lead a revolt. Before they reached the first city they had been joined by thousands of volunteers. Arbenz fled, to the U.S.S.R., Red China and Cuba in turn.

The U.S. gave no military aid, troops or armaments whatever. From 3 to 6 privately used Mustang airplanes were the total participation of U.S. Citizens.



CBS News

"News announcer: First pictures, American troops in Guatemala." (Film of American troops on the march).

Rabel: "Americans have fought for a long time to stay in Guatemala. There was also a lot to be had. United Fruit lobbied the Eisenhower Administration to intervene. The CIA stepped in and overthrew the Guatemalan leader."

Fact

The films of American troops in Guatemala shown by CBS along with the erroneous statement "The CIA stepped in and overthrew the Guatemalan leader" are pictures from the Second World War when American troops were stationed in Central America to defend against a possible attack by the Axis powers on the Panama Canal. The U.S. sent no troops to overthrow the Marxist Arbenz, although CBS clearly implies that the U.S. sent the troops being shown on the screen.



CBS News

"The CIA stepped in and overthrew the Guatemalan leader (Arbenz)."

"The Eisenhower Administration made it clear that the U.S. would tolerate only those governments in Guatemala that were friendly to American business interests. In 1955, Vice President Nixon came down to congratulate the new military ruler. The U.S. intervention marked the beginnings of Guatemala's current civil war. From that day to this, Guatemalans have lived under nearly constant government harassment."

Fact

"No modern parallel exists in the Americas for the reign of terror visited upon Guatemala's anti-communists by Arbenz and his Red strategists. For a suitable analogy one must look behind the Iron Curtain. Arbenz's government did not content itself with the usual reprisals which Latin American rulers traditionally wreak upon their opponents but employed weapons borrowed from the Soviet secret police...Midnight raids, kidnappings, beatings, torture, deportations, extorted confessions, economic reprisals, suppression of freedom and suspension of habeas corpus: these were the methods used. And they were used not only against single individuals but whole groups and classes, for Arbenz, remember, was not a conventional Latin absolutist, but a totalitarian who believed in the literal annihilation of the bourgeois class."

"Red Design for America: Guatemalan Prelude", Daniel James, 1954

"Since the overthrow of President Arbenz Guzman in 1954, under whose regime Guatemalan communists gained unprecedented power, radical left-wing political organizations of whatever Marxist-Leninist strain, have found the path to power blocked by a conservative military and political hierarchy."

"A number of the more activist groups, however, chose the path of political violence in the belief that "an armed group can contribute to the creation of a revolutionary climate"...In line with this perception,

these radical activists, in the late 1970's, began a violent struggle for the "people's liberation" through the art of revolutionary terrorism."

"Guatemala today is wracked by the spasms of a bloody terrorist war"

-The Terrorist War in Guatemala, Richard Raushenbush, Council for Inter-American Security Educational Institute, 1982, page 1.

"since overthrow in 1954, nothing but dictators" page 6

CBS News

Rep. Harkin: "...since 1954, we've had nothing but a series of one military dictator after another..."

Fact

According to the Encyclopedia Brittanica, in 1954 voting regularized Carlos Castillo Armas as President. On March 2, 1958 Gen. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is mentioned as taking office after a legitimate election. Orderly balloting on March 6, 1966 elected Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro of the moderately left-wing Revolutionary Party.

-Encyclopedia Brittanica, Vol. 10, p. 991



CBS News

"Americans...want their paradise restored.

"It's an ideal place to invest, he says, because profits are high and costs are low. Sherwood pays workers at this textile mill about \$4.50 a day.

"Most Guatemalans see a different country than Fred Sherwood does."

Fact

Fred Sherwood, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala, is an American businessman.

Fred Sherwood's workers begin at \$4.50 a day whereas the minimum wage is \$3.50 a day. The workers average \$12 a day, ie. he is paying what is considered a fair wage.

CBS presents Americans only as exploiters.

Only 1/3 of the land now in production was arable before United Fruit development. "Land was exceedingly cheap in the vast undeveloped lowlands, and eager governments made available large tracts of jungle territories for the prospect of getting them opened to profitable development through an enterprise that would supply basic railroad and port facilities that could be furnished in no other way".

United Fruit built schools and hospitals in the rural areas which are still considered the models and the best in the country.

The railroad system in Central America, built under Minor Keith and with British capital, was saved from bankruptcy in 1933 by United Fruit for a minority of the stock. United Fruit in Latin America, Stacy May and Galo Plaza, National Planning Association, 1958.



CBS News

"Jim Degolyer was a California hippie 15 years ago. Now he is the head elder of the Church of the Word in Guatemala and one of Rios Montt's personal advisors."

Fact

Although CBS tries to portray Jim Degolyer as nothing more than a "former hippie" he actually went to Guatemala in 1979 after the devastating earthquakes there. He worked to provide the homeless and injured with food, medicine and medical care. He helped build new homes for them. He and his family stayed in Guatemala to continue his work with the poor.



CBS News

Tom Johnson:"...I have been here for ten years and have seen and worked with these so called poor people. They live very well in their minds. They don't want a television set, they don't want an automobile, they don't want education, many of them..."

Rabel (CBS):"Johnson's point of view is shared by most of Guatemala's political leaders..."

Rabel (CBS): "Contempt for the Indian population, many say, accounts for much of the violence in Guatemala."

Fact

"From an approximately two hour interview, CBS conveniently selected the question on the Indians of Guatemala and elected to use only that portion of my interview which would prove their point of view of "exploitation of the poor Indian" and "rationalization of guerrilla activity". CBS's comments and the films shown before and after my remarks completely destroyed all the actual facts. This was done throughout the whole documentary."

"The situation in Guatemala can be more newsworthy because we have a high percentage of Indian blood. My question is: what are the "true blood strains"? Do we find this in the U.S.? Is there any "true blood strains" in any of the countries of the Western Hemisphere? Can anyone show me one wealthy or politically powerful Guatemalan that doesn't have Indian blood? Is there a "pure American" in the U.S.? I doubt it! And I can assure you that the Guatemalan is rightfully proud of his heritage, as we U.S. citizens are proud of our mixture of various nationalities"

-letter from Thomas Johnson, current President of the American Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala, to AIM. Spetember 25, 1982.



CBS News

"Americans have fought for a long time to stay in Guatemala. There was also a lot to be had. One big American company had almost all of it. The whole country of Guatemala was once virtually a branch office of the United Fruit Company. In the 1950s it held two-thirds of the usable farm land..."

Fact

In the 1950s United Fruit owned less than 2% of Guatemala's land. Acreage actually in use by the company or its contractors amounted to less than 1% of total agricultural land. CBS's peculiar statistic may be a way of twisting the figure that only 1/3 of the land now in production was arable before United Fruit development. "Land was exceedingly cheap in the vast undeveloped lowlands, and eager governments made available large tracts of jungle territories for the prospect of getting them opened to profitable development through an enterprise that would supply basic railroad and port facilities that could be furnished in no other way." United Fruit in Latin America, Stacy May and Galo Plaza, National Planning Association, 1958. In other words, although the highlands had long been employed for agriculture, United Fruit's introduction of bananas opened the tropical jungles.

"They came down here and cleared land that was uninhabited. How could they get people to go to work there? They provided them with hospitals, stores selling goods at cost, higher wages, sanitary conditions, education for their children...Now, I don't think that's exploitation." Manuel Ayau, distinguished Guatemalan economist and President of Francisco Marroquin University, in an interview with CBS of which CBS used not a word.



CBS News

"...the United Fruit Company. In the 1950s, it held two-thirds of the usable farm land and monopolized the nations railroad in its multi-million-dollar banana empire."

Fact

In 1870 the President of Costa Rica contracted with Henry Meiggs and his nephew, Minor Keith, to build a national railroad. Construction in the tropical jungle led to one disaster after another. Meiggs and three of Keith's brothers died of yellow fever. They ran out of funds. They began the cultivation of bananas to make money. The funds paid for the railroad construction. Fruit companies built railroads to haul bananas.

"The United Fruit Company was interested in building railroads for the service of its banana operations...these railroads were of the utmost importance to the countries in tropical America because they opened up undeveloped land and made possible its transformation into banana plantations, which contributed substantially to the national wealth in countries where mineral resources have not been developed and agriculture is the chief source of income. Notably, bananas contribute a large part of that income."

International Railways of Central America, (IRCA), was set up with British capital as part of Minor Keith's plan to develop a railway network covering all of Central America. In 1933 IRCA was virtually bankrupt. United Fruit undertook to save IRCA from bankruptcy by providing financial aid: \$2.6 million in exchange for stock, so United Fruit's holdings went from 17% to 42% of the stock. United Fruit also invested \$5 million in cars and locomotives, a major part of the rolling stock. United Fruit in Latin America, Stacy May and Galo Plaza, National Planning Association, 1958, page 7.



United Fruit Co. "lobbied for overthrow of land reformer
Arbenz" page 12

CBS News

"When a democratically elected president named Jacobo Arbenz tried to institute a land reform program in 1954 so poor farmers could have land of their own, United Fruit lobbied the Eisenhower Administration to intervene. The CIA stepped in and overthrew the Guatemalan leader."

Fact

"Arbenz was a Marxist...Arbenz enacted a land reform program and confiscated land including properties of United Fruit, but it did not give the land to the farmers, rather it operated the farms through government agencies. Arbenz paid no compensation for the land taken, and the U.S. government, acting under International law, took the matter up with the Guatemalan government. The matter was never settled. Arbenz collapsed when rebels under Castillo Armas entered the country and the Guatemalans refused to support the Marxist government." letter from Ambassador William P. Stedman, Jr., to President of CBS News Sauter, October 9, 1982.



CBS News

Rep. Harkin: "...in 1954 we sponsored the coup against the Arbenz government that had been instituting real constitutional reforms and social and economic reforms..."

Rabel: "The roots of Guatemala's current troubles date back to the 1950s. It was a time when the U.S. did not hesitate to intervene. In 1954 in a plot called Operation Success, the CIA overthrew perhaps the only democratically elected president in Guatemalan history, Jacobo Arbenz. His land reform program had offended the powerful and influential American-owned United Fruit Company, then the largest landowner in Guatemala. Arbenz was labeled a Communist. The CIA moved to install a man that Americans could do business with- Colonel Castillo Armas. It was the end of democracy..."

Fact

"Arbenz was a Marxist, as was his wife. Arbenz enacted a land reform program and confiscated properties of United Fruit, but it did not give the land to the farmers, rather it operated the farms through government agencies. Arbenz paid no compensation for the land taken. Arbenz allowed Communists to operate freely and they dominated several government agencies, including the Agrarian Reform Agency. Arbenz used terrorist methods in repressing opposition to his leading the country to Communism." letter from Ambassador William P. Stedman, Jr., former State Department desk officer for Guatemala, October 9, 1982.

As Guatemala moved into what the Encyclopaedia Britannica calls "open class warfare and became the center of international controversy" forty-four men crossed the border from Honduras to lead a revolt. Before they reached the first city they had been joined by thousands of volunteers. Arbenz fled, to the U.S.S.R., Red China, and Cuba in turn.

The United States gave no military aid, troops or arms to the rebels whatever. From three to six privately used Mustang airplanes were the total participation of U.S. citizens.

"No modern parallel exists in the Americas for the reign of terror visited upon Guatemala's anti-communists by Arbenz and his Red strategists. For a suitable analogy one must look behind the Iron Curtain. Arbenz's government did not content itself with the usual reprisals which Latin American rulers traditionally wreak upon their opponants, but employed weapons borrowed from the Soviet secret police...Midnight raids, kidnappings, beatings, torture, deportations, extorted

confessions, economic reprisals, suppression of freedom and suspension of habeous corpus- these were the methods used. And they were used not only against single individuals, but whole groups and classes, for Arbenz, remember, was not a conventional Latin absolutist, but a totalitarian who believed in the literal annihilation of the bourgeois class." Red Design for America: Guatemalan Prelude, Daniel James, 1954.

"We raise our voice to alert Catholics at this moment when the worst atheistic doctrine of all time- anti-Christian communism- continues its brazen inroads in our country, masquerading as a movement of social reform for the needy classes...Our frontiers are opened wide to a rabble of foreign adventurers trained in the tactics of international communism. In violation of the laws of the land, ample freedom is given them. From the official radio stations are heard the incessant preaching of social disruption and the broadcasting of the teaching of the Soviet Politburo. Newsstands are flooded with communist literature. The people of Guatemala must rise as one man against this enemy." Pastoral letter, Archbishop of Guatemala, April, 1954.

