

Daniel Ortega

The First Free Elections in Nicaragua's History

November 1984

Dirección General de Divulgación
y Prensa de la JGRN

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Speech by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the National Directorate of the FSLN and Coordinator of the National Reconstruction Government Junta. Given in Managua, Nicaragua, on March 13, 1984.

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From: The National Reconstruction Government Junta

To: The people of Nicaragua and the World

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measures and initiatives aimed at a peaceful solution to the Central American problem; interference in the internal affairs of Nicaraguans and pressures on governments friendly to Nicaragua which lend their valuable cooperation and support to the material and moral reconstruction of Nicaraguan society.

All these measures by the U. S. administration have been aimed at trying to undermine the support that the international community has consistently given to the Nicaraguan people's right to self-determination and independence, the right of a people determined to advance their revolutionary process toward the building of a new society based on political pluralism, a mixed economy and a non-aligned foreign policy.

In the economic sphere, the current U. S. administration's actions are also well known: the financial boycott; the blockade and even veto of aid from international lending organizations; the flagrant violations of international financial agreements and commercial sabotage. These acts are well known to the international community and have been an impediment

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From the very moment that the current U.S. administration took office in January 1981, Nicaragua has been the victim of constantly escalating political, economic and military aggressions by that administration.

Well known in the political sphere are the defamation campaigns launched against the efforts made by the people of Sandino; sabotage of all international measures and initiatives aimed at a peaceful solution to the Central American problem; interference in the internal affairs to Nicaraguans and pressures on governments friendly to Nicaragua which lend their valuable cooperation and support to the material and moral reconstruction of Nicaraguan society.

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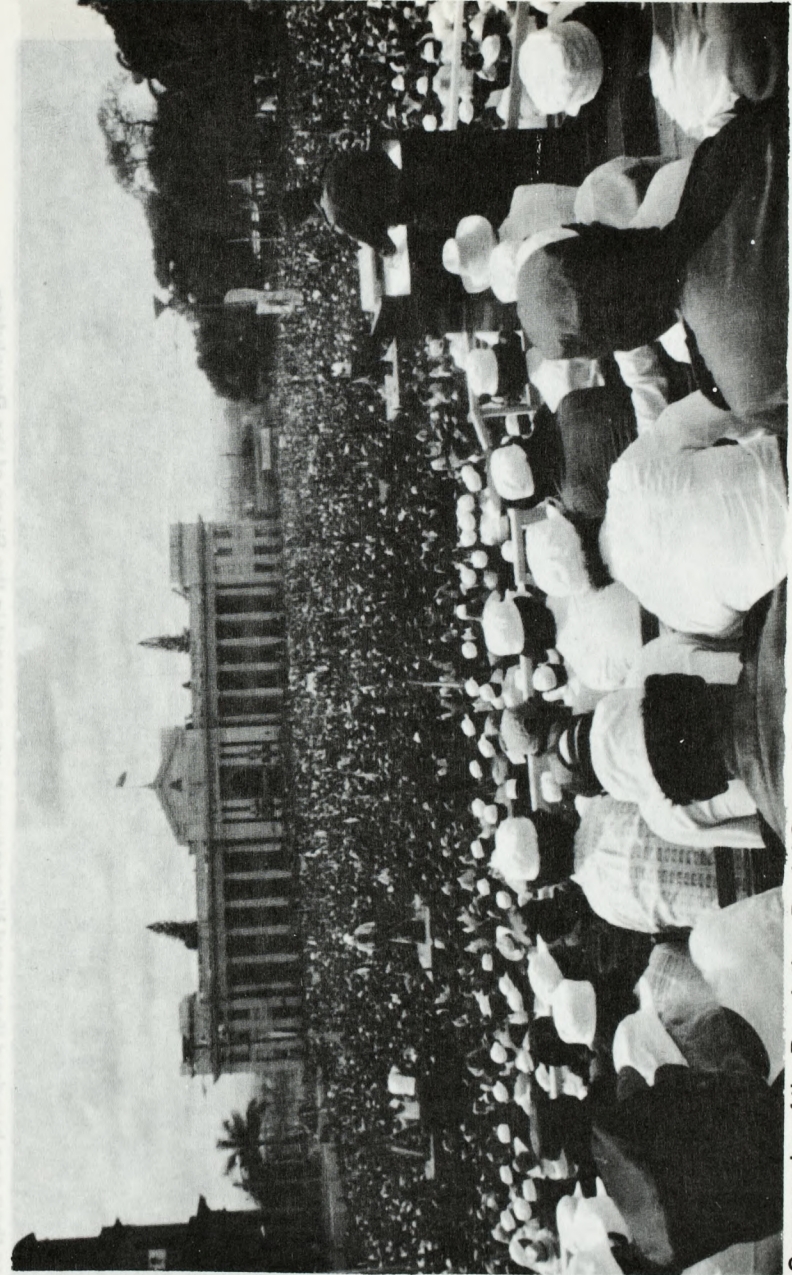
In the economic sphere, the current U.S. administration's actions are also well known: the financial boycott; the blockade and even veto of aid from international lending organizations; the flagrant violations of international financial agreements and commercial sabotage. These acts are well known to the international community and have been accompanied

