

# George W. Bush Presidential Library

## Mandatory Review 2017-0117-M

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**Series:** FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor – Karl Rove)

**Folder Title:** 536051

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

536051  
FC 006-27  
6281

June 27, 2003

C.E.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. KARL HOFMANN  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

MR. ANDREW H. CARD  
Chief of Staff to the  
President

MR. PAUL W. CURRY  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Department of the Treasury

MR. LEWIS LIBBY  
National Security Advisor to  
the Vice President

CAPT WILLIAM P. MARRIOTT, USN  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense

MR. ALBERTO R. GONZALES  
Counsel to the President

MR. DALE MOORE  
Chief of Staff to the  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

MR. KARL ROVE  
Advisor to the President

MR. FRED SCHWIEN  
Director, Executive  
Secretariat  
Department of Commerce

MR. DAVID HOBBS  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

MS. ROBIN CLEVELAND  
Associate Director for  
National Security and  
International Affairs  
Office of Management and  
Budget

MR. STEPHEN FRIEDMAN  
Assistant to the President  
for Economic Policy

MR. WILLIAM THORNTON  
Acting Executive Secretary  
U.S. Trade Representative

MR. PHILLIP L. SWAGEL  
Chief of Staff  
Council of Economic Advisers

(b)(3), 50 USC 3507

COL EDWARD W. SNEAD, USA  
Secretary, Joint Staff

SUBJECT: Agenda and Discussion Paper for Principal's  
Committee Meeting on FTAA Strategy

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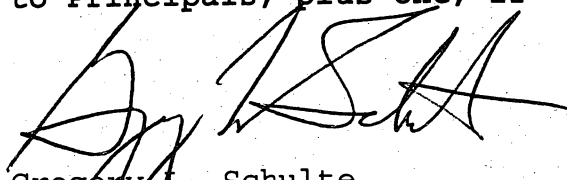
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Reason: 1.5(d)  
Declassify on: 6/27/13

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Authority LP-GWR-2017-0117-M #5111  
By Nlt NARA, Date 12/13/19

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Attached are the agenda and USTR discussion paper for the Principal's Committee Meeting on FTAA Strategy, which will be held on Monday, June 30, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., in the White House Situation Room. Please pass to Principals, plus one, if applicable. ~~(C)~~



Gregory L. Schulte  
Executive Secretary

Attachments

Tab A

Agenda

Tab B

Discussion Paper on FTAA Strategy (USTR)

# George W. Bush Presidential Library

## Mandatory Review 2017-0117-M

**Collection:** National Economic Council

**Series:** Glenn, Dylan – Subject File

**Folder Title:** Jose Augusto Navarro – Government  
of Nicaragua – Minister of  
Agriculture and Forestry –

02/11/2002

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**GOBIERNO DE NICARAGUA**  
**MINISTERIO AGROPECUARIO Y FORESTAL**  
*DESPACHO DEL MINISTRO*



*Ing. José Augusto Navarro*  
*Ministro*

February 7, 2002

Mr. Dylan C. Glenn  
Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy  
The National Economic Council  
The Old Executive Office Building  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

*By fax: 202-456-2223*

Dear Mr. Glenn,

I, along with the other members of the delegation visiting Washington, D.C. this week, very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns with the farm bill passed by the House (and pending in the Senate), as well as our concerns regarding the manner in which peanuts are currently imported into the U.S. marketplace.

As we discussed, Nicaragua remains very concerned that the farm bill currently pending before the Senate continues to provide heavy subsidies to U.S. farmers and makes it virtually impossible for Nicaraguan farmers (and farmers across Central America) to compete on fair terms with U.S. farmers in the U.S. marketplace or abroad. As the legislative process surrounding the farm bill continues moving forward, it is our sincere hope that President Bush and his negotiating team will use all of their authority to help ensure that any final farm bill complies with current international trade agreements and upholds the free trade commitments that successive U.S. administrations have made to U.S. trading partners around the world.

During our meeting, we also discussed with you just how important the peanut sector is to the Nicaraguan economy. Last year alone, Nicaragua's exports of shelled peanuts totaled 47,000 metric tons and brought nearly \$40 million dollars into the country's economy. Any assistance you could provide to us as we seek to gain the support of USTR (and especially the support of the USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator) to secure a country-specific U.S. peanut quota for Nicaragua, during upcoming international trade discussions and during future Rounds, would be most appreciated.

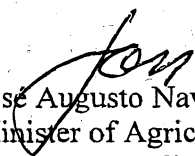
We would also like to ask for your assistance as we seek to learn more about the discretion USTR (and the U.S. government) might have to push this type of issue forward on an aggressive timeline. We ask this question because we fear that, even if there is a desire on behalf of the U.S. to work to secure a country specific quota for Nicaragua, that it might take years to accomplish this task within the context of the broader WTO Round negotiating process. If any type of expedited, pro-active process could be employed to tackle this problem, so that the benefits of a country-specific U.S. peanut import quota for Nicaragua could be derived for the

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coming crop years, this would be of critical importance to the Nicaraguan economy. I believe, strongly, that a strong peanut sector will help strengthen the overall Nicaraguan economy, as well as help ensure that the thousands of rural people now depending upon peanut farming for their livelihoods will continue to prosper as well.