CBS News

Rep. Harkin: "...in 1954 we sponsored the coup against the Arbenz government that had been instituting real constitutional reforms and social and economic reforms; and since 1954 we've had nothing but a series of one military dictator after another who've been operating death squads, the military have been killing Indians; and we have supported those governments with military aid and with economic aid. The second important point why we have a responsibility in Guatemala is that the death squads that have been operating in Guatemala were trained by our special forces, and they in turn have trained more death squads in Guatemala. So it's a direct result of our military training programs in Guatemala."

Fact

A State Department official said "It is absolutely absurd to say that the U.S. wanted to train death squads."

For years the U.S. has provided military and police training to Latin American countries. The police training program was expanded in the Kennedy Administration, which founded the International Police Academy in Washington in 1962, run by the Agency for International Development. This academy was designed to teach the police in developing countries modern police methods and get them away from relying on physical violence. It was recognized that good professional police forces were the first line of defense against communist subversion. The communists recognized that also. They attacked the program with lies such as that Dan Mitrione, the AID police adviser who was murdered by terrorists in Uruguay, had been teaching torture techniques. With the help of former Senator James Abourezk the program was smeared and eventually eliminated.

CBS did not provide any substantiation of Rep. Harkin's charge that the U.S. was training "death squads". Columnist M. Stanton Evans has pointed out that this is a term that is applied to groups in Central America that kill individuals suspected of being communist terrorists. In the leftist lexicon, the communist terrorists do not constitute "death squads". They are simply guerrilla fighters.

The Harkin charge that the U.S. had supported all Guatemalan governments with economic and military aid was contradicted by CBS correspondent Ed Rabel himself, who noted that the Carter Administration had terminated military aid to Guatemala as part of its human rights policy. Rabel also noted that violence in Guatemala increased sharply over the next four years, suggesting that the Carter policy did not succeed in bringing either peace or human rights improvements to Guatemala.

Harkin also erred in saying that Guatemala had been ruled by nothing but dictators since 1954. For example, in 1954 voting regularized Carlos Castillo Armas as President. On March 2, 1958 Gen. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is mentioned as taking office after a legitimate election. Orderly balloting on March 6, 1966 elected Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro of the moderately left-wing Revolutionary Party. Encyclopaedia Brittanica, Vol. 10, page 991.

CBS News

Ed Rabel: "Guatemala is at war, another of those ugly little wars that flashes accross our television screens on the evening news. It's a civil war, a war you might think is none of our business, that shouldn't matter to Americans. But it does matter. America is all over Guatemala. It is the big prize in Central America..."

Rep. Harkin: "Those who think of the struggle in Latin America as a struggle between the East and the West or the struggle between two great super powers or a struggle between freedom and Communism are missing the point."

Fact

"It is clear, however, that all (guerrilla) factions are controlled by dedicated communists whose disagreements are personal and tactical rather than ideological. The PGT is committed to the communist revolution and there is no hope that the coup or the advent of democratic government will gain their co-operation. As a member of the PGT Military Commission stated: "We're not just fighting against (President) Lucas, but against the entire capitalist system."

"The terrorist war between the government and the revolutionaries is fought on two levels with two objectives. The physical assault on the security forces, economy, members of the regime, and portions of the population is intertwined with a psychological assault meant to destroy the obedience and allegiance of the general population. This combined physical and psychological assault is meant to both erode and destroy the authority and power of the regime and to create the conditions and climate for popular revolution." The Terrorist War in Guatemala, Richard Raushenbush, 1982.

The U.S. government has repeatedly made the point that the violence in Central America is not home-grown, but rather is fueled from Cuba and other communist countries. Castro has provided arms, training, money, and advice. Public statements on this subject include:

June 19, 1981: German Social Democratic leader Hans-Jurgen Wischnewski states at a press conference in Bonn that Fidel Castro had admitted to him that Cuba shipped arms to Central America.

March 18, 1982: The New York Times reports that Salvadoran guerrillas now concede that Cuba supplied the arms for the January 1981 final offensive in Nicaragua.

September 28, 1981, and October 29, 1981: Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez confirms in interviews with Der Spiegel and El Diario of Caracas that Cuba is training

Central American guerrillas.

September 24, 1981: William Shawcross says in The New York Review of Books that Col. Bui Tin had acknowledged to him during a visit to Vietnam that American weapons left in Vietnam had been sent to Central America, saying "We do our best to support revolutionary movements in the world".

January 11, 1982: PLO chief Yassir Arafat confirms to a group of journalists in Beirut that "there are Palestinian revolutionaries with the revolutionaries in El Salvador."

CBS mentioned no evidence of Cuban/Soviet training and arming of Central American guerrillas.

United States "ally Somoza was overthrown by a popular revolution" page 16

CBS News

"In 1979, a revolution in Nicaragua rocked the foundations of U.S. foreign policy for all of Central America. The uprising was popular, and nearly unanimous. Anastasio Somoza, a harsh and selfish dictator, was thrown from power...The event made it clear that heads of state in Central America, traditionally thought of as U.S. allies, might not be as stable and secure as had been assumed."

CBS implies that the U.S. backed Somoza.

Fact

"The Carter Administration is in the process of opening the door to the establishment of a Castro-type communist regime in the heart of Central America..."

"Jimmy Carter, aided by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, decided in his wisdom that the longtime friend and ally of the United States, President Anastasio Somoza, was not a fit chief executive for the little country of Nicaragua. President Carter rared back and decreed that Somoza would have to go."

"Unlike either Brezhnev or Teng, President Somoza has permitted an opposition party, a vigorous and highly critical opposition press, free movement within the country and to countries abroad, free exercise of religion, freedom to own private property, freedom of association and the right to strike. He had been elected to office, and he had said that he would not run again when his term expired in 1981."

"When demands for his resignation were made last year, after widespread terrorism had created considerable havoc in the country, Somoza offered to let the voters of Nicaragua decide in an internationally supervised plebescite whether or not he should continue in office. That was not acceptable to President Carter and Secretary Vance. They wanted Somoza to leave the country in advance of the plebescite, and they wanted to eliminate voter registration, conditions that Somoza thought were unreasonable."

"It is easy to see why Nicaragua is a high priority target for our communist adversaries. The mystery is, why the elimination of its pro-American, anti-communist government is assigned such a high priority by the Carter Administration." The AIM Report, July II 1979



CBS News

Mike Wallace: "...the Somozas, a family installed in power by the U.S. government following twenty years of occupation of Nicaragua by the U.S. Marines."

Fact

"For all his bad points, as an example, Somoza's terms in office before the beginning of the Sandinista insurrection in 1978 were the most ambitious, effective and industrially progressive ever seen in Nicaragua."

"This "dictator", who was actually freely elected in internationally supervised balloting, built public housing, increased spending on education, health and public works. At the same time, as with many other governments in Central and Latin America, his was accused of petty corruption, graft, nepotism and political oppression." The Mindszenty Report, Sept.1982.



CBS News

Rabel: "According to Amnesty International, the Guatemalan government operates a deliberate and planned program of political murder. In the last four years, it is estimated there have been 11,000 killings. The body count is now reported to be up to 50 or 60 a day."

Fact

In November, 1978, Amnesty International announced the appointment of Derek Roebuck, dean of law at the University of Tasmania and a leading member of the Soviet-line Australian Communist Party, as head of Amnesty International's research department. Roebuck has announced that despite his appointment "I will still be as much a communist."

Even before this, Amnesty International's published works show a very pronounced leftist bias. Their 1975 Report on Torture attacked primarily Chile and Greece. 28% of the material dealt with those two countries. In contrast, coverage of all communist countries combined took up only 4% of the space in the report. Two pages were devoted to torture in the United States, and more space was devoted to torture in Northern Ireland than to torture in the Soviet Union. More space was given to Israel than to Red China, Cuba, East Europe, or the U.S.S.R.

Commentary magazine notes that in a lead article on Argentina in the Winter 1977 issue of Matchbox, the newsletter of Amnesty International's American section, the 1,300 persons said to have been killed by government security forces in Argentina are categorized as those who "opposed the totalitarian regimes now in power in Uruguay and Argentina..." "Even aside from the fact that the current Argentinian government is not totalitarian, it is amazing that an article on terror in Argentina should gloss over in one sentence, as this one does, the widespread incidence of left-wing terrorism there."

The March 1978 issue of Commentary also notes a letter that appeared in The New York Review of Books. Signed by two members of the governing board of the American Section of Amnesty International, as well as by many others, the letter attacks pro-American regimes, totally ignores repression in Cambodia, Cuba, Vietnam and China. It continues by spelling out "human rights" that are violated by the United States government: the "right" to abortion, the "right" to government

funded child care, the "right" to affirmative action in employment, education and housing.

In February 1982 the Soviet backed regime in Syria utterly devastated the rebellious city of Hama. In leveling the city, Assad's troops blew up all 96 mosques and all inner city churches. Eyewitnesses such as Andreas Kohlschutter of Die Ziet, and other reporters on the scene, all agreed that from 5,000 to 20,000 civilian were killed. Amnesty International's report gave the dead at: 362.

CBS News

Rabel: "Government run death squads regularly gunned down any opposition...By 1982, the number of people dying each month because of political violence had reached 400."

"This man was one of the victims. Luis Gadoye had complained too loudly about certain finance ministers embezzling World Bank loans earmarked for his neighborhood's development project. He'd also once belonged to a left-of-center political party that the government had outlawed. When they found his body, everybody could see that he had been tortured and then stabbed 22 times in the chest."

Rabel: "...child mortality rates are the highest in Central America. And people struggling for reforms know that oppression is not just something a reporter thought up."

(Woman weeping over her dead husband's body)

"Luis Godoy (sic) was a community leader. On the morning of January 28th, his tortured body was found outside a community school he was building. For the past four years, Godoy has struggled to bring running water, sewers, and housing loans to the people of his neighborhood. Friends blamed the government for his murder. Incidents like this are typical. Men and women like Godoy are viewed as threats to the economic status quo and considered communist enemies of the state."

Medrano (through interpreter): "Keep my people in mind- the children who are being massacred, the defenseless women and old people who are being massacred by the murderous army."

Fact

Not a word is said about guerrilla violence. All violence is attributed to the government. The only actions of "resistance, no matter how peaceful" CBS mentions are "anti government demonstrations and street rioting."

"...these radical activists, in the late 1970s, began a violent struggle for the "people's liberation" through the art of revolutionary terrorism." Raushenbush, page 2.

Examples of "people dying each month because of political violence" include:

April 25, 1982: "A mine detonated while two buses were passing nearby, killing nine adults and three children, on a road 160 miles north of Guatemala City. Twelve people, mostly children, were killed when terrorists broke into their homes near Flores, El Peten. Terrorists fired on the city hall of San Vincente Pacaya, killing former mayor Jose Mariano Pireda

Carrera, 53. Guatemalan authorities said 26 people died in political violence over the weekend, including eleven children." The New York Times, April 27, 1982.

April 26, 1982: "Leftist terrorists massacred twenty peasants, including women and children, in Chipun...the terrorists fired indiscriminately and burned all the houses before leaving Chipun. Terrorists also killed Narciso Toc Laines and his wife. Toc Laines, 35, a member of the army-organized paramilitary patrol in Chajul, an Ixil Indian village...Gunmen in an automobile opened fire on the family, including an infant, as they walked along a street in Guatemala City. This raised to 46 the number of deaths in the past 48 hours that authorities blame on the leftist terrorists fighting to oust the military junta." Diario Las Americas, April 28, 1982.

"elections have been put off indefinitely"

page 20

CBS News

"...now elections have been put off indefinitely"

"If elections are not held by the end of the next year..."

Fact

"The government has promised elections in the near future, waiting with the approval of the major political parties, until a greater measure of stability is regained." The Terrorist War in Guatemala, Richard Raushenbush, page 23.



CBS News

"They don't look like they need any help: tough, well trained; Guatemala's 17,000 man army is one of the strongest in Central America."

Fact

"(Nicaragua's) combined military force is now the largest in Central America and totals up to 70,000 men...typical of Soviet military doctrine...it's the pattern we've seen time and time again in Cuba"

"Transcript of Statements at State Dept. on the military buildup in Nicaragua", The New York Times, March 10, 1982.

The massive flow of arms and advisors from the USSR and Soviet bloc countries to Nicaragua, and the flow from Nicaragua to the guerrillas in Guatemala, makes ridiculous CBS' comment "they don't look like they need any help". CBS never offered any information on Soviet bloc armaments in use by the guerrillas, or Cuban training of the guerrilla leadership.