by numerous military aggressions against our economy, causing losses this year alone of more than 30 percent of the total value of our exports this year. All this has placed Nicaragua in a state of national economic emergency.

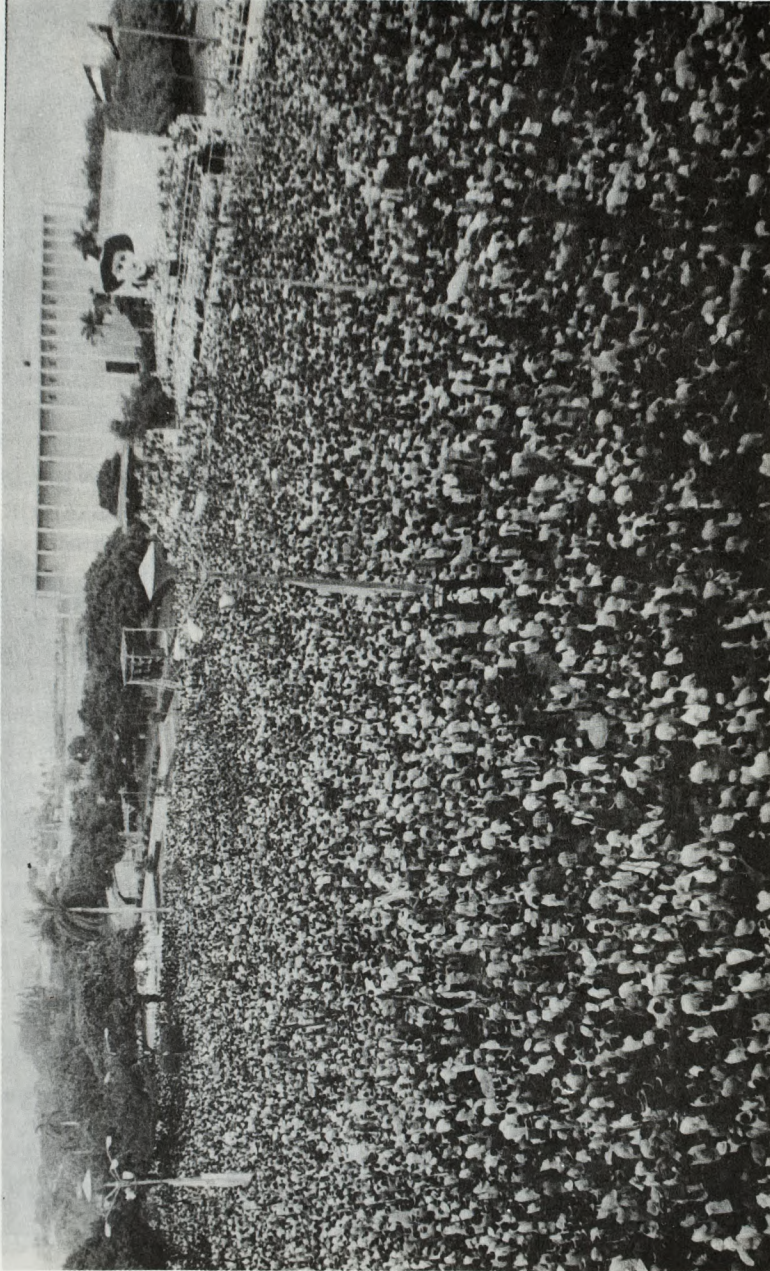
But above all, well known are the warlike policies the Reagan administration is implementing in the region. The virtual occupation of Honduras has turned that country into an immense U.S. military base prepared to launch large-scale operations, with U.S. military personal and resources, against El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Along with this military occupation of Honduras, the organization, training, financing and supplying of counterrevolutionary bands by the U.S. government have not stopped for one moment. Working through the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. government has installed its bases of operations and counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory, with the complicity of sectors of the Honduran army's General Staff and the complacency of the current government of that country. It has also installed camps and bases of operations in Costa Rican territory, from which terrorist attacks are launched against the Nicaraguan people. In this way, the United States administration is flagrantly violating the neutrality proclaimed by that neighboring country.

