

Here are translations of some of the terms in the message: EPS (Ejercito Popular Sandinista) is the Sandinista Army; PDF is Panamanian Defense Force; CG is commanding general; Project Democracy (PD) is North's name for his off-the-books covert enterprise in partnership with retired general Richard Secord; and OPSEC refers to operational security, that is, both keeping Noriega from taping the meeting and keeping Congress and the American public from knowing about the meeting or the quid pro quo.



Pointexter responds less than two hours later (17:45 on August 23). He likes the idea of working a deal with Noriega: On "helping him to clean up his act," Pointexter says, "we should be willing to do that for nearly nothing." Pointexter demurs (as North did) on encouraging

Noriega to assassinate the Sandinista leadership, but "[m]ore sabotage would be another story." He endorses North's plan to meet with Noriega, saying, "I have nothing against him other than his illegal activities."!

Date: 11/22/86 User: NSJMP  
NSJMP --CPUA NSOLN  
Iran

FROM: NSJMP --CPUA  
TO: NSOLN --CPUA

TO: NSOLN --CPUA

08/23/86 17:45:02

\*\*\* Reply to note of 08/23/86 15:52

-- SECRET --

NOTE FROM: JOHN POINDEXTER

On Noreiga -- I wonder what he means about helping him to clean up his act? If he is really serious about that, we should be willing to do that for nearly nothing. If on the other hand, he just wants to get us indebted to him, so that he can blackmail us to lay off, then I am not interested. If he really has assets inside, it could be very helpful, but we can not (repeat not) be involved in any conspiracy on assassination. More sabotage would be another story. I have nothing against him other than his illegal activities. It would be useful for you to talk to him directly to find out exactly what he has in mind with regards to cleaning up his act.

WHITE HOUSE E-MAIL

UNCLASSIFIED