CBS News

"...for congressmen who think Guatemala doesn't deserve it, any military aid is too much. What they fear is that this could be the start of something big."

Rabel: "Well, can Guatemala win it without United States help?"

Bosworth: "Well, yes."

Rabel: "If Guatemala can win it without United States help why do we get involved or give them military aid?"

Fact

"We cannot ignore the importance of Guatemala to the stability of Central America and our own vital national interests in that region. After several years of escalating violence, an opportunity now exists for the U.S. to use its influence to encourage the development of a new and more humane society for all Guatemalans...if we act. It would be neither fair nor wise to turn our back on a country which holds so much potential for the future of its people and the region. Inaction would seriously jeopardize the continued human rights improvements, economic advancement and political stability."

Stephen Bosworth testimony, House Banking Subcommittee, August 5, 1982.

A military buildup of the sort in Nicaragua in the far more populous and larger country of Guatemala would make the fall of Mexico to Marxists all but inevitable. Refugees would flood the U.S. and with them would come many trained terrorists whose targets are traditionally communications, power stations, transit, water supplies, and the political leaders of the right and center.



CBS News

Mike Wallace: "One way to understand something of what is going on inside Nicaragua is to talk with the Catholic priests and nuns who are working for the revolution. Sister Pat Edmonston, for instance, is a nun from the Maryknoll order...She readily acknowledges she is very much caught up in the Sandinista revolution."

Sister Edmonston: "The system has to be changed. Nicaragua is saying we lived under capitalism. It did nothing for the majority of the people."

Mike Wallace: "So now let's try something else."

Mike Wallace: "A Cuban Marxist, a Catholic nun, working side by side for Nicaragua. Strange?"

Sister Edmonston (Interpreting for Dr. Goncales): "What he said that...it doesn't make any difference if you're Catholic or if you're..."

Wallace: "Marxist."

Sister Edmonston: "-or Marxist. The line doesn't make any difference. He says what's important is that you work for-for humanity."

Wallace: "And you, sister?"

Sister Edmonston: "I feel exactly the same way."

Fact

Rev. Gerald Brown, a Vincentian missionary who has been stationed in Chile for 15 years, including those years during which the Marxist Allende nearly bankrupted the economy while attempting to establish a Cuban-style dictatorship of the proletariat: "Liberation theology is man-centered, not God-centered...As Christians they believe that they have a duty to fight against the enslaving capitalist system. For them the Marxist Revolution is the only road that leads to the destruction of oppressive capitalism and the construction of a new socialist society. Consequently, the believers in "liberation theology" hold that every Christian must commit himself or herself to the struggle for the victory of the Marxist Revolution. This is a religious duty and from it comes their slogan "I am Marxist because I am Christian", the slogan of the Christians for Socialism movement." -The Mindszenty Report, Aug. 1980.

Father Juan Luis Segundo, a spokesman for liberation

theology, states "The history of Marxism, even oppressive, offers right now more hope than the history of existing capitalism." -The Mindszenty Report, August 1980.

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "A Cuban Marxist, a Catholic nun, working side by side for Nicaragua. Strange?"

Sister Edmonston: "What he said, that it doesn't make any important, and it is- it doesn't make any difference if you're a Catholic or if you're- if you're..."

Wallace: "Marxist"

Sister Edmonston: "- or Marxist. The line doesn't make any difference. He says what's important is that you work for humanity."

Wallace: "And you, sister?"

Sister Edmonston: "I feel exactly the same way."

Fact

"Atheism is a natural and inseparable part of Marxism"- first words of V. I. Lenin's "Religion".

"No one can be, at the same time, a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist"- Pius XI "Quadragesimo Anno", May 15, 1931.

"Marxism, Leninism, Maoism are the self-avowed enemies of all religions, and, by nature, dedicated to the total eradication of man's belief in a Supreme Being."- Mindszenty Report Nov. 1981.



CBS News

Mike Wallace: "A revolution in which the Catholic Church is itself caught up. Miguel D'Escoto, for example, is only one of four Catholic priests who hold high positions in the new Sandinista government, and he says the church itself is undergoing a much-needed revolution."

Mike Wallace: "And the Catholic Church had lost its way, had become the representative of the ruling classes, and is only re-finding its way now?"

Fact

"In truth, the Sandinista government's campaign against the Catholic Church is a well-known fact."

"Persecution and harassment of not only the Catholic Church but also various Protestant demoninations is now commonplace in Nicaragua."

"Clearly what the world is witnessing today in Nicaragua is a repeat of what happens to society, to the church, and to a country when Communists posing as devout social reformers are able to seize power. When Fidel Castro and his guerrillas came out of the hills of Cuba dangling rosaries and proclaiming a bright future for the Cuban people, many were deceived. In time, however, they learned the lesson of what the communists mean when they proclaim that atheistic communism and the Church can co-exist: only as long as it takes the communist state to consolidate power. Then the persecution begins, as can be seen as the Sandinistas celebrate their third anniversary in Nicaragua."

August 12, New York Times- "Sandinist Defense Committees, which are organized on every block in Managua, have seized some 20 buildings used by Protestant sects." Protestants are being accused by the Sandinistas of being CIA agents.

August 14, New York Times- Father Bismarck Carballo, spokesman for Archbishop Miguel Obandoy Bravo, was seized on the street, ordered to strip at gunpoint, filmed and taken to jail. The state owned TV system that night showed the films and claimed that he had been caught in the act of adultery.

August 18, New York Times- Three Catholic students were killed when they protested the mistreatment of Catholic priests by the Sandinista government.

August 19, Wall Street Journal- "Sandinists have launched a campaign against both Catholic and Protestant churches". One leading Bishop was imprisoned, another beaten. Priests ask for

asylum in several foreign embassies.

August 19,- 81 Catholics arrested; 5 priests ask for asylum, prompting L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's official paper, to issue a page one condemnation of Sandinista persecution of the Church.

La Prensa forbidden by Sandinistas to print the pastoral letter of Pope John-Paul II. Sandinistas say the letter is "counter-revolutionary" and "anti-government." -The Mindszenty Report, Sept. 1982.

In April 1982 Allan Weinstein, executive editor of Washington Quarterly, noted that Radio Catolica, Nicaragua's Roman Catholic Church's station, had been closed down by the Sandinistas.

"No one can be, at the same time, a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist"- Pius XI Quadragesimo Anno, May 15, 1931

"Atheism is a natural and inseperable part of Marxism"- first words of V.I. Lenin's "Religion" ..

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "First, to El Salvador. Father Miguel D'Escoto is Nicaragua's foreign minister..."

"And the Catholic Church had lost its way, had become the representatives of the ruling classes, and is only re-finding its way now?"

Father D'Escoto: "There's no doubt. Historically throughout Latin America they are re-finding that way. The whole church is re-finding its way." ..

Fact

"Miguel D'Escoto is really a Maryknoll priest who edited the U.S. Maryknoll magazine for many years and established Maryknoll's publishing house called Orbis Books. There interested readers may purchase all sorts of literature on liberation theology, "Christian perspective on Marxism", and similar Christian-Marxist tracts. Father D'Escoto has chosen to relinquish temporarily his priestly duties for politics." The Mindszenty Report, Sept. 1982.

"Maryknoll, a monthly magazine which has become a sounding board for radical activism and liberation theology of revolution...today's Maryknoll champions radical, self-declared Marxist clergymen preaching guerrilla warfare and violence... Its switch from serving God through social ministry to the poor to espousing pro-Marxist socialism and radical activism might come from Father Miguel D'Escoto, editor of Maryknoll from March 1969 to March 1979." The Mindszenty Report, Sept. 1982.



priests who are communist agents work, particularly in publishing, to confuse and divide the church page 27

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "Miguel D'Escoto, for example is only one of four Catholic priests who hold high positions in the new Sandinista government, and he says the church itself is undergoing a much needed revolution."

"And the Catholic Church had lost its way, had become the representatives of the ruling classes, and is only re-finding its way now?"

Fact

"Following World War II, which brought such countries as Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia into the Communist commonwealth, the Soviet KGB established various "Catholic" groups whose job was to subvert the church from within. In Poland, for example, a pre-war Nazi collaborator named Boleslav Piasecki was directed to form "Pax" an association of pro-regime priests who would actively preach the Communist line from the pulpit and in their pastoral work.

"Comrade Piasecki, who had been personally involved in violent action against Poland's Jews, became the Polish government's prime organizer of subversion of the Church, building a network of publishing houses, newspapers and magazines aimed at confusing the Catholic faithful and dividing the Church against itself"-Mindszenty Report Nov. 1981

February 13, 1982:"Brother James Arnold Miller of the Christian Brothers order, 37, of Wisconsin, was shot and killed outside his mission in Huehuetenango (Guatemala). He was machinegunned by four hooded assassins firing from a car outside the Colegio La Salle, his mission. In Panama, a brother of the La Salle Order who worked with Miller in Nicaragua said the slain worker had asked to leave Nicaragua after the 1979 Sandanista revolution because "he was not in agreement with what the Sandinistas were doing."" The Washington Post, February 15, 1982.

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "...the fall of Somoza was just a political beginning. The real revolution in Nicaragua has been going on ever since. A revolution in which the Catholic Church is itself caught up. Miguel D'Escoto, for example, is only one of four Catholic priests who hold high positions in the new Sandinista government, and he says the church itself is undergoing a much-needed revolution."

"And the Catholic Church had lost its way, had become the representatives of the ruling classes, and is only re-finding its way now?"

Fact

Nicaragua is following the Cuban model:

"At the present time, religious repression in Cuba takes the form of an institutionalized and integral function of the all-encompassing Marxist-Leninist state. Shortly after the revolution in 1959, a confrontation between the government and religion in Cuba began to develop. During the last 20 years, relations between the churches and the state have been characterized by:

- *progressive limitation on the freedom of the churches to minister to believers.

- *confiscation of church property and all religious educational institutions, including high schools, and a university. Restriction of all religious activities to the premises of churches.

- *imprisonment of religious dissidents.

- *restriction of religious media, including the ceasing of all religious radio and TV broadcasts, and strict controls on the small residue of publications

- *a network of legal disabilities for the church, and an aggressive campaign to promote atheism

- *discrimination against believers in employment and educational opportunities

- *restrictions on religious education for children. In the schools anti-religious education is vigorously implemented.

- *the regime makes a special effort to suppress traditional religious holidays. Christmas has been effectively erased. Persons who gather for holiday celebrations come under censure by the local Committee for the Defense of the Revolution.

The legal framework of religious repression in Cuba is

extensive and well-enforced. For example, parents who keep their children at home for purposes of religious education can be imprisoned for 3 to 9 months under the Cuban code Articles 247 "Abuse of Religious Freedom" and 365 "Acts Contrary to the Normal Development of Minors".

The 1976 Cuban constitution institutionalized religious repression. Article 61 "No constitutional freedom may be exercised contrary to the interests of the socialist state". Article 54 states the illegality of opposing ones faith to the revolution. Article 85 defines parental responsibility as including the duty to inculcate in children respect for the norms of socialist morality and society.

All religious groups are affected. Of the 12,000 Jews in Cuba in 1959, approx. 1,000 remain.

-Religious Repression in Cuba: Monsignor E. Boza Masvidal, Sept. 23, 1982

See page 25 for details of the Sandinistas campaign against the Catholic church.

CBS News

Steven Bosworth (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State): "Guatemalan guerrillas are trained in Cuba, there is an extensive interchange of personnel between the guerrilla movements and the Cubans, and it is clearly an externally supported insurgency."

Fact

CBS gives no information on guerrilla arms and armaments.

"Castro has stepped up Cuba's support to Guatemalan guerrillas whom he has aided with arms and training since he came to power...During the past year, arms have been smuggled to Guatemala from Nicaragua passing overland through Honduras. The guerrilla arsenal now included 50mm mortars, submachine guns, rocket launchers, and other weapons. Captured M-16 rifles have been traced to U.S. forces in Vietnam. On June 26, 1981, Paulino Castillo, a 28-year old guerrilla with ORPA, told newsmen in Guatemala that he was part of a 23 man group of Guatemalans that underwent 7 months of training in Cuba ...His group was divided into sections for urban and rural combat training in explosives and firearms use...Guatemalan guerrillas have collaborated with Salvadoran guerrillas."

-"Cuba's Renewed Support for Violence in Latin America"

U.S. Dept. of State Special Report No. 90 page 7, 8

"In mid-August 1980, Shafik Handal's arms-shopping expedition begins to bear fruit. On Aug. 15, 1980, Ethiopian arms depart for Cuba. Three weeks later the 60 tons of captured U.S. arms sent from Vietnam are scheduled to arrive in Cuba."

