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February 24, 1983

National Security  
Decision Directive 82

U.S. Policy Initiatives to Improve  
Prospects for Victory in El Salvador (TS)

The deteriorating military, economic and political situation in El Salvador requires immediate and concerted action to reverse current trends. In order that the present situation can be reversed and the stage set for achieving a stable, democratic government in El Salvador, the following initiatives are approved for implementation:

- A special emissary will be dispatched to confer with the government of El Salvador and appropriate USG officials on scene regarding political actions which will help the government to seize the initiative.
- Immediate efforts will be made to obtain \$60M in additional military resources for El Salvador.
- The USG will make a concerted effort to ensure that the current Latin peace initiative does not turn against the U.S. but rather to use this development as a means of furthering the process of democratization in Latin America.
- Through U.S. military and diplomatic contacts in El Salvador, we will seek to overcome divisiveness and end the political infighting which is debilitating the Salvadoran military establishment.
- Tactical improvements will be introduced in the Salvadoran military to enable them to launch a full scale country-wide counterinsurgency effort to include civic action and psychological operation.
- The U.S. military presence in El Salvador will be sufficiently augmented to permit the U.S. to better influence the prosecution of the war.



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by R. Soubers, National Security Council  
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- The current sugar quota for Nicaragua will be reduced and redistributed to other nations as a signal to the friendly governments in the region and elsewhere.
- A concerted effort will be made to increase non-military assistance to El Salvador in order to offset the adverse economic effect of the prolonged guerrilla war. (TS)

The following actions will be taken to insure effective management of our Central America programs:

- A full-time Central America Working Group will be established as soon as possible at State Department in appropriate facilities with representatives from: State, Defense, JCS, CIA and NSC staff.
- Written situation reports will be issued by the Central America Working Group to appropriate departments and agencies on at least a daily basis.
- The Central America Core Group will convene at least once a week to assess progress and develop new recommendations as necessary.
- The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs will convene a secure conference call each day with representatives from the Office of the Vice President, State, Defense, JCS and CIA to receive a status report from the Central America Working Group prior to briefing the President at 0930.
- The Central America Core Group will develop a detailed plan of action with milestones covering all actions approved in this directive, including legislative and public affairs strategy, for submission to the President by 1200 February 28, 1983. (C)

*Ronald Reagan*

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