

A Collection in Support of the Nicaraguan People

Taking into account the hostile siege against the Nicaraguan people and their struggle for self-determination, as well as the critical economic situation that country faces, one thousand Mexicans belonging to different political and ideological currents began a national fund-raising drive for Nicaragua during the last week of September. Their purpose is to set up an emergency fund that will be used to purchase urgently needed goods for the Central American country.

Under the slogan: "In the presence of dollars for war, contributions for peace," the initial funders called on the peoples of Mexico, America and the world to unleash a public opinion movement to alert citizens and governments about the foreign and military intervention against Nicaragua, as well as the risks this represents for peace, democratic development and self-determination. The one thousand politicians, intellectuals and journalists, among others, who signed the call to action, charged that the government of the United States has made Nicaragua a target for its aggressive interventionist strategy, even assigning funds for armed bands whose specific aim is to overthrow a legitimately constituted government. They stated that, adding insult to injury, Washington approved \$100 million in aid to the Somocista bands and then arrogantly dismissed the World Court's finding condemning U.S. aggression against Nicaragua.

The one thousand contributed 10,000 pesos each to set up a trust fund with an initial deposit of 10 million pesos (some \$12,500), and called on individuals and institutions to contribute to the cause. The resources will be used to purchase food, medicine and clothing, materials for building homes and schools and medical equipment for hospitals.

IN THE PRESENCE OF DOLLARS FOR WAR, CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PEACE Preliminary Considerations

1. The government of the United States has made Nicaragua a target for an aggressive interventionist strategy that assigns funds to armed bands with the explicit aim of "destabilizing" the legitimately constituted government, an original offspring of the Popular Revolution

that overthrew the dictator Anastasio Somoza on July 19, 1979.

2. During the last few weeks, contravening basic principles of international law, Reagan Administration officials, and President Reagan himself, have increased their verbal terrorism in support of their material terrorism fueled by Congress' recent authorization of \$100 million in aid and of CIA support for the Somocista bands. To this must be added Washington's arrogant disobedience of the World Court at the Hague's ruling condemning U.S. aggression against Nicaragua.

3. At the same time, some neighboring governments, under open pressure from Washington, tend to distance themselves from the pacifying, disarmamentist and non-interventionist actions developed in the region by the Contadora Group, and this further adds to the evident hostile siege against the Nicaraguan people and their efforts towards self-determination. To this must be added that U.S. troops, tanks, fighter aircraft and military advisors stationed in North American bases located along Nicaragua's boundaries, also lay siege behind this initial encirclement.

Militarist and interventionist sectors within the United States are trying to impose the East-West confrontation on the situation in order to justify the aggression, all within an outlook that would turn Nicaragua, and eventually the whole of Central America, into a bloody battlefield for the hegemonist powers, with disastrous consequences for peace, stability and civilized coexistence in all of Latin America.

FACED WITH THESE FACTS AND THIS OMINOUS OUTLOOK, WE, THE MEXICAN CITIZENS WHO SIGN THIS STATEMENT, CALL ON THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO AND ON THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD TO:

I. Erect a public opinion movement that can keep citizens and governments alike alerted to the ongoing military intervention against Nicaragua and to the risks this implies for peace, democratic development and the self-determination of the peoples of America and the world. Given this course of events, our impassiveness

means abandoning our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters when they face a disproportioned military power, which means condemning them to destruction and their incipient institutions to annihilation. Peace in the Americas is indivisible.

II. Mobilize the citizens of the world so that their voices may be heard in behalf of:

— A stop to the bellicose preparations promoted, organized and sponsored by the current government of the United States against the people of Nicaragua.

— U.S. obeisance of international law and of the resolutions passed by the institutions charged with its application.

— A stop to and a rejection of the United States' pressure on Central American governments, in order to recompose favorable regional conditions so that Latin America's Contadora Group and its Support Groups can immediately resume their peace-making efforts.

— Self-determination and non-intervention in Central America.

III. Immediately start a world-wide fund-raising drive and collection of necessary goods for the Nicaraguan people under the slogan:

IN THE PRESENCE OF DOLLARS FOR WAR,
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PEACE

We have set up a trust fund in Banca Cremi under the name of "Fund to Support Peace in Nicaragua," in order to handle donations.

We call on individuals, groups and institutions to deposit their contributions in account No. 5168000-6 in Banca Cremi, S.N.C. We mean to start similar movements in other countries, and we call on peace loving people to reproduce this initiative by whatever means available to them, both in Mexico and abroad.

(This statement was published followed by the signatures of 1,000 well-known Mexican citizens.)★