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ELLIOT ABRAMS TO PLEAD GUILTY ON TWO COUNTS

REGARDING IRAN/CONTRA SCANDAL

Former Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams, who is expected to plead guilty this afternoon on two counts relating to the Iran/contra scandal, and who previously has admitted that he lied to Congress, probably did more damage to U.S. - Latin American relations during his tenure in office than any of his predecessors. Arrogant and abrasive, contemptuous of the opinions of others (he once told Canadian authorities that "we think we know more about Central America than you do"), Abrams would do anything to advance the cause of democracy in Latin America except respect the right of self-determination and the right of innocent Central American civilians to be free of the fear of being killed by U.S.-armed military death squads.

His appalling disregard for the democratic process and the fanaticism of his extremist ideology was perhaps best known through his having lied to Congress. What is not so well known is the manner in which he purged the Inter-American Bureau of dissident points of view just as Robert Gates dealt with disagreeing analysts in the CIA. Also, Abrams' anti-democratic personality was repeatedly exhibited when he frequently cancelled speaking engagements at a number of colleges and university debates, as well as tried to exercise a veto by threatening not to appear on television public affairs programs because he did not approve of the opposing speakers.

Notice to the Press: The Council on Hemispheric Affairs has an extensive collection of research materials on the Elliot Abrams years which are available upon request.

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