

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

26TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

September 15, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID AARON

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Noon Notes

Possible Cuban Intervention in Nicaragua: A defense attache source in Managua reports that Fidel Castro has assembled a small military force of 125-150 Cubans in Belize. The group reportedly is prepared to be sent to Nicaragua to reinforce and act as advisers to the Sandanistas. Infiltration will probably be made by sea somewhere along the Nicaraguan east coast. The strategic plan calls for the Sandanistas to create a catastrophic situation in various sectors of the country, to isolate and hold an important city, then declare formation of a provisional government. By this action, they would hope to secure rapid recognition by the governments of Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and possibly Costa Rica.

The source further reports that Castro has successfully placed several agents in the Miami area, who are identifying Nicaraguans and Cubans in the Miami area who are vocal in their support of President Somoza. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The agents are also purchasing heavy weapons for the Sandanistas from the black market in Miami.

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U.S. Press Contacts on Filatov Case: Embassy Moscow reports that the attorney who defended Crawford and Filatov last week told Los Angeles Times correspondent Fischer that he was certain that Filatov had not been executed because the Supreme Soviet was still reviewing the case. He had no idea, however, when the government would finish the review.

Mrs. Filatov last Saturday told Fischer and Reuter correspondent Catlin that she was convinced her husband had not been executed, but she could provide no other information. She told them that KGB officers had discouraged her from meeting with Western correspondents, although they admitted they "could not prevent her" from doing so.

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