

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1980

TO: BOB PASTOR
FROM: DAVID AARON

NLC Review Completed.

4A

This is Bullshit

Factor what the hell is this

8. Activities in Cuba and the Caribbean. David Newsom chaired an interagency meeting on August 20 to review the findings of an ongoing intelligence community exercise to monitor possible Soviet moves in Cuba and the Caribbean. The review concluded that Soviet military activity in the area has not reached any of the thresholds which would pose a threat to U.S. interests or require a U.S. response. The Soviets have been pursuing a relatively cautious military posture. There is, for example, no evidence of significant deliveries of sophisticated military equipment, of Soviet fleet activities in the area or of visits of Soviet submarines to Cuba during recent months, and the Soviet brigade appears to be maintaining its normal training cycle. There is no evidence of any new ballistic missiles being delivered to Cuba, and the SA-9s deployed with the Soviet brigade are of limited (40 kilometers) range.

Newsom asked the CIA to continue its monitoring of Soviet activities in Cuba and the Caribbean area. The interagency group will review the situation again in October and will remain in operation to report to you as necessary on Soviet/Cuban challenges to the U.S. and on our efforts to anticipate or respond to such challenges.

This must not happen again

Why were we not included?

SECRET

RDS 2/3 8/20/2000 (Christopher, Warren)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET

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August 20, 1980

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVID AARON
FROM: LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN (Pastor) *Bl*
SUBJECT: Evening Report (U)

Cuba. Attended a 2-1/2 hour marathon session on Cuban refugees chaired by David. I am glad that we invited Wayne Smith to attend, as he was surprised at the intensity of interest on this subject. I told Wayne that he had the good fortune to have sat in on the most rational and deliberative session on this subject in the Situation Room out of perhaps 50 such sessions over the last five months. (S)

Soviet-Cuban Moves in the Caribbean Region. Dave Newsom chaired the Interagency Group set up in response to Zbig's memo on possible Soviet responses to US policy in Afghanistan. CIA reported that neither the Soviets nor the Cubans have approached any of the thresholds described in the original memoranda to the President. ICA has stepped up its activities over the last six months and is now getting good playback from the region. New papers on Soviet economic and military assistance to the region are being drafted for future consideration. I suggested that State do an evening item for the President on this. (S)

El Salvador. A seven person Mission from the Inter-American Development Bank will return from El Salvador August 22 after a two week visit. The Mission has been favorably impressed by the GOES cooperation, and has been able to put together the basis for an emergency package to support Phase I of the Agrarian Reform program. While no firm figure has yet been reached for the total emergency package, a ballpark figure of \$50-60 million is being given as illustrative. Such a result will be very encouraging. (U)

Nicaragua. At the opening ceremony of a non-aligned movement press pool meeting in Managua August 18, Junta member Sergio Ramirez rejected allegations of Nicaraguan support for insurgency in El Salvador. Discussing various allegations of arms trafficking, Soviet ships and so forth, Ramirez asserted that these represented the manipulation of information from supposed sources of intelligence by some US newspapers and press agencies. (U)

Suriname. The Dutch are prepared to continue to support the Chin a Sen Government, although the Cabinet has also decided to convey to the new GOS its concerns regarding human rights, the future of the legal system and the prospects for a return to democratic government. The clear implication will be that any further setbacks in these areas will make future cooperation very difficult. Brazil, which interprets recent developments as a shift to the right and away from a closer relationship with Cuba, has also decided to maintain normal relations. The new authorities in Paramaribo have not yet paid much attention to foreign affairs, although it may be indicative of the new order that a recent national day reception was attended by Chin a Sen, the Army Commander and a large contingent of military officers, but no members of the civilian Cabinet. (S)

Press Contacts. None (U)

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Review 8/20/86

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While You Were Away (USSR/Eastern Europe) August 21, 1980

USSR: Latin America. Attended interagency meeting in Newsom's office to review current Soviet/Cuban activities in Latin and Central America. In general, Soviets have maintained low profile over last six months. There has been no expansion of Soviet presence in Cuba and no stepped up activity on the part of the brigade. Assistance to Cuba remains at previous levels. While there has been a growth of Cuban supported activity in Latin America and Central America, there is little evidence of direct Soviet activity. Nonetheless, continued Soviet modernization of Cuban military forces remains worrisome. (S)

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