"As a result of a Salvadoran delegation's trip to Iraq earlier in the year, the guerrillas receive a \$500,000 logistics donation...By mid-September, substantial quantities of the arms promised to Handal are well on the way to Cuba and Nicaragua. The guerrilla logistics co-ordinator in Nicaragua informs his Joint General Staff material supplied by the Communist countries have arrived in Nicaragua for shipment to El Salvador. According to the captured documents, this represents one-sixth of the commitments to the guerrillas by the Communist countries. (Note: to get an idea of the

magnitude of this commitment, the Vietnamese offer of only 60 tons included 2 million rifle and machinegun bullets, 14,500 mortar shells, 1,620 rifles, 210 machineguns, 48 mortars, 12 rocket launchers and 192 pistols.)

In Sept. and Oct. the number of flights to Nicaragua from Cuba increased sharply. These flights had the capacity to transport several hundred tons of cargo...Because of the difficulty of moving such large quantities overland. Nicaragua-with Cuban support-begins airlifting arms from Nicaragua into El Salvador. In November about 2.5 tons of arms are delivered by air..."-"Communist Interference in El Salvador", U.S. Dept. of State Special Report No. 80, page 7.

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "With health care now free to all in Nicaragua, there is a tremendous need for doctors...That's one of the reasons, says the government, for the several hundred Cuban doctors who are working here now. Volunteers...mission, he says, has nothing to do with politics."

The only Cuban shown by CBS is a doctor who, as Mike Wallace says: "You are only helping Nicaraguan babies?" Dr. Goncales: "Yes. Yes, only".

Fact

Cuba has 3,000 soldiers stationed in Nicaragua and there are more than 100 Soviet advisers. UPI reported on March 12 that the more than 100 Soviet advisers have a "lead role" in directing air supply operations to guerrilla camps in El Salvador. Important command and control functions for the guerrillas are being carried out from Nicaragua by Cubans and there is "stronger evidence than ever before" that Salvadoran guerrillas go through training in Cuba.

Nicaragua's Archbishop Obando y Bravo said that Nicaragua is governed not by the Sandinista junta but by Cubans. On Nov. 16, 1981, he charged that key positions in Nicaragua are filled by close followers of Fidel Castro.

Eden Pastora, the famous Commander Zero of the Sandinista revolution, notes the Cuban contribution to today's Nicaragua: "To reinforce the directorate's stranglehold over Nicaragua, the Government has emasculated the country's labor unions while catering to a subservient, state-controlled labor bureaucracy. Freedom of the press has been practically extinguished, as have other basic civil rights. The directorate has forced opponents of the Government into exile, jail or detention camps. Today there are many political prisoners languishing in Nicaragua's prisons."

"To insure its control over the nation, the directorate has set up a powerful secret-police apparatus with the help of foreigners, most of whom are East German or Cuban agents. This local version of the Gestapo spies on citizens and arrests those it deems enemies of the state. The system is working.

Today in Nicaragua there is terror where there was once bright
hope." -The New York Times, July 14, 1982, p. A 23.

CBS News

Isabel (through interpreter): "I don't consider myself a terrorist, nor a subversive, because the only thing I'm doing is to struggle so that our children could have a good education."

Rabel: "Isabel is an Indian woman and guerrilla supporter. She says her husband was captured and tortured by the army."

Isabel (through interpreter): "So that's why I'm struggling. It's not that I would be a terrorist, because I would never take up a weapon and go kill people who aren't doing anything to me the way the army is doing. They take their weapons- they take their tanks, their mortars and their planes- and they go to massacre complete villages. They go to bomb. This is terrorism."

The only discussion of terrorism on CBS claims that the army is the terrorists.

Fact

"The coercive and manipulative effects of terrorism are often disastrously understated and misunderstood. Political violence as practised by revolutionary terrorists is meant less to coerce in a strictly military sense than by the planned utilization of the manipulative power of "terror"...While a terrorist campaign inflicts terrible physical damage, its primary target is the manipulation of the opinions and actions of the viewing audience. A terrorist act is meant to boost morale among the revolutionary movement, promote the revolution among the dissatisfied portion of the population, strike fear and despair among the passive or loyal portion of the populace, provoke a repressive reaction from the regime and its supporters and to attract and manipulate the attention of the international media and thus influence governments."

"The terrorist war between the government and the revolutionaries is fought on two levels with two objectives. The physical assault on the security forces, economy, members of the regime and portions of the population is intertwined with a psychological assault meant to destroy the obedience and allegiance of the general population. This combined physical and psychological assault is meant to both erode and destroy the authority; and power of the regime and to create the conditions and climate for popular revolution." The Terrorist War in Guatemala, Richard Raushenbush, 1982, Council for Inter-American Security Educational Institution, 729 8th St. SE, Washington, DC, pages 1 and 2.



CBS News

Emtario Toj Medrano (through interpreter): "I am an Indian peasant who has suffered since my childhood repression, discrimination, and oppression, along with my parents."

Rabel: "And Emtario Toj Medrano is a founder of Guatemala's largest peasant organization. In 1979, government repression forced him and his organization into joining with the guerrilla army of the poor..."

Rabel: "Gilberto is a peasant organizer working with the guerrillas in the countryside."

Gilberto (through interpreter): "We tried many ways to improve the situation and we haven't been able to. We've tried by means of political parties. We've tried with co-operatives, by means of popular organizations, by means of petitions to the government. In many ways we have tried to improve the situation. However, nothing has given any results...Therefore, we don't have any other alternative but armed struggle and making a popular revolutionary war."

Fact

"...major revolutionary terrorist movements now operating in Guatemala are the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP)..."

"The leadership of the EGP is Marxist and is believed to be Ladino (of European or Mestizo blood). EGP spokesman Jose Juan confirmed EGP's commitment to violence in an interview in Havana January 19, 1982...The EGP is the most militarily powerful of the terrorist organizations, consistently engaging security forces and occupying rural towns as well as employing assassination, bombing, kidnapping, and sabotage." Raushenbush, page 3.

See page 33 for partial list.

"Army units killed 17 terrorists in a raid on an EGP band led by a "blond, bearded gringo" in an attack near the village of Xecol in El Quiche Dept. The villagers were "tired of giving free food to the guerrillas" and reported it to the army after terrorists killed two peasants who refused to pay the food demanded. Xecol inhabitant Gregorio Mejia said the terrorists kidnapped more than 20 villagers and killed his brother and father after they refused to deliver food. "The gringo threatened that if we didn't collaborate they would kill us", Mejia said." The Washington Inquirer, December 25, 1981.



CBS News

Medrano (through interpreter): "Keep my people in mind- the children who are being massacred, the defenseless women and old people who are being massacred by the murderous army. I ask the people of the United States that they oppose the intervention of the United States in Central America. If not, they will embark on another situation like Vietnam. Because, I repeat, the people of Central America, we are ready to spill our blood for our dignity."

Fact

Medrano is a leader of the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) terrorist organization. Here is a partial list of the actions of "his people":

March 31, 1982: "The U.S. embassy in Guatemala was attacked with RPG-2 rockets and machine gun fire. The EGP claimed credit for the attack".FBIS April 5, 1982.

"Leftist guerrillas claiming to be members of the EGP shot and killed J. Pitts Jarvis, 63, of Swan Lake, Arkansas, on the Jarvis farm in San Cristobal Verapaz in front of his wife." Miami Herald, March 22, 1982.

"American reports of a massacre of 200 men, women, and children in Zacualpa, El Quiche, on March 7 proved to be totally false...Newsmen interviewed residents of Zacualpa who denied any massacre. Zacualpa Mayor Eduardo Patrocinto de Leon Alvarez said "There were five people dead, nothing more...It was a fight among the guerrillas themselves. The five slain were found with placards denouncing them as traitors to the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP)" The Washington Post, March 13, 1982. See also page 39.

March 5, 1982: "The Guatemalan industrialist Juan Niemann was freed after a ransom was paid to the EGP who kidnapped him November, 1981." Diario Las Americas, March 7, 1982.

February 10, 1982: "Industrialist Adib Said Villalobos, 51, was assassinated by EGP terrorists in Guatemala City. He was killed in his car by machinegun fire and the initials EGP were spraypainted on his car. Workers in his factory expressed grief and indignation at his death." Prensa Libre, February 10, 1982.

"EGP guerrillas attacked San Cristobal, Alta Verapaz Dept., killing 8 residents and wounding 5 others." FBIS (Guatemala City), January 26, 1982.

"The EGP sabotaged electrical plants in Villanueva and Agnacapa and exploded 12 bombs in the capitol city." Diario Las Americas, January 22, 1982.

"Leftist EGP guerrillas seized 5 radio stations in Guatemala City and broadcast anti-government propaganda on the 5th anniversary of the creation of the EGP. The tape players were booby-trapped with explosives to keep police from disconnecting the broadcast." FBIS (Guatemala City), January 18, 1982.

"EGP claimed credit for six gas station fires in the capitol in a phone call to Prensa Libre. Several employees were kidnapped and one identified the terrorists as announcing the raid as a "revolutionary action of the Poor People's Army" (EGP)" Prensa Libre, January 7, 1982.

January 3, 1982: "EGP guerrilla group attacked police station in Palin, killing four officers, damaging the city hall and post office. Upon withdrawing the group sabotaged the main highway at several points." FBIS (Paris AFP), January 5, 1982.

October 23, 1981: "The body of John Troyer, U.S. Protestant missionary, was returned home to Michigan. Member of the Mennonite Fellowship and father of five young children, Troyer was murdered by the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP)" National Catholic Reporter, October 23, 1981.

October 16, 1981: "EGP detonated several bombs in Mazatenango, scattering leaflets which revealed the names of citizens who would be executed by the Turcios Lima cell. Included was the President of the Soccer Association, the Director of the Sports Club, Director of the Industrial Technology Institute and dozens of others." Prensa Libre, October 28, 1981.

September 17, 1981: "An EGP guerrilla redoubt was discovered at Km 90 of the Pacific Highway, Escuinta Dept.; authorities seized 100 Claymore mines, 10,000 rounds of ammunition for Galil and M-16 rifles and large quantities of grenades." FBIS (Guatemala City) September 22, 1981.

"The EGP took responsibility for placing a bomb in one of the pieces of luggage that was to have been loaded onto a U.S. Eastern Airlines plane on July 2. The bomb exploded before being loaded, killing a Guatemalan airport employee." Cuba's Renewed Support for Violence in Latin America, State Department Report # 90, page 8.

CBS News

Mike Wallace: "...now those guerrillas, the Sandinista Front for the Liberation of Nicaragua, now they have taken over. Theirs is the first successful revolution in Central America."

Fact

CBS News does not consider the successful democracies in countries such as Costa Rica a "successful revolution". CBS's "successful revolution" is a Marxist one.

The Sandinista hero, Commander Zero, Eden Pastora, describes this "successful revolution": "The Sandinist directorate has replaced the Somozas with a totalitarian tyranny whose sole aim has been to monopolize power. In pursuit of this goal, the directorate has consolidated its hegemony within the Sandinist party while harassing and rendering ineffectual other political groups. Directorate members speak about pluralism and possible elections in 1985-six years after Somoza's ouster! They are quick to add, however, that they do not have any intention of giving up power- or even a share of power- through the electoral process.

"To reinforce the directorate's stranglehold over Nicaragua, the Government has emasculated the country's independent labor unions while catering to a subservient state-controlled labor bureaucracy. Freedom of the press has been practically extinguished, as have other basic civil rights. The directorate has forced opponents of the Government into exile, jail or detention camps. Today there are many political prisoners languishing in Nicaragua's prisons.

To insure its control over the nation, the directorate has set up a powerful secret-police apparatus with the help of foreigners, most of whom are East German or Cuban agents. This local version of the Gestapo spies on citizens and arrests those it deems enemies of the state. The system is working. Today in Nicaragua there is terror where there was once bright hope." The New York Times, July 14, 1982 p A 23.



CBS News

Rather: "But three days after our interview with the Ambassador, the State Department, in still another effort to establish Cuban and Nicaraguan interference in El Salvador, held a press conference. They presented a young Nicaraguan who had been arrested while fighting with the Salvadoran guerrillas. That too proved embarrassing to the Administration".

Interpreter (translating for Nicaraguan youth):

"They have tried, through a type of psychological coercion, to have me say certain things regarding what is happening in El Salvador. In fact, an official of the U.S. Embassy told me that they needed to demonstrate the presence of Cubans in El Salvador."

