

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JCS MESSAGE CENTER

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AIG 7011
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ROUTINE
R 222114Z AUG 83
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//JSI-7//
TO DIACURINTEL
AIG 7046
USDAO MANAGUA NU

SERIAL: DIADIN 234-7A
SUBJ: NICARAGUA: REFUGEE EXODUS. (U)
DOI: 22 AUG 83 (AS OF 1515 EDT)

TEXT: 1. NICARAGUAN REFUGEES CONTINUE TO FLEE ACROSS THE BORDER INTO NEIGHBORING HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA.

2. SINCE 20 JUNE, MORE THAN 800 NICARAGUANS HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY. AT LEAST 620 PERSONS REPORTEDLY ARRIVED AT LAS TROJES, HONDURAS, FROM THE SAN JOSE DE BOCAJ AREA OF NORTHERN JINOTEGA DEPARTMENT AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) CAMP AT JACALEAPA, HONDURAS. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE THE 20TH, 137 MISKITO INDIANS REPORTEDLY ARRIVED IN LIMON, COSTA RICA, FROM THE BLUEFIELDS AND SAN JUAN DEL NORTE AREAS OF ZELAYA AND, ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT, AT LEAST 100 MISKITOS ARRIVED AT PILARAN REFUGEE CAMP, COSTA RICA.

3. IN LATE JULY, SOME 18,000 NICARAGUAN REFUGEES WERE REPORTED IN HONDURAS, INCLUDING ABOUT 15,000 MISKITOS. ADDITIONALLY, UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTING IN MID-JULY ESTIMATED SOME 20,000 NICARAGUANS WERE IN COSTA RICA, BUT MOST ARE PROBABLY NOT REFUGEES.

4. INTERVIEWS WITH REFUGEES REVEAL INCREASING REPRESSION ALONG THE BORDER BY SANDINISTA FORCES, WHO OFTEN FALSELY ACCUSE LOCAL INHABITANTS OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENTS, EXECUTE SUSPECTED GUERRILLA COLLABORATORS, TAKE FOOD AT GUNPOINT, FORCE YOUTHS TO JOIN THE MILITIA, DAMAGE OR DESTROY VILLAGES, AND BEAT OR JAIL THEIR INHABITANTS. SOME REFUGEES SAY ENTIRE VILLAGES HAVE FLED OR ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE. ALSO, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THE SANDINISTAS HAVE BEGUN TO FORCIBLY MOVE CIVILIANS INTO PROTECTED CAMPS--PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHEAST--AWAY FROM THE BORDERS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE CAMPS SET UP FOR THE MISKITOS SINCE EARLY 1982.

5. COMMENT: MOST NICARAGUAN REFUGEES HAVE FLED SINCE LATE 1981, WHEN SANDINISTA FORCES INTENSIFIED REPRESSION OF THE MISKITOS IN THE NORTHEAST. THIS REPRESSION SPREAD TO OTHER BORDER AREAS, WHERE THE MILITARY IS INCREASINGLY ATTEMPTING TO INTIMIDATE LOCAL INHABITANTS AND PREVENT THEM FROM AIDING THE GUERRILLAS. ALTHOUGH THIS POLICY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN DENYING THE GUERRILLAS ASSISTANCE IN SOME AREAS, IT HAS PROMPTED A GROWING NUMBER OF LOCAL INHABITANTS TO JOIN THE INSURGENCY.

ACTION JSI-7(1) (D.A.6,7,F)
INFO CJCS(4) CJCS:(1) DJS:(2) JPG(1) J1(1) J3(6) NIDS(1)
J3:NMCC(1) SAGA:(4) J4(4) J5(2) USRMCLO(1)
USCINCCENTLO(1) NSC(5) SECDEF:(1) SECDEF(9) USDP(15)
ASD:PA(1) ASD:PA&E(1) ATSD:AE(2) :DIA(12) NMIC(1)
JSW-2(1) AT(1) DB-3E(2) DB-502(1) DIA(1)
+USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
+SAFE

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