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SYSTEM IV
NSC/ICS-400122

DECLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1984

NLRR FOD-072 #4166
BY CU NARA DATE 9/5/06

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SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Central America Legislative Strategy -- Additional
Funding for Nicaraguan Democratic Opposition
Forces (TS/ST)

This afternoon I forwarded to the Congress our legislation to implement the recommendations of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America (NBCCA). I have also reviewed and endorse the legislative and public diplomacy strategy for achieving Congressional approval. (et)

Pursuant to our discussion at this morning's NSPG meeting, our approach to the Congress on the NBCCA legislation must also focus on obtaining sufficient funding to carry on our Nicaraguan democratic opposition program throughout FY-84. Not only is this course of action specified in NSDD-124, it is imperative if our increased assistance is to have a positive impact when it is available. We must make this a matter of highest priority as we consult with Congress in building support for the Jackson Plan. Increased resources of \$14M for this endeavor are essential to continue these activities and prevent a major foreign policy reversal. I am determined that this program should continue.
(TS/S)

Secretary Shultz and Director Casey should take the lead in presenting our case to the relevant Congressional members and committees on this issue. A concerted effort must be made by all Administration spokesman to explain the necessity of this program and its value in achieving our objectives--not only in the region, but worldwide as well.

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The Legislative Strategy Group under Jim Baker should determine the proper legislative instrument for obtaining these funds. The State Department should incorporate this effort within our overall strategy to obtain approval for legislation implementing the NBCCA recommendations. Secretary Shultz should draft, by March 8, 1984, a report responsive to Section 109 of the FY-84 Intelligence Authorization Act. The report should emphasize the necessity of this program in achieving a negotiated settlement in the region. All our efforts in the weeks ahead must make it clear that the Jackson Plan legislation and the resistance program are essential to U.S. national interests. (TS)

Ronald Reagan

CC: The Vice President
William French Smith
Edwin Meese III
David Stockman
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
James A. Baker III
Robert C. McFarlane