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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMG*
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY

I. SUMMARY

On Monday, April 16, at 1:35 p.m. you will address a briefing on investment opportunities in Nicaragua. The audience will include business leaders, think tank representatives, non-profit organization representatives, and Hispanic-American leaders. About 200 people are expected to attend.

Bernard Aronson is addressing the group before you speak. Ambassador Zeder and Jim Berg of OPIC and Mark Edelman of AID will speak after you.

Jim Berg, OPIC Executive Vice President, has just returned from Nicaragua, where he met with President-elect Chamorro and established that OPIC will send a mission to Nicaragua in June. Caribbean/Central American Action is an independent, non-government organization founded to promote private-sector investment in the Caribbean Basin and Central America. They are sending a group to Nicaragua on the following day. Many participants of both missions will be in the audience.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (5 min./cards) emphasize how important it is to support democracy in Nicaragua by expanding investment, and urge Congress to quickly complete work on the Nicaragua/Panama aid package.

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Fred Schick
AID
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Acting Asst
Admin Bureau
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Caril

McGroarty/Dooley
April 11, 1990
3:45 pm
[nica]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY
OEOB, RM. 450
APRIL 16, 1990
1:35 P.M.

Fred Schieck
Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. As you've just heard from the State Department's chief Latin American expert -- Bernard Aronson -- and as you'll hear in a few minutes from my good friend Fred Zeder, and Jim Berg of OPIC, and from ~~Mark Edelman~~ of AID -- this is a time of tremendous change in Nicaragua. Tremendous hope -- and opportunity.

Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked pollsters around the world by casting their votes for Violeta Chamorro. Those of us who saw that election as a chance to choose **democracy** weren't surprised at all.

In the seven weeks since the people of Nicaragua cast their votes for peace and freedom, real progress has been made in negotiating the difficult transition leading up to a peaceful transfer of power. //

I've spoken several times to Mrs. Chamorro since her election -- a woman of great moral courage, and an inspiration to the people of her nation. When she takes office on the 25th of this month, Nicaragua will close a painful chapter in its history, and begin a new story -- a new life in democracy. //

I have pledged to Mrs. Chamorro that the U.S. Government would respond in Nicaragua's hour of need. I've called on Congress to create what I call the Fund for Democracy -- a fund to assist Nicaragua, and its Central American neighbor Panama, as these two countries take their critical first steps on the road to democracy.

I was gratified that Congress has begun action on our aid package which includes \$300 million dollars for Nicaragua -- but I am disappointed that Congress failed to take the final steps to make the funds available before the Easter recess. // That's why today, I renew my plea to the Senate to act immediately when Congress reconvenes this week. // Nicaragua -- and, of course, Panama, too -- need these funds. **With democracy at stake, there is simply no time to delay.** //

Government aid is crucial. But we all know that government aid alone cannot solve Nicaragua's problems. The business of democracy-building is a task that requires strong and steady support from the private sector -- **from individuals like you, and the institutions you represent.**

Right now in Nicaragua, the hard work is only beginning. // For the past decade, that nation has experienced terrible suffering and deprivation: its energies consumed in bitter civil war -- its economy slowly strangled by a system of central control and mismanagement.

But those days have ended with the return of democracy. Nicaragua is confident again. Ready to turn things around. To

build the institutions of free government and free enterprise -- and create a climate for growth. To plant the seeds of peace and prosperity.

So today, I thank you for coming here to the White House, and meeting with these top members of my Administration on this key issue. // I know that some of you leave tomorrow for Nicaragua, on a mission under the auspices of a private development group called Caribbean/Central American Action. And I know that OPIC is now planning a mission of its own, the first week in June. // I hope all of you here today, and all of you who take part in those trips, find it worth your while to invest in Nicaragua. When you do, you'll be doing **more than business --** you'll be doing the work of democracy. // God bless you all.

#

Peggy

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. AS YOU'VE JUST HEARD FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF LATIN AMERICAN EXPERT -- BERNARD ARONSON -- AND AS YOU'LL HEAR IN A FEW MINUTES FROM MY GOOD FRIEND FRED ZEDER, AND JIM BERG OF OPIC, AND FROM FRED SCHIECK [SHIK] OF A.I.D. -- THIS IS A TIME OF TREMENDOUS CHANGE IN NICARAGUA. TREMENDOUS HOPE -- AND OPPORTUNITY.

- 2 -

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AGO, THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA SHOCKED POLLSTERS AROUND THE WORLD BY CASTING THEIR VOTES FOR VIOLETA CHAMORRO. THOSE OF US WHO SAW THAT ELECTION AS A CHANCE TO CHOOSE DEMOCRACY WEREN'T SURPRISED AT ALL.

IN THE SEVEN WEEKS SINCE THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA CAST THEIR VOTES FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN NEGOTIATING THE DIFFICULT TRANSITION LEADING UP TO A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER. //

I'VE SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES TO MRS. CHAMORRO SINCE HER ELECTION -- A WOMAN OF GREAT MORAL COURAGE, AND AN INSPIRATION TO THE PEOPLE OF HER NATION. WHEN SHE TAKES OFFICE ON THE 25TH OF THIS MONTH, NICARAGUA WILL CLOSE A PAINFUL CHAPTER IN ITS HISTORY, AND BEGIN A NEW STORY -- A NEW LIFE IN DEMOCRACY. //

I HAVE PLEDGED TO MRS. CHAMORRO THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND IN NICARAGUA'S HOUR OF NEED.

I'VE CALLED ON CONGRESS TO CREATE WHAT I CALL THE FUND FOR DEMOCRACY -- A FUND TO ASSIST NICARAGUA, AND ITS CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBOR PANAMA, AS THESE TWO COUNTRIES TAKE THEIR CRITICAL FIRST STEPS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY.