Fact

"To demonstrate the strained credibility of the U.S. government Dan Rather brought up the case of Orlando Tardencilla, a 17-year-old Nicaraguan who had been captured in El Salvador in January 1981. Tardencilla had appeared on television and had given a press conference in El Salvador last spring. On both occasions he had claimed that he had been trained in Cuba and Ethiopia and had been sent to El Salvador by the Sandinista regime to fight with the Salvadoran guerrillas. Pressed by the media to prove charges that Nicaragua was involved in the rebellion in El Salvador, the State Department brought Tardencilla to Washington and presented him to a hastily-called press conference on March 12."

"Tardencilla was expected to repeat the story he had told in El Salvador, but he double crossed the State Dept. At the press conference, he denied that he had been trained in Cuba and Ethiopia. He also denied that he had been sent to El Salvador, saying that he had gone on his own out of revolutionary fervor. He did not deny that he had been fighting in El Salvador. The State Dept., deeply embarrassed, promptly turned the captive over to the Nicaraguan ambassador, and he was sent home to a hero's welcome."

"The Nicaraguan's new version of his career was accepted almost without challenge. Television and newspapers played the story prominently, stressing the embarrassment to the Administration and the blow dealt to the effort to establish Nicaraguan complicity in the El Salvadoran rebellion. The young guerrilla had handed America a stunning propaganda defeat...If the reporters in Washington had not been so eager to believe that Tardencilla had lied in El Salvador and was telling the truth in Washington, they might have asked some questions that would have demonstrated his new story was the lie."

"In Washington Tardencilla claimed to have gone to El Salvador as a volunteer in April 1980. He said that

when he was captured nine months later, in January 1981 he was in command of two provinces for FARN. We were asked to believe that a 17-year old foreigner could go to El Salvador with no special training and no backing from his government and rise to command two provinces for the guerrillas in a few months."

"Tardencilla's Washington version of his career lacks credibility. While it does not seem too likely that he would have been sent as far away as Ethiopia for training, the State Dept. says that he was grilled extensively about Ethiopian dress and customs by CIA experts. He demonstrated knowledge that they thought proved he had been to Ethiopia."

"Tardencilla was held in a prison in El Salvador where prisoners were permitted to hold daily Marxist indoctrination classes. It seems likely that his Washington story was worked out together with his Marxist comrades in prison. It capitalized on the willingness of some journalists to believe lies provided they damage America." -The AIM Report, April 1, 1982.

"terrorists will set up a representative government"

page 36

CBS News

President Lopez Portillo (through interpreter): "I know my Cuban brothers and sisters. We have always supported each other, and neither of us would try to take what belongs to the other."

Moyers: "What would be the consequences for Mexico of a military victory by the rebels in Guatemala?"

Pres. Portillo (through interpreter): "That they would set up a system which fits the desires of the Guatemalan people, nothing more. We're not worried...I always respect the principle of self-determination. If a people want to set up a certain type of government for themselves, they have the right to do so."

Moyers: "If they can win that right."

Pres. Portillo (through interpreter): "If they can win that right and if they are allowed to win that right."

Fact

"The EGP is the most militarily powerful of the terrorist organizations...Spokesman Jose Juan confirmed the EGP's commitment to violence, saying "It must be clear that only through the peoples revolutionary war can we seize power". -Raushenbush, page 3

"To counter the military aid and intervention by the "Revolutionary socialist" states on behalf of the terrorist movements, the United States must be willing to provide a measure of aid to a progressive Guatemalan regime. The terrorist war has already destroyed much of the Guatemalan economy...The U.S. must aid in defeating the Marxist-Leninist terrorist movements to provide an opportunity for democratic and humane rule for the Guatemalan people." -Raushenbush, page 24.

"Havana praises the alliance of the Guatemalan terrorist movements, serving as the political and military vanguard of the Guatemalan people. The unity of Guatemala's national revolutionary forces is based on the strategy of popular revolutionary warfare, the only path which the rich nationals and foreigners have left the Guatemalan people to achieve their definitive national and social emancipation." -Havana International Service Feb. 12, 1982.



CBS News

"Rabel: In Quiche province, where the fighting has been heaviest, members of the guerrilla army of the poor train for battle. The average age of these soldiers is around 17, some are much younger. Nearly all are Indians. They are kids, maybe, but they're playing for keeps. The Guatemalan government would say that what you are seeing is the sinister work of international communism. In fact, some guerrilla leaders have traveled to Cuba for advice, but the revolution is essentially home grown. Weapons and uniforms, they claim, are captured from the Guatemalan army or bought on the black market. We are not Soviets or Nicaraguans, they add, we are Guatemalans."

Fact

"...similarities between the rebel movements in El Salvador and Guatemala. He (Chapin, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala) replied "There is a common supplier of arms and ammunition to the two movements. The supply line runs thru Nicaragua and it definitely runs there from Cuba." Although there will always be those unwilling to believe, the evidence of Cuban-Nicaraguan gun-running is extensive."

"The Guatemalan terrorists are not only heavily armed with modern weapons, but they are also well-trained. The State Dept. estimated in Dec. 1981 that a large percentage of the active Guatemalan terrorists have been trained in Cuba. British journalist Robert Moss, a specialist in international terrorism, has stated that Cuba operates at least 30 major terrorist training centers, with "students" primarily from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Columbia and Chile. During the six-month "term" intensive courses are taken on Marxist-Leninist ideology, weaponry, sabotage, karate, close combat, the use of field weapons such as mortars and flamethrowers, map reading, and tactics of military and terrorist warfare. Specially-designed camps allow terrorists to practice street combat, ambushes, and combat retreat."

"The instructors in the camps are Cubans, while the

Soviet Union provides weaponry and physical supplies. After "graduating" the terrorists are flown on Aeroflot planes to Managua, Nicaragua. From Managua, identified by Moss as the logistical center of Central American terrorist operations, the revolutionary terrorists are provided with false documentation, if necessary, and returned to their countries to begin active terrorism." -Raushenbush, pages 17, 18.

"On June 26, 1981, Paulino Castillo, a 28-year old guerrilla with ORPA, told newsmen in Guatemala that he was part of a 23-man group of Guatemalans that underwent 7 months of training in Cuba, beginning around February 1980. His group was divided into sections for urban and rural combat training in explosives and firearms use." -State Dept. special report #90: Cuba's Renewed Support for Violence in Latin America.

CBS News

Bill Moyers: "...in the countryside. Out here is the rebels' base. Out here the people see them often. Journalists find them here too. On this road, which just a few hours earlier was patrolled by the army, the rebels stop traffic and solicit from the peasants a small war tax."

Fact

"Marxist terrorists invaded Chumac, municipality of Uspantan, El Quiche district, and murdered 53 persons: 28 men, 11 children and 14 women, by hacking them to death with machetes. Neighbors of Chumac said terrorists were asking for a "war tax" which Chumac could not afford. The same terrorists kidnapped Miguel Tujin, 19, and three boys whose situation is unknown." -Prensa Libre, Feb. 18, 82.

"53 Quiche Indians were slain in the Northwestern village of Chumac by leftist terrorists who were trying to collect a "war tax". "The bodies of the victims were found completely hacked and with their throats cut by machetes". The killings came after residents had informed the Army that terrorist raids were made in the area to collect a war tax of food and medicine as well as the forcible recruitment of young peasants." Washington Post, Feb. 18, 82.

"Arnoldo Fuentes Laporra was stopped in his pickup by terrorists dressed in olive-green uniforms near Chepol, Santo Tomas Chichicastenanga, Huehuetenango Dept. and robbed of 5,000 quetzales and his pickup burned.

"Felix Gilberto de Leon Castillo was stopped in his pickup by terrorists in Popular de Escuintla, and robbed of 5,000 Quetzales.

"A truck of the Tasca Co. was stopped in El Quiche, and robbed of its merchandise." -El Imparcial, Guatemala City, Feb. 10, 1982.

"A third bus of the Rebalí intercity transport company was burned in Buena Vista, Chimaltenango, and the passengers robbed. Two buses were burned in the past few days in Solola and their drivers and assistants assassinated." -Prensa Libre, Feb. 9, 82.

A group of peasants, mainly women and children, from the Alta Verapaz sector, have asked the Army for protection since the guerrillas are forcing them to give them clothes and food, a situation they can no longer endure." -FBIS (Paris AFP), Jan. 5, 82

"terrorists are young": kidnapping and forcible recruitment

page 39

CBS News

Rabel: "In Quiche province, where the fighting has been heaviest, members of the guerrilla army of the poor train for battle. The average age of these soldiers is around 17; some are much younger. Nearly all are Indians. They are kids, maybe, but they're playing for keeps."

Fact

"53 Quiche Indians were slain in the northwestern village of Chumac by leftist terrorists who were trying to collect a "war tax". "The bodies of the victims were found completely hacked and with their throats cut by machetes" an army bulletin reported, listing 28 men, 11 children, and 14 women dead. The killings came after residents had informed the Army that terrorist raids were made in the area to collect a war tax of food and medicine as well as the forcible recruitment of young peasants" -Washington Post, Feb. 18, 82.

"The same terrorists kidnapped Miguel Tujin Estayul, 19, and three boys whose situation is unknown." -Prensa Libre, Feb. 18, 82.

"More than 2000 old people, women and children fled en masse from the municipality of Menton to the capital of the Dept., Huehuetenango, to safeguard their lives. The residents said they fled because they were afraid of being massacred by the guerrillas. The town had been harassed by terrorists who killed and kidnapped residents." -Prensa Libre, Jan. 12, 82.

"Army units killed 17 terrorists in a raid on an EGP band led by a "blond, bearded gringo" in an attack near the village of Xecol in El Quiche Dept. The villagers were "tired of giving free food to the guerrillas" and reported it to the Army after terrorists killed two peasants who refused to pay the food demanded. Xecol inhabitant Gregorio Mejia said the terrorists kidnapped more than twenty villagers and

killed his brother and father after they refused to deliver food. "The gringo threatened that if we didn't collaborate, they would kill us" Mejia said."
-Washington Inquirer, Dec. 25, 1981.

CBS News

Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick: "No, I think that the American press's coverage on Central America generally has not been good. I think it was not good on Nicaragua, and is not good on Salvador generally. Particularly, the-well, just--never mind."

"Rather: "No-I- I'm eager to hear-"

"Ambassador Kirkpatrick: "The prestige media. The prestige media, I think have been particularly (indistinct)"

Fact

This is the only place in the entire CBS transcript where CBS admits the speaker cannot be understood. The speaker in question, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, is made to look incompetent to the viewers because of the way CBS has chosen to use the part of her interview that is not audible.

APPENDIX I
The Propaganda Line

Marxist

The impoverished Indians are forced by government mistreatment to be guerrillas. The guerrillas want to help the poor. Communist Party in 1937: "agrarian reformers" for propaganda portrayal.

The U.S. backed the harsh dictator Somoza. A popular revolution overthrew him.

Legitimate political leaders such as Leonel Sisniega have been jailed and exiled by Rios Montt.

Americans exploit the poor in Guatemala.

The Guatemalan government despises and mistreats the Indians.

Summary executions are done by the government of Rios Montt.

Soldiers in uniform massacre villagers.

"In Guatemala liberty does not exist"

Guatemala has a large and powerful army. It doesn't need U.S. help.

Jacobo Arbenz was an "agrarian reformer" and friend of the poor, who was overthrown by the CIA, beginning a right-wing reign of terror.

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The Propaganda Line

U.S.

The guerrillas are trained terrorists who destroy economic necessities to force the "climate for revolution". They make the poor poorer, and are trained by Cuba and the U.S.S.R. in terrorism.

The U.S. under Carter forced Somoza to leave Nicaragua. The guerrillas which then seized power were not the "agrarian reformers" the U.S. media had claimed, but Cuban trained and financed Marxists.

Sisniega is a right-winger of a violent faction. Marxist political parties operate in Guatemala under Rios Montt.

Americans have also developed, invested in, and modernized Guatemala. Americans have also done extensive relief and charitable works there.

The new government of Rios Montt is committed to rural development. The guerrillas have destroyed much of the means of advancement for the Indians.

"There have been no summary trials and executions"

The terrorists aim to discredit the government. Military uniforms have been found in terrorist hideouts. Terrorists acts using government uniforms are so prevalent that the government is changing all uniforms.

The new government of Rios Montt has greatly reduced political violence. Its continuence in rural areas is proven by facts to be guerrilla action.

The guerrillas are heavily armed and advised by Nicaragua's army of 70,000 men, 2,000 Cuban advisers and 200 Soviet advisers. Guatemala's army of 17,000 is totally outnumbered.

