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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron Files, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13526  
**Folder ID Number:** 13526-012

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**Folder Title:**  
Nicaragua Briefing 4/16/20 [OA 4727]

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<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 16, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE NICARAGUA BRIEFING

Room 450  
Old Executive Office Building

1:38 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Thank you very much. Please be seated and good afternoon. Welcome to the White House. Bernie, have you been on yet?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARONSON: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay then. As you've just heard from Bernie Aronson, our Chief Latin American expert, we are committed to the future of Nicaragua under democracy. And I think, Fred Zeder, esteemed head of OPIC, will be briefing you in a minute, Jim Berg of OPIC also, and Fred Schieck of AID, and in these presentations I think that you all realize -- and most of you know it already -- that this is a time of tremendous change and hope, and indeed opportunity.

Less than two months ago there were a lot of pollsters looking for work after the Nicaraguan elections. But I don't think we should have been too surprised. I think the skepticism was, well, would the elections be free and fair. But given the choice -- a free and fair choice between democracy and totalitarianism, people all around the world are opting for democracy.

In the seven weeks since the people have cast their ballots for peace and freedom, real progress has been made in negotiating this -- what is really a difficult transition leading up to a peaceful transfer of power.

I've spoken several times with President-elect Violeta Chamorro since the election. And she really is, for those of you who have not met her, a woman of great moral courage, an inspiration to the people of her nation. And when she takes office in just 10 days -- nine days from now, on the 25th, 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 United States government would respond in Nicaragua's hour of need.

I've called on the Congress to create what we call the "Fund for Democracy" -- a fund to assist Nicaragua and its neighbor in Central America, Panama, as these two countries take their first critical steps on the road to democracy.

I was gratified that the Congress, before adjournment, began action on our aid package which includes \$300 million for Nicaragua, but I'm disappointed that Congress failed to take the final steps to make the funds available before the Easter recess. That's why today I wanted to come here and to renew my plea to the United States 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 for delay.

Government aid is crucial, but we all know that government alone -- government aid alone -- cannot solve all the problems of Nicaragua. The business of democracy-building is a task that requires strong and steady support from the private sector, from

MORE

individuals like many of you out here and those institutions that you represent.

Right now in Nicaragua I'd say the real hard work is just beginning. For the past decade, that nation has experienced terrible starvation and deprivation. And its energies were consumed -- just eaten up in that bitter civil war -- its economy slowly strangled by a system of central control and mismanagement.

Those days really have ended with the return of democracy. I'm told by Bernie and others that there's a new sense of confidence there in Nicaragua -- people ready to roll up their sleeves and ready to turn things around. To build the institutions of free government and free enterprise and then create a climate for growth, to plant the seeds of peace and prosperity.

So today, I wanted to thank all of you for showing this interest, for coming here to the White House and meeting with these top members of our administration on this key question. I believe the United States of America has a great deal at stake in the success of Violeta Chamorro, but more so in democracy itself in Nicaragua.

I know that some of you are leaving tomorrow to go down there 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 might say parenthetically that OPIC is a dynamic organization bringing investment and thus hope to countries all around the world now as this new season of democracy is upon us.

I hope all of you here and all of you who take part in these special trips find it worthwhile to invest in Nicaragua. When you do, you'll be doing more than business because I think you will really be showing the flag for and your confidence in democracy itself.

So I really just want to scoot on over and wish you the very best and please follow through. We need your commitment and certainly Violeta Chamorro and the others that believe in democracy need your help.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

1:44 P.M. EDT

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

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 STRANGLERD 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.

# # #



**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

V

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*Please see comments.*  
*4/12/90*

90 MAR 12 P 2: 46

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

✓  
Bernie?  
better?  
to  
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 Mark Edelman of AID and Fred Zeder of OPIC -- this is a time of tremendous change in Nicaragua. Tremendous hope -- and opportunity.

(not all pollsters)  
Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked ~~the pollsters~~ <sup>around</sup> of 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 freedom, <sup>and peace</sup> 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 -- 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 authorized our aid package -- including the full \$300 million dollars we requested for Nicaragua -- but I am disappointed that <sup>the Senate</sup> Congress failed to take the final step, actually appropriating the funds, before the Easter recess. // That's why today, I <sup>renew my plea that</sup> ~~ask each of you in this room to contact your representatives~~ -- and urge them to act immediately when Congress reconvenes this <sup>week</sup> ~~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.