Faced with this situation, on numerous occasions Nicaragua has turned to the international community, the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the governments which comprise the Contadora Group, the Organization of American States, friendly governments and international political organizations, in order to denounce these grave and



Commander of the Revolution, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the National Directorate of the FSLN and Coordinator of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction, announces to the people of Nicaragua that elections will take place the 4th of November, 1984.



More than one hundred thousand Nicaraguans were present in the Plaza of the Revolution, Managua, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of General Augusto C. Sandino.

intolerable violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, of which the United States is not only a member-nation, but a permanent member of the Security Council, the highest body charged with guaranteeing world peace and security.

Nicaragua has also welcomed and encouraged all initiatives of third countries that seek a political solution to the area's problems. And we have sought and promoted bilateral and multilateral contacts to find a just and rightful solution based on respect. But in all cases we have encountered the boycott and persistence of the United States government in pressuring for military confrontation in Central America that would serve only as an intermediate step for a direct and large-scale U.S. involvement. Thus, the United States promotes a situations which it will later not know how to control or end.

On march 6, 1984, the border town of Santo Tomás del Nance was attacked with mortars fired from Honduran territory. The authors of the attack are well known: the United States government and its instruments, the Honduran army and Somocista ex-guards. This time, the victim of the U.S. administration's crime was a one year old girl, Eteivis Karine Cardenas Rivera.

At a time when Nicaragua is beginning the first free electoral process in its history, which will culminate with the election of an executive and legislative branch in November 1984, the U.S. government is requesting a total of US\$21 million from the U.S. Congress to continue the escalation of covert terrorist actions and thus continue assassinating children like Eteivis Karine Cardenas Rivera.

The United States executive branch makes this request at a time when a new stage of armed aggressions is just beginning against Nicaraguan economic and military targets, resulting in more victims among the Nicaraguan people.

