### ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

**TO:** (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)  
1. Elliott Abrams  
2. Gary Matthews  
3. Ryan Malarkey  
4. George Lister

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**REMARKS**

GRN Human Rights Record.

**DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions**

**FROM:** (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)  
G. Lister

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U.S.G.P.O.: 1965.421-529/320  
OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
Prescribed by OSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206
August 15, 1984

To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: GRN Human Rights Record

Ken Peoples is preparing a draft paper on GRN human rights violations, in response to the attached request from Otto Reich. Some thoughts and recommendations are set forth below.

I hope our goal is to persuade those who are not anti-GRN, rather than simply to compile a blistering record of GRN human rights violations. Making Nicaragua sound like A LIVING HELL will be about as credible as Sandinista propaganda describing DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY WORKERS AND PEASANTS. Credibility should be our number one objective, and the USG needs it very badly with respect to Nicaragua, both at home and abroad. To that end, I suggest we include at least a couple of passing references to worthy GRN endeavors on behalf of popular education, health, etc., as well as to the lousy record of the Somoza governments. An honest, objective evaluation of GRN performance will be far more effective than heavy handed propaganda, and no Government's record is all bad. I know how psychologically satisfying a "hard hitting" report can be to its authors and sympathetic readers. But we should aim for a different audience.

Will HA have a chance to see revisions of our draft before the paper goes to press?

George Lister

cc: Ken Peoples
    Jim Thyden-M. Gustafson
MEMORANDUM

TO: HA - Assistant Secretary Abrams
FROM: S/LPD - Otto J. Reich
SUBJECT: Public Diplomacy Paper on Nicaraguan Internal Repression

The NSC has requested that we issue a paper on Nicaraguan internal repression and violation of human rights as a follow-up to the recently released background paper Nicaragua's Military Build-up and Support for Subversion in Central America. Since your bureau is following human rights closely, we would appreciate your help in preparing a draft on Sandinista internal repression.

Attached are two preliminary drafts on Nicaraguan repression. One was prepared by ex-Maryknoll nun, Geraldine Macias. Also some additional materials which may be of help are:

-- A draft White House Digest on Sandinista Violation of Human Rights
-- Translation of Nicaraguan Catholic Church's Open Letter to Nicaraguan Youth
-- OAS Report on Miskito Indians
-- May 12, 1984 Report of the Nicaraguan Permanent Commission on Human Rights
-- Testimony of Sandinista Defector Miguel Bolanos Hunter

Our target date for having a draft to circulate for inter-agency as well as departmental clearance is noon, August 20, to S/LPD. S/LPD will handle all clearances outside HA.

Attachment: As stated

Want "Matter-of-fact" but with "punch." Want to follow format of White House Digest, but use much more...