

North proceeds to set up the meeting with Noriega, in London, on September 22, 1986. In this September 20 e-mail, North says he has checked off the overture with Elliott Abrams, who in turn has cleared it with Secretary of State George Shultz, "who thinks we ought to proceed." Then, early on September 22, Poindexter greenlights North's trip to London—three months after the *New York Times* story exposing Noriega's criminality. While the e-mail trail apparently ends here, we know the details of the London meeting from North's notebooks (pried out of the

government by a National Security Archive and Public Citizen Freedom of Information lawsuit). In fact, Noriega and North worked out arrangements for training and logistics support for the contras, as well as targeting Nicaraguan ports, an oil refinery, and other installations for sabotage. The North-Noriega plan came to naught, however, when three weeks later a Nicaraguan soldier shot down Eugene Hasenfus's plane, exposing North's contra-support network ("Project Democracy") and precipitating the Iran-contra scandal.

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

09/20/86 12:04:15

*** Reply to note of 09/17/86 14:35
NOTE FROM: OLIVER NORTH

Noriega wants to meet me in London on Tues. morning. Elliott and I have talked it over and he has talked to Shultz who thinks we ought to proceed. UNODIR, will depart for London on the 1845 flight Monday, Arrive London 0630 Tues. Dep London at 1345 Tues and be back here 1730 Tues. This shd serve to minimize time lost/visibility and preserve OPSEC. V/R, North

MSG FROM: NSJMP --CPUA TO: NSOLN --CPUA
To: NSOLN --CPUA

09/22/86 08:37:02

*** Reply to note of 09/20/86 12:04

NOTE FROM: JOHN POINDEXTER

Ok on trip to London.

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