12-17-1986

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Nicaraguan President Fears Reagan Will Order Invasion In Attempt To Divert Attention From Iran/contra Arms Scandal

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, December 17, 1986

According to a report by REUTERS, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was quoted Dec. 16 as saying he feared President Reagan will order an invasion of Nicaragua as a means of diverting attention from the Iran/contra arms scandal. Ortega's remarks occurred during an interview with West German magazine STERN in an interview released before publication scheduled for Dec. 18. The Nicaraguan leader said there had been indications in recent days that the US was planning action against his government. Ortega asserted that a man like Reagan was "especially unpredictable and dangerous" when under attack. "I think it possible that he will divert attention from his internal problems and illegal acts by carrying out some 'heroic act' like those against Libya and Grenada," he said. Reagan, said Ortega, is obsessed with the notion of destroying the Sandinista government so much so that he would not shrink from breaking US laws. When asked about his perceptions on US arms sales to Iran, and the diversion of profits to the contras, Ortega replied: "What can one think of the president of a superpower who never knew what his closest advisers and CIA people were up to? I'm afraid one day when his generals and admirals press the button that could unleash an atomic war, he won't know anything about it."

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