*House  
acted to  
appropriate  
Senate  
did not.  
When Senate  
acts then  
any differences  
and there are  
likely to be  
some) will be  
resolved in  
conference.*

**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.

# # #

David Pacelli NSC 3860

Jim Berg OPIC 457-7001

Sichan 7120

Contacts —  
Nicaragua Briefing

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*AC*  
*20*  
 90 MAR 13 4:07

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

Good afternoon, and welcome 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 Mark Edelman of AID and Fred Zeder of OPIC -- this is a time of tremendous change in Nicaragua. Tremendous hope -- and opportunity.

Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked the pollsters of 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 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 -- 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 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.

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.

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(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

90 MAR 12 48:34

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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1:35 P.M.

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

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I've spoken several times to Mrs. Chamorro <sup>since her election</sup> -- 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. //

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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, <sup>and mismanagement.</sup>

But those days have ended with the return of democracy.

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RESEARCH

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

McGroarty/Dooley  
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[nica]

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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.

# # #

△'s for last p:

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.

As per Susan Siv.

& Jim Berg, OPIC.

Insert A

11/17/90 4:30 pm

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM** 2848

1990 APR 12 PM 5:02  
2:00 P.M. 04/12

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES CICCONI April 12, 1990

The NSC staff concurs with changes indicated.

*Brent Scowcroft*  
Brent Scowcroft

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Dooley  
April 11, 1990  
03:45 pm  
[nica]

1990 APR 12 PM 5:03

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

Good afternoon, and welcome 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 Mark Edelman of AID and Fred Zeder of OPIC -- this is a time of tremendous change in Nicaragua. Tremendous hope -- and opportunity.

Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked the pollsters of 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 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 <sup>since her election</sup> -- 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 <sup>has begun action on</sup> ~~authorized~~ our aid package <sup>which</sup> ~~including the~~ <sup>es</sup> ~~(full)~~ \$300 million dollars ~~(we requested)~~ for Nicaragua -- but I am disappointed that Congress failed to take the final step <sup>s necessary to make</sup> ~~actually appropriating~~ the funds <sup>available</sup> 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. <sup>and mismanagement.</sup>

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 ?~~ 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.

# # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: *See comments*

*Disregard ballpoint edits (NSC bootleg).*

90 MAR 12 P 1:01

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

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Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked the pollsters of 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 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 <sup>this yr. on the phone</sup> -- 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. //

Tom Super 5750

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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. + its mgmt.

Congress has not authorized →  
Senate passed an authorization  
House has not.  
Don Silverman  
+ 4594

+ the House approved

has begun action on  
Supplemental  
Approp Package

+ the Senate

James

etc. to make

available

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.

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# # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*OK. S.R.*

90 MAR 12 P 2:45

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

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# # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**



DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY (04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: *No comments.*

96:20 21 MAR 06  
 James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *rbp*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Nicaragua Briefing Drop-  
By

We have reviewed the attached draft and have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint. We approve of the draft remarks in their current form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

90 MAR 12 P 1: 54

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**RESPONSE:**

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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OEOB, RM. 450  
APRIL 16, 1990  
1:35 P.M.

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



April 12, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

Deputy Assistant to the President for  
Communications

FROM:

BRENT O. HATCH *B.O.H.*  
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks -- Nicaragua Briefing Drop-By

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: James W. Cicconi

88:12 P1:38

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<del>GRAY</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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APRIL 16, 1990  
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//

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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 -- its economy slowly strangled by a system of central control.

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.

# # #

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Document No. 131877

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 04/11/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. 04/12

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NICARAGUA BRIEFING DROP-BY  
(04/11 3:45 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<del>BATES</del>	<del><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 2:00 pm Thursday, 04/12, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: Please note one comment -- first sentence.  
4-12-90  
Holly Williamson

62:29 PM 12 MAR 90

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

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

1990 APR 11 PM 4:47

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

Good afternoon, and welcome <sup>to</sup> 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 Mark Edelman of AID and Fred Zeder of OPIC -- this is a time of tremendous change in Nicaragua. Tremendous hope -- and opportunity.

Less than two months ago, the people of Nicaragua shocked the pollsters of 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 freedom, real progress has been made in negotiating the difficult transition leading up to a peaceful transfer of power.

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