Jacobo Arbenz was a Marxist under whose regime communists gained unprecedented power. Marxist terrorists now have mounted a terrorist war to discredit the current regime, destroy the economy and establish a Marxist state.

The Propaganda Line

Marxist

All violence is government violence.

The guerrillas are not communists, but agrarian reformers.

Rios Montt's government refuses free elections.

Rios Montt is a military dictator whom the superstitious view as Savior.

Jim Degolyer is a manipulator of the superstitious.

Guatemala is another lost cause, a rat hole like Vietnam. The poor demand reforms.

No mention of Cuba/U.S.S.R. involvement.

A guerrilla victory is inevitable.

Since 1954 the U.S. has supported the terrorist regimes of right-wing Guatemalan dictators.

If the agrarian reformers take over the government of Guatemala there is no implication for Mexico and the U.S.

The Propaganda Line

U.S.

While Rios Montt has greatly reduced the Army/government violence, the violent struggle for the "peoples liberation" through revolutionary terrorism is increasing with Cuban/Nicaraguan/Soviet support.

The guerrillas have publically and repeatedly stated that they are Marxist-Leninists and supporters of Cuba and the U.S.S.R.

All parties have agreed to postpone elections until some stability is restored.

Rios Montt is a devout Christian.

Jim Delgoyer came to Guatemala to work in earthquake relief and evangelism.

We can support Guatemala against the terrorists. The fall of Guatemala to the Soviet bloc would have enormous consequences for the U.S.

Cuba/U.S.S.R. are heavily involved in the guerrilla attack on the Guatemalan government. There is extensive evidence to prove this.

Democracy is preferred by the people themselves, and they will sacrifice to have it.

The U.S. did not aid the regimes which violated human rights.

If Guatemala's government falls to Marxists there may be a military buildup as there has been in Nicaragua, involving Soviet arms and advisers. In the far more populous and larger country of Guatemala, this would make the fall of Mexico to Marxists all but inevitable. Refugees would flood the U.S. and with them would come many trained terrorists whose targets are communications, power stations, transit, water supplies, and the political leaders of the right and center.



APPENDIX II

The number of words given to each "line", or position, by CBS.

CBS's "Central America in Revolt": words spoken.

Commentator:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| U.S. line | Marxist line |
| 80 | 3516 |

Speakers:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| U.S. line | Marxist line |
| 346 | 2415 |

CBS's "Guatemala": words spoken.

Commentator:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| U.S. line | Marxist line |
| 348 | 1947 |

Speakers:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| U.S. line | Marxist line |
| 589 | 920 |



AIM REPORT

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REAGAN HITS REPORTING ON CENTRAL AMERICA

Addressing the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 15, President Reagan strongly criticized media coverage of what is going on in Central America. Noting that the head of the VFW, Robert Currie, had recently returned from a visit to Central America with the complaint that the American people are getting a distorted view of what is going on down there, the president said, "Bob is absolutely right."

Reagan denounced the "hype and the hoopla" over his Central American policies. He also said: "You wouldn't know from some of the coverage that the greatest portion of our aid to Central America is humanitarian and economic assistance. You wouldn't know democracy is taking root there." The president added, "I don't blame the media alone because in many cases they are just reporting the disinformation they hear coming from people who put politics ahead of our national interests." Two days earlier, in his Saturday radio address, the president had noted that "the great majority of Americans don't know which side we are on." In his July 26 news conference he had charged that a "constant drumbeat" of criticism had raised undue suspicions about his administration's motives in Central America.

Dan Rather of CBS News answered the president in a commentary aired by the CBS radio network on the evening of August 15. Rather said, "The president's point of view about the press is not shocking because he is, after all, a leader with a controversial policy on his hands, and, under such circumstances, presidents do tend to see questioning as demagoguery." Rather, who anchors the CBS Evening News, showed where he stood in putting two questions to the president. Rather said these were questions he was "hearing a great deal." They were obviously questions that Mr. Rather thought a great deal of.

Dan Rather's Questions

Rather's first question: "Has President Reagan really shown that he appreciates the fact that Americans fear the U.S. may be functioning in Central America as the defender of the oligarchy, the defender of the *status quo*? Is the United States allowing itself to be perceived as the champion of the narrow interests of the ruling class, an oligarchy that can consign peasants to poverty with no hope of wresting their way into the middle class?"

Rather's second question: (One he said you often hear on the streets) "It's about the manner in which the U.S. puts the military pressure on. All those computerized jets, the big aircraft carriers slicing through the waters off the coast . . . Is all that heavy breathing armor suited to the struggle? Does it really make for effective military pressure? Or do the guerrillas on shore laugh that all that big stuff will simply sink in the soft earth of the jungle?"

Rather assured his audience that "these are reasonable questions." He said: "To equate them with lack of patriotism may be to twist the argument, and maybe—just maybe—court disaster."

No doubt these questions are being asked, but the distorted reporting of CBS News and others in the media has done a lot to put such questions in people's minds without providing the proper answers to them. In reporting on Reagan's criticism of the coverage, The New York Times commented that the president had complained about distortions without specifying any. Let's supply a few examples.

The Pro-left Drumbeat

In 1982, CBS News aired two documentaries that dealt with Central America—"Central America in Revolt" on March 20; "Guatemala" on September 1; and a "60 Minutes" segment, "Underground Railroad," on December 12. All three were loaded with criticisms of U.S. policy. All three were from a leftwing perspective. The first of these documentaries was aired just a week before the elections in El Salvador in which over 80 percent of the electorate delivered a resounding rejection of the theme of the CBS program.

That theme was that the Reagan administration was wrong in suggesting that we have anything to fear from communist-backed revolutions in Central America. In our critique of this program in the April-I 1982 issue of the AIM Report, we characterized it as "90 minutes of propaganda for the do-nothing, accommodate-to-the-communists" school of thought. Measured with a stopwatch, over two-thirds of the program was negative

from the point of view of U. S. policy or the countries we are supporting in Central America. Although the program had been advertised as one that would probe whether or not Cuba and the Soviet Union were backing the rebels in Central America, CBS failed to turn up a single Marxist in the area who would admit that the guerrillas were getting Cuban help. But The New York Times said in an editorial on March 23, "In Central America today, Marxists make no secret whatever of their debts to Cuba." Dan Rather himself appeared on the program to suggest that an official government document detailing those debts had been "misleading." The program was heavy on the notion that we were supporting the oligarchy, resisting change desired by the people. That was what the El Salvadoran voters proved wrong a week later when they cast their ballots.

CBS returned to the theme that we are supporting the oligarchy and carrying out imperialist or colonialist policies in Central America in its documentary on Guatemala on September 1. It misrepresented history, falsified the record of the United Fruit Company in Guatemala, and tried to make American businessmen operating in that country look like ogres. Our government was portrayed as a consistent supporter of dictators and repressive governments.

If large numbers of Americans have swallowed the propaganda line that the United States is backing the oppressors in Central America—a line that the communists used successfully in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos—CBS News is partly to blame. President Reagan has not equated asking the question with a lack of patriotism, as Rather implied. But certainly the factually and historically inaccurate documentaries produced by CBS News were an excellent example of the kind of disinformation the president was criticizing.

The Beat Goes On

We have examined CBS News reports dealing with Central America since President Reagan gave his speech on the subject to the joint session of Congress on April 27. Out of a total of 43 news items of any significant length, we could find only two that could be considered supportive of the administration's policies compared to 19 that we considered negative. We classified 23 as neutral. More lengthy interviews and news specials on CBS were also heavily weighted against U. S. policy.

This began immediately after the president's speech. CBS, like the other networks, aired the Democratic party's response, a speech attacking U. S. policy by Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut. Unlike the other networks, CBS decided that the opposition should have equal time with the president, and since Dodd did not speak as long as Reagan had, it put on three additional critics. One was William Leo Grande, a leftist professor sympathetic to the Sandinistas and Fidel Castro; a second was Carter's ambassador to Nicaragua, Lawrence Pezzullo, who helped deliver that country to the Sandinistas; and the third was a liberal Republican congressman from Iowa, James Leach, one of only four Republicans in Congress who supported Cong. Gerry Studds' efforts to cut off all aid to El Salvador in July. All three were very critical of our government's policies in Central America.

Gene Mater, vice president of CBS News, justified this four-to-one ganging up on the president as an effort to be fair, since CBS felt the president's critics ought to be given just as much time as he had received. The fairness doctrine does not require that opposing points of view be given equal time, only that they be given fair representation. There was no legal obligation to buttress Sen. Dodd with three additional critics. Indeed, fairness might have dictated that other voices be heard, such as the many Democratic senators and representatives who were appalled by Dodd's extremist views and told reporters that he was not speaking for them.

CBS News continued this lopsided approach the next morning on the CBS Morning News. It aired three different critics of American policy—the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto, former Undersecretary of State George Ball, and Dr. Alfred Gellhorn, who had returned from a four-day trip to El Salvador "to investigate reports of murder, torture, and sudden disappearances of doctors and other health workers there." There was no effort to see that the defense of U. S. policy was given equal time on this program. Undersecretary of State Kenneth Dam was the only person brought on to balance this array of three critics. In the transcript, Ball has 36 lines, D'Escoto 43 lines, Gellhorn 22 lines and Dam 33 lines—a 3 to 1 ratio against the U. S. government. That is not counting interviewer Bill Kurtis, who revealed his own views with this question to Kenneth Dam: "But aren't we, indeed, in El Salvador propping up a military dictatorship that continues human rights abuses that are second to none, really, in the world today?" Mr. Dam, unfortunately, did not remind Mr. Kurtis of the human rights abuses in such countries as Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Cambodia—not to mention such peaceful prison states as the Soviet Union, China and North Korea.

On June 3, CBS News continued its strange version of "balanced coverage" with Bruce Morton using a segment of the Evening News to permit four critics to rake Reagan over the coals. He introduced the attack with two sentences from the president's speech to Congress and one sentence from a statement Secretary of State Shultz made at a news conference. He then brought on Wayne Smith, a retired foreign service officer who has been very popular with the liberal media because of his soft line on Castro, the Sandinistas and the guerrillas in El Salvador. Next he put on some comments by Cong. Michael Barnes, D.-Md., who expounded the line that has become a standard leftist argument that the problem in El Salvador is poverty, unequal distribution of income and injustice, not communist subversion. He then aired a recorded statement by the military adviser recently murdered in El Salvador who seemed to support Barnes's views, followed by Prof. Riordan Roelet, another leftist critic of American policies.

Helping the Sandinistas

A prime communist goal in Central America is the protection of the base they have already established in Nicaragua. They have worked hard to create the belief

in the United States that we have no right to help overthrow another government even though it poses a serious threat to the security of its neighbors and to ourselves. Oddly enough, this doctrine is being used to protect a communist regime that came to power because the U.S. helped overthrow a government friendly to the United States that posed no threat to any other country.

Elements of our media have been eagerly spreading the message that the Sandinistas are really no threat to anyone, despite the tremendous military build-up they have undertaken and their open declaration that theirs is a "revolution without borders." A few years ago the foreign editor of The Washington Post, Karen DeYoung, said in a lecture at the leftwing Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.: "Most journalists now, most Western journalists at least, are eager to seek out guerrilla groups, leftist groups, because you assume they must be the good guys."

Now that Miss DeYoung's "good guys" have been in power in Nicaragua for four years, they have proven that their promises to bring greater freedom and democracy to the country were cynical lies designed to hoodwink the gullible. NBC News recently aired a good documentary, narrated by Richard Valeriani, exposing those lies. Miss DeYoung, who does not normally review television programs for The Washington Post immediately sprang into action. She wrote a very critical review of Valeriani's documentary.

CBS is very much on the DeYoung side. On May 12, the CBS Evening News showed films obtained from an unidentified source which, together with the commentary, were puff pieces for the Sandinistas. The subject was the guerrilla war in Nicaragua—from the Sandinista point of view. People were shown calling the anti-communist guerrillas "beasts" who were supported by Yankee imperialism." Narrator Ed Rabel, the correspondent responsible for the two Central American documentaries aired by CBS in 1982, declared, "A sense of patriotism keeps the army going," the Sandinista army, that is.

How far CBS News is willing to go to undermine the credibility of the U.S. government and assist the Sandinistas was shown on its newscast on the evening of August 3. President Reagan had announced that a Soviet ship, the Alexander Ulyanov, was bound for Nicaragua carrying military equipment. A U.S. destroyer had encountered the Ulyanov at sea and had questioned its captain as to its cargo and destination. That made the news.