In coming years, the Bolaños Administration plans to work very hard to help the Nicaraguan people, and particularly the country's agriculture sector, continue to grow and prosper. The U.S. has long been, and continues to be, a very important friend to the Nicaraguan people. We value this friendship and look forward to strengthening and expanding the important dialogue between our two countries in the weeks and months to come. Thank you very much, in advance, for your time and consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

  
José Augusto Navarro  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Government of Nicaragua

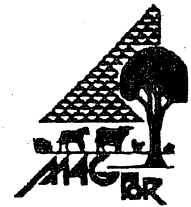


**JOSE AUGUSTO NAVARRO**  
**MINISTRO MAQ-FORE**

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**GOBIERNO DE NICARAGUA**  
**MINISTERIO AGROPECUARIO Y FORESTAL**  
 DESPACHO DEL MINISTRO



**A Request for the Support of the U.S. Government in Securing a  
 Country-Specific U.S. Peanut Import Quota for Nicaragua**

**Background:**

- Peanut farming has been, since 1990, a vitally important part of the Nicaraguan economy. Approximately 40,000 people are currently employed in the growing, harvesting, shelling and export of peanuts in Nicaragua. The rural areas where peanut farming is done in Nicaragua are the same areas that were heavily affected by hurricane Mitch and, more recently, by a serious drought.
- Last year alone, Nicaragua's exports of shelled peanuts totaled 47,000 metric tons, which brought approximately \$33 million into the country's economy. After coffee, peanuts rank as Nicaragua's second largest agricultural export and represent 5% of Nicaragua's total exports.
- Though the Nicaraguan peanut industry has steadily grown in strength and productivity over the last several years, Nicaraguan farmers (like other farmers in the region and around the world) are worried about their future. Increasingly, import restrictions and other trade barriers are making a difficult situation nearly impossible.

**Current Situation:**

- One of the most important export destinations for Nicaraguan peanuts (and for Nicaraguan exports overall) is the U.S. marketplace. However, Nicaragua is currently limited (under a 1993 GATT agreement) in the amount of peanuts that it can sell (at in-quota tariff rates) each year in the United States marketplace.
- Under this agreement (which will remain in place until it is re-negotiated), only a certain amount (or quota) of peanuts can come into the U.S. marketplace each year at special tariff rates. Foreign peanuts can come in above-quota, but at very high tariff rates and, therefore, at non-competitive prices.
- When the 1993 GATT agreement was negotiated, Argentina was assigned 80% of the GATT quota. The remaining 20% of the GATT quota can be filled by any of the other WTO-eligible peanut exporting countries. The entire GATT tonnage for 2001 was 52,906 metric tons, out of which Argentina was assigned 43,901 metric tons. The other WTO-eligible countries combined received an allotment of 9,005 metric tons.
- The entire U.S. quota is usually filled on the very same day that the quota period opens (which is on April 1st of each year). This process is extremely competitive. Any excess peanuts that do not make it into the U.S. market under this quota allotment must then be re-exported out of the United States, at extra cost to the sellers.

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority LP-GWB 2017-0117-M #5107  
 By NH NARA, Date 12/13/19

*Apartado Postal 2335 Managua, Nicaragua - Telefonos 276-2155, 276-0233, 276-2037 - Fax: 276-0390 -*

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**GOBIERNO DE NICARAGUA**  
**MINISTERIO AGROPECUARIO Y FORESTAL**  
 DESPACHO DEL MINISTRO



- For the last several years, the countries filling the majority of the GATT open quota, in addition to Nicaragua, were China, South Africa and Australia.
- Last year, Nicaragua placed 6,000 metric tons of peanuts in U.S. territory (of the 9,005 metric tons of peanuts eligible for the GATT open quota). 3,000 metric tons did not fall within the quota allotment, as the quota was oversubscribed by 52%, and had to be re-exported out of the United States (at substantial extra cost to the Nicaraguan exporters).

**Request:**

- Given the facts articulated above, the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan peanut farmers would like to ask for the support of the U.S. government (and particularly the support of The Office of the United States Trade Representative), in upcoming international agricultural negotiations, in working to secure a country specific U.S. peanut import quota for Nicaragua.
- Specifically, Nicaragua's hope would be to gain U.S. government support for the establishment of a country specific quota that would enable the Nicaraguan peanut farmers to send somewhere between 6,000 and 15,000 metric tons of peanuts into the U.S. marketplace each year.
- If the U.S. government finds that it can be supportive of such a request, the Nicaraguan government would then propose that a first step in this process could be the organization of discussion/planning sessions between the agricultural trade negotiators of both governments. The purpose of these planning sessions would be to provide the negotiators from both countries an opportunity to develop (and begin implementing), together, a strategy to work towards achieving this goal.

**Conclusion:**

- Over the last decade, with the support of successive U.S. administrations, Nicaragua has worked hard to build its economy. Now, the Nicaraguan peanut industry is one of the biggest rural employers in the country. The Nicaraguan government believes that finding ways to maintain viable rural employment options, in a country that is still considered one of the poorest countries in the region, will be a critical element in Nicaragua's continued ability to grow and prosper.
- Nicaragua will continue to look for ways, in coming weeks and months, to work together with the U.S. government to encourage stronger bilateral trade between the U.S. and the region (particularly through the upcoming discussions and negotiations surrounding a future U.S.-Central American Free Trade Accord).
- Nicaragua is mindful that the reduction of trade barriers, combined with a strong export-led economy, will help Nicaragua and other countries in the region continue to grow and prosper, as well as help maintain the peace and stability that the country and the region (with U.S. support) fought so hard to achieve over the last decade.

*Apartado Postal 2335 Managua, Nicaragua - Telefonos 276-2055, 276-0233, 276-2037 -\*. Fax: 276-0390 -*

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Series: PRS Originals

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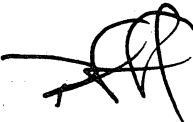
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