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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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July 12, 1983

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

HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
Director of Central Intelligence

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

SUBJECT: Central America (U)

Based on the NSC meeting of July 8, 1983, it is my judgment that:

- The security situation in Central America is deteriorating.
- This is a consequence of, among other things, inadequate resources.
- There is a persistent lack of public understanding of our interests, objectives, the threat, and our policies for dealing with Central American problems. (TS/S)

Accordingly, in order to deal with these issues I have reached the following tentative conclusions:

- We should move immediately, in accordance with the plan at Tab A, to convene a Presidential Commission to develop requisite bipartisan support for our policies and the provision of adequate resources.
- U.S. military presence, [REDACTED] and the capability to respond to contingencies in the region should be significantly enhanced as soon as possible in accord with the plan at Tab B.
- A revitalized public affairs/legislative action plan, as depicted at Tab C, should be implemented immediately. (TS/S)

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Partially Declassified/Revised on 31 July 87
under provisions of E.O. 12958
by 3. Regis, National Security Council

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