The Ulyanov docked at Corinto, Nicaragua on August 3. Western reporters were barred from the port and were unable to inspect the ship's cargo, even though the Soviets and Nicaraguans insisted that it was not carrying military equipment. Unable to take its own pictures, CBS News bought videotape of the vessel from the Cubans. It used this on the CBS Evening News that night to show that President Reagan's charge that the ship was carrying military equipment had not been borne out!

On the air, CBS correspondent Richard Wagner said: "As Western journalists continued to be barred from Corinto by Nicaraguan authorities, CBS News purchased this videotape today. Nothing of a military nature is evident aboard the Ulyanov in these scenes shot by a source friendly to Nicaragua . . . The Soviets have consistently denied sending military supplies to Nicaragua . . . These scenes from the purchased videotape show East German and Soviet vessels at the main pier. Again only non-military cargo is seen. The Nicaraguan government also denies military equipment is sent here from the Soviet Union . . . Despite the denials, it's clear that the Nicaraguan army has lots of Soviet hardware. How it gets here is less clear."

That suggests that Wagner was satisfied by the Cuban videotapes that the Ulyanov was not carrying Soviet military equipment and that President Reagan had been proven wrong. However, CBS carefully concealed from its viewers the important fact that the videotape had been shot by a Cuban crew. It was only after this was revealed by U.S. government officials that CBS News admitted it had bought the tape from the Cubans. They had obviously shot the tape to disprove President Reagan's charge, hoping to find someone gullible enough to accept it as credible evidence. They found CBS News. The tape proved nothing except that the camera crew that shot it had avoided filming any military hardware. The U.S. embassy in Nicaragua reported that CBS had paid "an astronomical price" for this propaganda tape, but a CBS official told the New York Post that the price was only \$2,500. If CBS had bargained a bit, it could probably have collected a handsome fee from the Cubans for airing their propaganda.

It is interesting to note that several months ago the Committee for a Free Afghanistan tried to interest CBS News in some excellent footage taken with the freedom fighters in Afghanistan. There was no interest. But Cuban videotapes are a different matter. One wonders how many times CBS viewers have been shown Cuban propaganda film or tape whose origin has been disguised. In the documentary "Central America in Revolt," CBS showed Guatemalan guerrillas filmed by an "independent film crew" whose identity it refused to reveal. On May 12, CBS used film from another "independent" film crew glorifying the Sandinista struggle against the anti-communist guerrillas. The Foreign Agents Registration Act requires that those who disseminate foreign propaganda register with the Justice Department and disclose the origin of the propaganda they spread. What CBS is doing is what this legislation was designed to protect against.

What You Can Do

Write to Thomas H. Wyman, Chairman, CBS, Inc., 51 West 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Call his attention to the efforts CBS News has made to undermine resistance to the communist takeover of Central America, and especially to the blatant use of Cuban propaganda film to contradict President Reagan. Ask him to correct this. Send copies of your letter to the members of the CBS board of directors listed in the Notes from the Editor's Cuff.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

The popular leftist line that insurrections such as the one in El Salvador are caused by poverty and injustice, not by communist subversion, was raised at the June 30 meeting between Arthur Ochs Sulzberger and Sydney Gruson, chairman and vice chairman of The New York Times respectively and Reed Irvine and Murray Baron, chairman and president of Accuracy in Media respectively.

Mr. Baron brought up a recent editorial from The Times in which he substituted "Nazis" and "Facists" for "Cubans" and "Nicaraguans." He read: "Reforms have got to continue. The reason there was an insurgency is because there were deep-rooted social, political and economic imbalances. Outsiders don't cause insurgencies. You can't blame this totally on the Nazis and Fascists, although they have certainly taken advantage of the situation."

Mr. Baron sought to show by this substitution that The Times took an entirely different view of insurrections or revolutions and the appropriate response to them depending on whether they were from the right or from the left. He said that in his lifelong study of The New York Times, there had never been the same tolerance of anti-communist insurgencies as had been shown toward those provoked or led by the communists.

For example, he pointed out that The Times regarded Jonas Savimbi, the head of the UNITA forces in Angola, who is fighting the Marxist government of that country, as "a stumbling block to peace in Namibia and a pawn of the South Africans." The fact that Savimbi has a large following and controls a large part of Angola does not seem to make him worthy of recognition and support by The New York Times.

He noted that The Times and others in the media had long called the Afghan freedom fighters "rebels." AIM and Freedom House had appealed to the media to use the more appropriate term, "freedom fighters." Mr. Baron pointed out that The Times had not as yet recognized any threat to the national interests of the United States in the prospective fall of Central America and even Mexico to the communists. The Times, he said, was taunting President Reagan, asking, "And why *not* send troops in, Mr. President?"

Realism and Idealism

Mr. Baron predicted that The Times might yet end up supporting negotiations with the guerrillas in El Salvador for the sharing of power. He said, "The fact of the matter is that the New York Times is a powerful, influential articulator of realism when the left controls the revolution and achieves power, and it is idealistic when it comes to rightwing areas of the world." For example, The Times was extraordinarily cautious

dealing with the charges that the Soviets had been using "yellow rain" to poison the inhabitants of Afghanistan and Laos and Cambodia. It had been cautious about implicating the KGB in the attempted assassination of the pope, since that would implicate Andropov.

"Your realism," Mr. Baron said, "is accommodation—do not provoke, because the threat of nuclear holocaust comes only from the left on this planet." "When it comes to the right," he said, "which is no international conspiracy against our national security, the idealism compensates for the realism shown in dealing with the left. In South Africa you do advocate policies which are harsher, more clearly defined, less compromising and less realistic than toward the *status quo* of the left."

Turning to Poland, Mr. Baron asked: "Are you going to support legitimate revolts, not from the right, but from everybody against the established communist *status quo*? If you answer that, you'll answer my dilemma about The New York Times."

Mr. Gruson: "We are going to support revolutions, I would think, where injustices are so apparent that (inaudible on tape).

Mr. Baron: "Have you ever supported an armed revolt against the communists? Afghanistan, for example?"

Mr. Sulzberger: "I think we don't think that's a very wise political course."

Mr. Baron: "Your fundamental editorial position is that if the arms come from the Soviet Union . . . that realism dictates that we try not to tackle that. You want an accommodation without guarantees of internal democracy in Nicaragua. You want this government not to provoke the Soviet Union."

Mr. Sulzberger: "We do not want a war conducted against the Nicaraguans without the American people being informed about what it is we are doing."

Mr. Baron: "Then being informed, what do you advocate? How do you vote, then, in The New York Times?"

Mr. Gruson: "You know very well that we don't want communist states any more than you do. I think in answer to your question, which is a fascinating question, and not one we have been forced to deal with yet—what if something really went wrong on our border with Mexico and the communists went in? . . . The answer to it is to try to bring about social, economic and political policies . . ."

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S CUFF

By Reed Irvine

AIM Report

September-A 1983

IN DOCUMENTING ATROCIOUS MEDIA COVERAGE OF CENTRAL AMERICA IN THIS ISSUE, WE have focused on reporting by CBS News. This is not accidental. It is my feeling that CBS is far and away the worst sinner among the three networks for biased and inaccurate reporting. After this report was set in type, I obtained a copy of the August 27 issue of TV Guide magazine, which has an excellent article by John Weisman titled, "Who's Toughest on the White House--And Why." Analyzing coverage of the president by the three TV networks, Weisman concludes that in the week studied "CBS, by a margin of more than 7 to 1, tended to cast the Reagan Administration in a more negative light than either ABC or NBC."

TV GUIDE ANALYZED THE NIGHTLY NETWORK NEWS BROADCASTS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 1. It found that CBS aired more stories about the Reagan Administration and its policies than the other two networks and that, unlike ABC and NBC, the majority of its stories were negative. Here is the breakdown showing the number and percentage of stories in each classification as determined by TV Guide. (Some lead-ins were classified separately).

| Network | Total | Positive | | Negative | | Neutral | |
|---------|-------|----------|----|----------|----|---------|----|
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| NBC | 19 | 5 | 26 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 63 |
| ABC | 17 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 12 | 12 | 70 |
| CBS | 29 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 52 | 11 | 38 |

THIS EXPLAINS WHY DAVID GERGEN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, was quoted as saying: "I would bet that if you had a control group who watched only CBS, another that watched only ABC and another that watched only NBC, that the impressions about the Administration and the standing of the president would be much more negative in the CBS control group."

JOHN WEISMAN THINKS THAT THIS IS NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE CBS IS MORE PARTISAN THAN THE other networks, but because it is more adversarial toward the government. He says, "CBS enhanced the conflict between Americans and their government by laying the responsibility for much of what goes on directly at Mr. Reagan's feet." He found that sometimes CBS "strains to do so." Here is one of the examples he gives.

DAVID BRINKLEY (ABC) REPORTED THIS ITEM ON MAY 2: "A FEDERAL COURT ORDERED THE Detroit police force to promote a black sergeant to lieutenant every time it promoted a white sergeant to lieutenant. The U. S. Justice Department calls this fighting discrimination with discrimination, and it asked the court to reverse itself and to consider another plan." DAN RATHER (CBS) REPORTED THE SAME ACTION THIS WAY: "For the third time since President Reagan took office, the Justice Department today asked the courts to disallow an affirmative-action employment policy, this time asking a federal appeals court to reject a Detroit Police Department plan to promote equal numbers of blacks and whites to the rank of lieutenant to make up for past racial discrimination." CBS cast the report to associate the president with opposition to a reasonable plan to make up for past discrimination. ABC provided the reason for the government's action. The case involved a suit by white policemen in Detroit who complain that they are discriminated against under a promotion policy that has been in effect for nearly a decade. The Justice

Department believes that the white policemen have a valid complaint. It argues that individuals are entitled to equal treatment under the law, regardless of race, and that quota systems that unfairly penalize innocent individuals as a means of rectifying discrimination practices that no longer exist are not just or legal. It has a hard time getting that across, thanks to the type of reporting done by CBS.

WEISMAN FOUND 20 SIMILAR EXAMPLES OF THE CBS NEGATIVE TWIST DURING THE WEEK STUDIED. Although the economy was recovering strongly, CBS aired a drumbeat of negative economic reporting. For example, on May 6, the government reported a decline in unemployment. In introducing the story, Dan Rather said the economy had generated 365,000 new jobs, but that "unfortunately for many workers holding these new jobs, long-range prospects are not good."

WEISMAN FOUND THAT SOME CBS STAFFERS WOULD ADMIT OFF THE RECORD THAT THEIR NEWS COVERAGE is biased, but none would do so for attribution. Howard Stringer, executive producer of the CBS Evening News came close, however. He said: "I think the president and the White House would rather have a straightforward record of the president's activities. We don't do that....We're closer to analysis...." (Howard Stringer was recently quoted as saying: "I frankly believe that we as a nation and a people are naive about the Soviet Union and that they are naive about us. But put that on the Evening News and we'd have groups like Accuracy in Media all over our asses.")

WHAT TV GUIDE DISCOVERED CONFIRMS OUR FINDINGS ON THE CBS COVERAGE OF CENTRAL America. CBS is adversarial not only to the Administration but to the effort to keep Central America from going communist, in my opinion. We urge you to write to Thomas H. Wyman, the chairman of CBS, Inc. giving him your reaction. We suggest that you send copies to the following CBS directors--and a copy to AIM, if you would.

William S. Paley
CBS
51 West 52nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Michael C. Bergerac, Chrmm.
Revlon, Inc.
767 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10022

Harold Brown
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Md. 21218
(former Secretary of Defense)

William A. M. Burden
William A. M. Burden & Co.
630 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10020

James R. Houghton, V. Chrmm.
Corning Glass Works
Corning, N. Y. 14830

Benno C. Schmidt
J. H. Whitney & Co.
630 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10020

Walter Cronkite
CBS News
524 West 57th St.
New York, N. Y. 10019

Roswell L. Gilpatric
Cravath, Swaine & Moore
One Chase-Manhattan Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10005

Marietta Tree
Llewelyn-Davies Assocs.
130 E. 59th St.
New York, N. Y. 10022

I URGE YOU TO ATTEND THE AIM CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON ON OCTOBER 13-14. WE WILL HAVE some fine speakers from the AIM-Allied Educational Foundation Speakers Bureau, and Dr. Edward Teller will address the banquet on October 14. Advance registration (prior to October 1) is only \$85, including two luncheons and the banquet. RESERVE NOW.