I WAS GRATIFIED THAT CONGRESS HAS BEGUN ACTION ON OUR AID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES \$300 MILLION DOLLARS FOR NICARAGUA -- BUT I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT CONGRESS FAILED TO TAKE THE FINAL STEPS TO MAKE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE EASTER RECESS. //

THAT'S WHY TODAY, I RENEW MY PLEA TO THE SENATE TO ACT IMMEDIATELY WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES THIS WEEK. // NICARAGUA -- AND, OF COURSE, PANAMA, TOO -- NEED THESE FUNDS. WITH DEMOCRACY AT STAKE, THERE IS SIMPLY NO TIME TO DELAY. //

GOVERNMENT AID IS CRUCIAL. BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT GOVERNMENT AID ALONE CANNOT SOLVE NICARAGUA'S PROBLEMS.

THE BUSINESS OF DEMOCRACY-BUILDING IS A TASK THAT REQUIRES STRONG AND STEADY SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- FROM INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU, AND THE INSTITUTIONS YOU REPRESENT.

RIGHT NOW IN NICARAGUA, THE HARD WORK IS ONLY BEGINNING. //

FOR THE PAST DECADE, THAT NATION HAS EXPERIENCED TERRIBLE SUFFERING AND DEPRIVATION: ITS ENERGIES CONSUMED IN BITTER CIVIL WAR -- IT'S ECONOMY SLOWLY STRANGLER BY A SYSTEM OF CENTRAL CONTROL AND MISMANAGEMENT.

BUT THOSE DAYS HAVE ENDED WITH THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY. NICARAGUA IS CONFIDENT AGAIN. READY TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

TO BUILD THE INSTITUTIONS OF FREE GOVERNMENT AND FREE ENTERPRISE -- AND CREATE A CLIMATE FOR GROWTH. TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

SO TODAY, I THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND MEETING WITH THESE TOP MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION ON THIS KEY ISSUE. // I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU LEAVE TOMORROW FOR NICARAGUA, ON A MISSION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF A PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP CALLED CARIBBEAN/CENTRAL AMERICAN ACTION.

AND I KNOW THAT OPIC IS NOW PLANNING A MISSION OF ITS OWN, THE FIRST WEEK IN JUNE. // I HOPE ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY, AND ALL OF YOU WHO TAKE PART IN THOSE TRIPS, FIND IT WORTH YOUR WHILE TO INVEST IN NICARAGUA. WHEN YOU DO, YOU'LL BE DOING MORE THAN BUSINESS -- YOU'LL BE DOING THE WORK OF DEMOCRACY. // GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
action

Wash Johnson
1:35
ED
John
John

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- prof org repo / keep
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4/24 - @Chambers takes
over

promise don't by helping
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reservations
DPIIC - sent ~~message~~
back the weekend

- 3) AID - Edelman, Mark
 - 2) OPIC - Fred Zeder
 - ~~1) ~~John~~ Johnson - Stas~~
- Pres.

~ 200 people

5-7 min.

Thank you - next wk - imp to
cont help - imp role to
play

Jeff Brown 457-7087

James Berg ~~VP~~
Exec VP

Scott Bush
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

mission scheduled for June
15-20 investors

~~numbers~~

~~totton~~

agriculture

tourism

aquaculture

mining

it mfg / transportation

no finance infrastructure

investors probab in bfg

led by OPIC Pres + CEO Fred
Zeder

McGroarty/Dooley
April 11, 1990
3:45 pm
[nica]

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//

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Done Gray
Nic. desk
State
647-2287

Done Gray
Nic. desk
State
647-2285

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I have pledged to Mrs. Chamorro that the U.S. Government would respond in Nicaragua's hour of need. I've called on Congress to create what I call the Fund for Democracy -- a fund to assist Nicaragua, and its Central American neighbor Panama, as these two countries take their critical first steps on the road to democracy.

I was gratified that Congress authorized our aid package -- including the full \$300 million dollars we requested for Nicaragua -- but I am disappointed that Congress failed to take the final step, actually appropriating the funds, before the Easter recess. // That's why today, I ask each of you in this room to contact your representatives -- and urge them to act immediately when Congress reconvenes this Wednesday. // Nicaragua -- and, of course, Panama, too -- need these funds.

With democracy at stake, there is simply no time to delay. //

Government aid is crucial. But we all know that government aid alone cannot solve Nicaragua's problems. The business of democracy-building is a task that requires strong and steady support from the private sector -- **from individuals like you, and the institutions you represent.**

Right now in Nicaragua, the hard work is only beginning. For the past decade, that nation has experienced terrible suffering and deprivation: its energies consumed in bitter civil war -- it's economy slowly strangled by a system of central control.

Sen. Repub
Cloakroom
224-6391

//
Dany May
No desk
State
447-2205

1979

But those days have ended with the return of democracy. Nicaragua is confident again. Ready to turn things around. To build the institutions of free government and free enterprise -- and create a climate for growth. To plant -- as we've done so successfully in our country -- the seeds of peace and prosperity.

So today, I thank you for coming here to the White House, and meeting with these top members of my Administration on this key issue. // I know some of you will soon be going down to Nicaragua -- some of you under the auspices of OPIC -- and I hope you'll find it worth your while to invest in Nicaragua. When you do, you'll be doing **more than business** -- you'll be doing the work of democracy. // God bless you all.

#

Edelman
Hoda/Berg

Bull Power? MSC

as
and
can
Edelman
mpg

no. channels - OPIC with of June 4

Jim Berg
AID