

MO 14/22



CETC

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Prime Minister

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARYNICARAGUA

JA

ms 2/12

I have read your advice to the Prime Minister in your minute of 12th December about your conversation with George Shultz, concerning our reaction to the high precision destruction of MIG fighters.

2. You ought to know that there is considerable concern here in MOD about the concept of air strikes with strictly limited consequences. In practice aircraft strikes are not that accurate and the risk of casualties - possibly civilian - would be considerable.

3. It would seem to me that the Americans would need to rest on the very clear and specific warnings that had been given to the Soviet Union if they were to have any case in public. Even then, there are many American high capability aircraft delivered to parts of the world where they pose a potential threat to other countries.

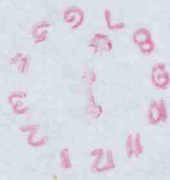
4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Attorney General, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ministry of Defence  
20th December 1984

Nicaragua

July 79 Relatives

PM



21 DEC 1984



FUE

(CRAMARK)

(W)

cc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 December, 1984

NICARAGUA

The Foreign Secretary minuted the Prime Minister on 12 December about the difficulties which might arise for Britain if the United States decided to take military action against Nicaragua.

The Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign Secretary's analysis and his recommendations for the line which she should take with President Reagan.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Henry Steel (Attorney General's Office) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(C.D. Powell)

L. Appleyard, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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