



United States Department of State

*Coordinator of Public Diplomacy for
Latin America and the Caribbean*

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 5, 1986

TO: NSC - Mr. Walt Raymond
FROM: S/LPD - Otto J. Reich
SUBJECT: Denial of Detail of Personnel by DoD

With Col. David Brown's letter of December 17, 1985 (Tab 1), the Department of Defense has turned down our request for a detail of two officers and two non-commissioned officers to S/LPD on a non-reimbursable basis.

This denial of desperately needed resources appears to conflict with the President's expressed desire for an effective public diplomacy effort, as expressed in the attached NSC memoranda (Tabs 3 and 4). According to Col. Brown's letter to me, the prime basis for the denial of resources was "not uniquely military or of primary benefit to the Department of Defense." The skills requested in S/LPD's letter of September 18, 1985 (Tab 2)--intelligence analysis and production of persuasive communications--are combined only in military Psychological Operations personnel.

Prior to S/LPD's request, five TDY personnel from the 4th Psychological Operations Group served in S/LPD from June 4 to November 4, 1985. The two officers and three non-commissioned officers did the initial setup of information handling and analyzing systems to be operated by the permanent detailees. These systems, when fully operational, will provide information analysis capability fundamental to the production of effective persuasive public diplomacy documents. Analysis of Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan propaganda campaigns and their effect on democratic response to specific Central American issues, the synthesis of all-source intelligence, and the ability to convert abstract analyses into effective U.S. policy responses are skills normally combined in those who have worked in strategic PSYOP. We realize that the cadre of U.S. officers and NCO's possessing these skills is limited and in great demand; however, the overall national interest would be well served if some of these assets are placed in S/LPD to work on a problem of vital national importance--Central American


public diplomacy. S/LPD currently coordinates government-wide efforts to ensure that the public and Congress understand U.S. policy in Central America.

The five military personnel who were temporarily detailed to S/LPD were highly effective in support of our mission. They developed systems for continued analysis of Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan propaganda and political warfare actions by military analysts. The product of such analysis will permit an effective U.S. reaction to these initiatives at a strategic level. S/LPD's mission will suffer unless personnel are obtained to operate the analytical systems these personnel set up. By placing personnel in these positions, DoD has an opportunity to shape U.S. public diplomacy initiatives on Central America. I urge that DoD reconsider its turndown of support to S/LPD. As outlined by the President, the mission of S/LPD requires support from outside agencies to succeed.

Attachments:

- Tab 1 - December 17, 1985, letter from Col. David Brown.
- Tab 2 - September 18, 1985, letter to Col. Brown.
- Tab 3 - NSC memorandum dated July 1, 1983.
- Tab 4 - NSC memorandum dated August 1, 1984.

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