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# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

11 JAN 1984

YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT  
REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BIPARTISAN COMMISSION  
ON CENTRAL AMERICA  
WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 1984, 1100  
CABINET ROOM

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS  
Date: 29 OCT 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. 5552  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 18-M-2225

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Date: OCT 29 2018

## CASPAR W. WEINBERGER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Summary

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SUBJECT: Summary of Kissinger Commission Report

- Report represents a "remarkable consensus" on the nature of the Central America problem.
  - Security and diplomatic issues address El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Costa Rica.
  - Panama and Belize are included in development programs.
- US has fundamental interests at stake in Central America.
- Crisis in Central America is acute.
  - Root causes are indigenous: Poverty, injustice and closed political systems.
  - Soviet/Cuban/Nicaraguan intervention and world economic recession have brought the crisis to a head.
  - Intrusion of outside powers is a serious threat to the US.
- Substantial US assistance is required to meet the challenge.
  - Support for democratic self-determination.
    - Rejects power-sharing in El Salvador.
    - Favors continued pressure on Sandinistas as an incentive.
  - Economic and social development.
    - Increase US bilateral assistance \$400 million above current FY84 request of \$477 million.
    - \$8 billion package for FY85-89 with appropriations on a multi-year basis.
    - Total of \$24 billion from all sources required by 1990 to establish 3% growth rate.
    - Creation of a Central American Development Organization to disburse funds consistent with progress in reforms.
    - Expanded opportunities in education, health services and housing.
  - Security.
    - Increased military assistance to the region contingent on human rights progress and related reforms.
      - Sites DOD figure of \$400 million required for El Salvador in FY84-85 to break military stalemate.
      - States "there is no logical argument for giving some aid but not enough".
- Very few points in the report which diverge from current US policy.
  - Military aid to El Salvador contingent on periodic reports.
  - Certain commission members opposed to US support of Nicaraguan insurgents.
  - Total of only four-plus pages of "Notes by Individual Commissioners" in the 132 page document.
- 65 FYI: We understand that Peter McPherson of AID is attempting to get the President to endorse the economic figures in the report (\$400 million increase for FY84). Do not believe the President should endorse any figures at this time, but if he is convinced to do so, he should also endorse security assistance figures no less than that which we have requested in the supplemental.

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