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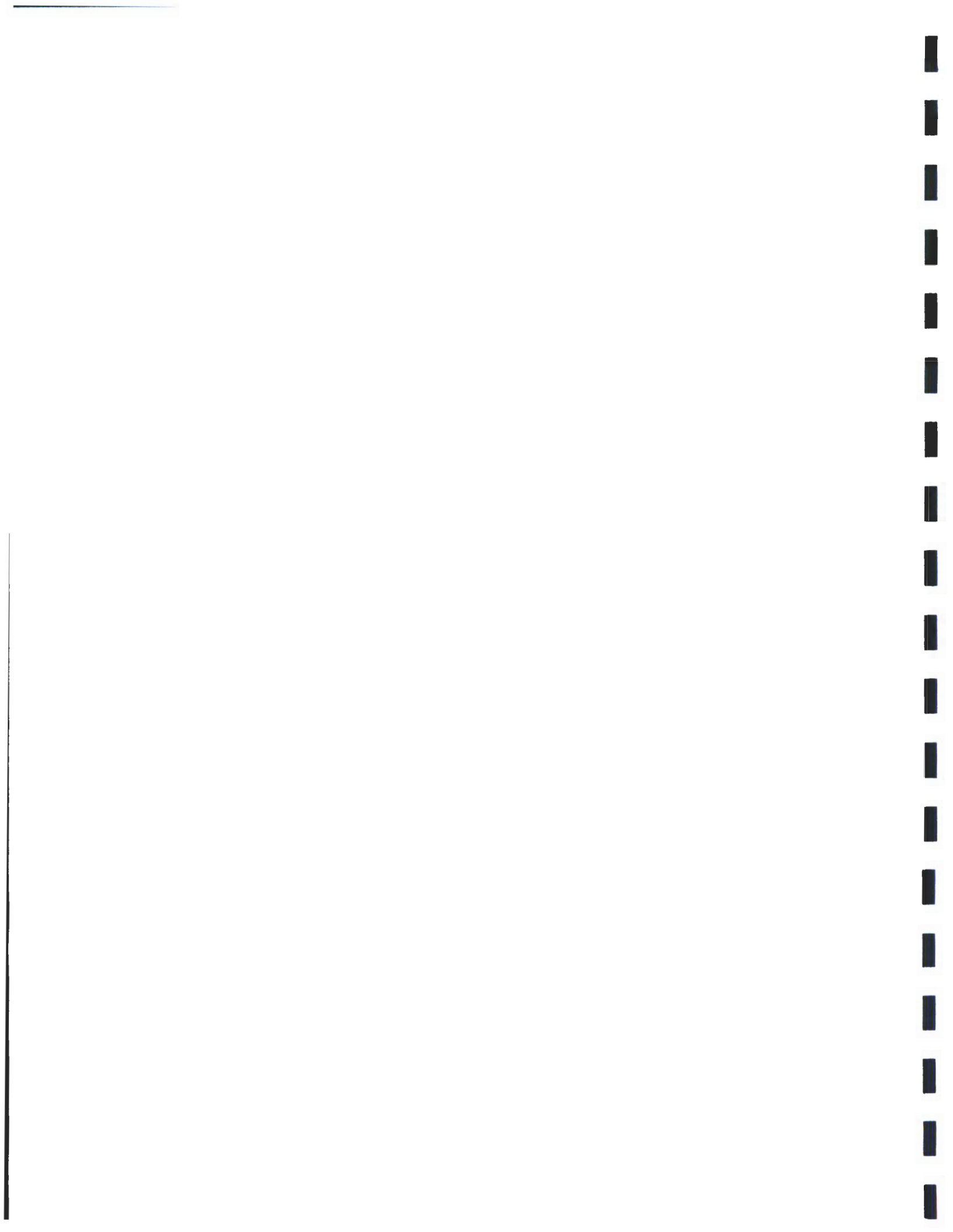
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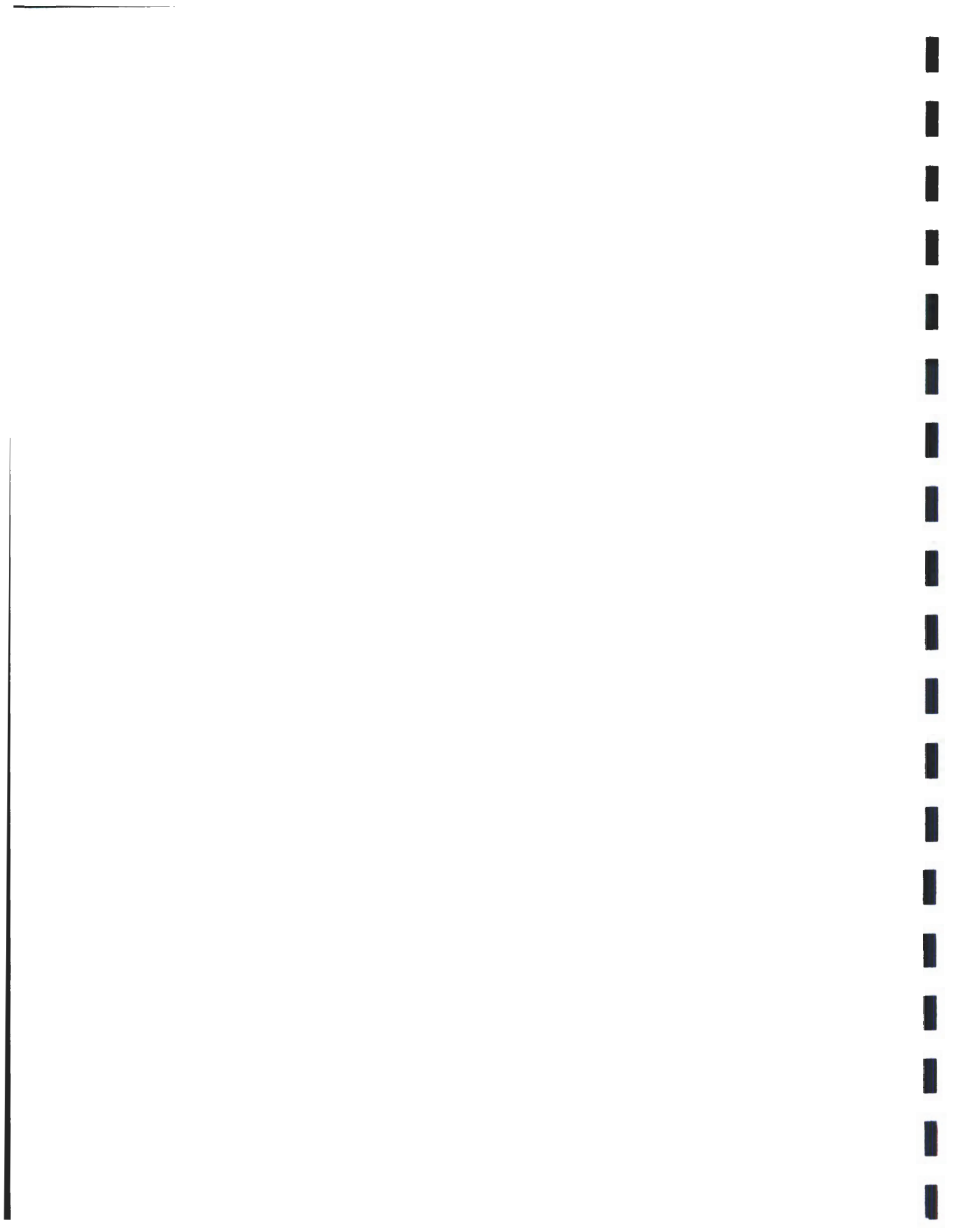
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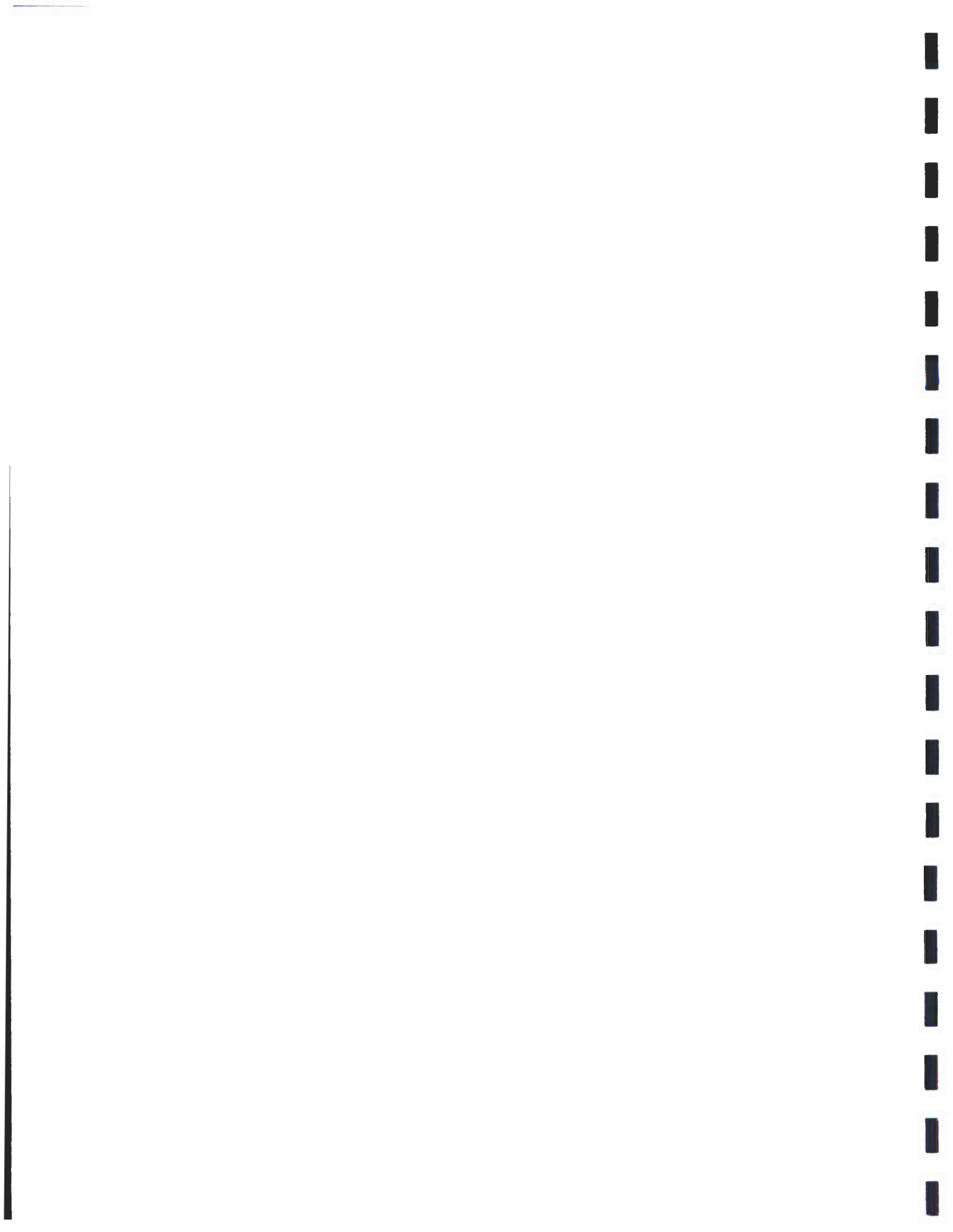


APPENDIX IV

Mr. Van Gordon Sauter
President
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Mr. Robert Chandler
Senior Vice President
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Mr. Emerson Stone
Vice President- News Practices
555 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019



CBS/BROADCAST GROUP

CBS Inc., 51 West 52 Street
New York, New York 10019
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Marjorie Holyoak, Director
Audience Services

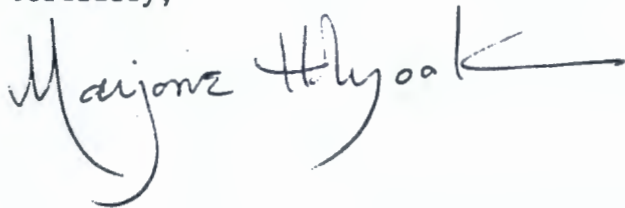
Dear Viewer:

Your correspondence concerning CBS REPORTS: "Guatemala" has been referred to me for reply.

Your opinions regarding the political strife in Guatemala have been carefully noted. However, your assertion that CBS News has expressed its own opinions on this matter is totally without foundation. Despite allegations to the contrary, CBS News Correspondent Ed Rabel's examination of Guatemala's civil war was both accurate and objective. Each aspect of the conflict was presented in accordance with the principles of responsible journalism. CBS News does not, nor has it ever, espoused any view with regard to the war -- we take no position on any newsworthy issue examined in our broadcasts.

Thank you for this opportunity to clarify our journalistic policy.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Holyoak". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