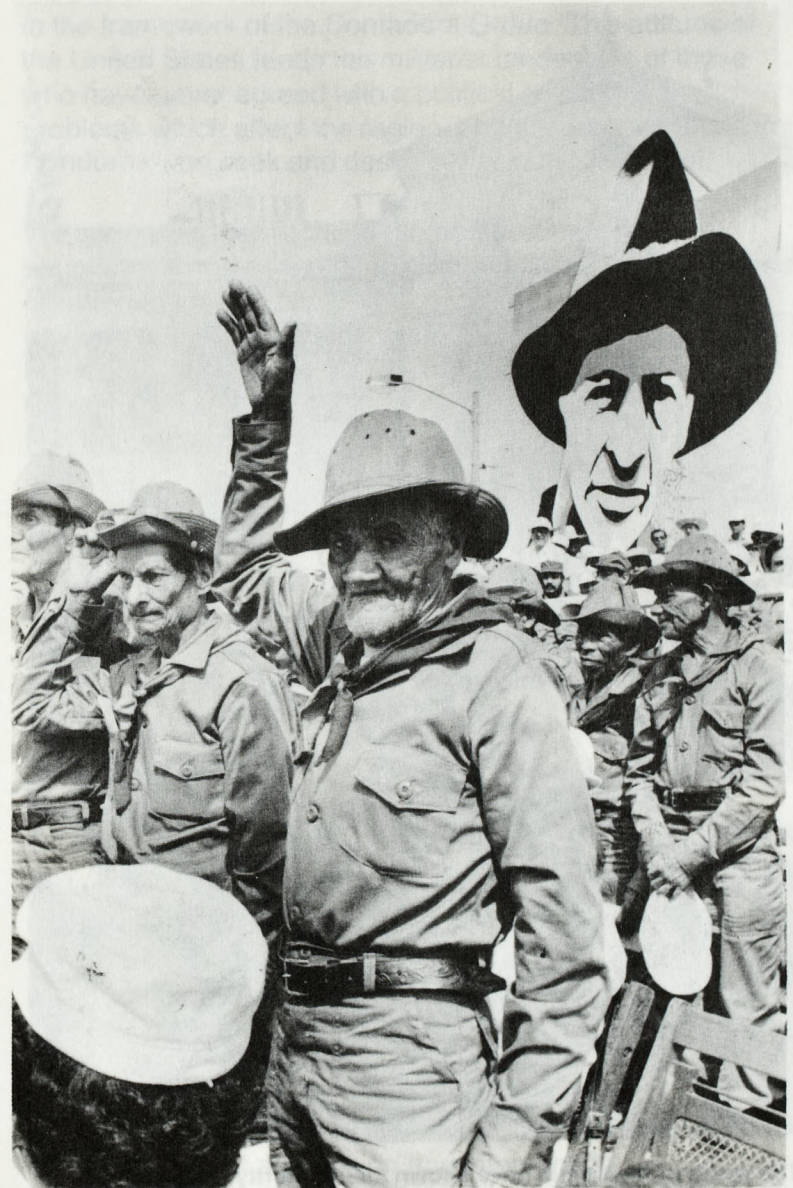
It is no secret that air and sea attacks against fishing boats, coast guard vessels and port facilities, as well as the placement of explosive charges at the entrance of the ports of El Bluff and Corinto, have been carried out under the direction and with the approval of CIA units based in Honduras and Costa Rica, and with the support of U.S. army units based in Honduras and the so-called Canal Zone in Panama.

All these terrorist actions demonstrate, in their planning and execution, a dangerous qualitative leap in the use of military techniques and equipment in Central America. And above all, they constitute the initiation of attempts to blockade Nicaraguan trade, disregarding international law and maritime traffic.

While these attacks intensify and increase, the U.S. administration is sending thousands of troops to Honduran territory and moving its warships to Central American coasts in a threatening deployment of forces, only five months after those same forces intervened in Grenada.

Nicaragua denounces that once again the United States government is approaching the possibility of military intervention in Central America, thus threatening the people of El Salvador and Nicaragua. The pretext of supposedly guaranteeing the elections in El Salvador through military means could not be less convincing.

It is necessary to state clearly that the danger of a



Veterans that formed part of the Army in Defense of the National Sovereignty, who fought at the side of General Augusto C. Sandino.



The youth in Nicaragua have shown their maturity to vote at 16 years of age, by participating in the defense and production activities.

U.S. military intervention exists and seriously damages the peace efforts and the advances that have been made in the framework of the Contadora Group. This attitude of the United States feeds the militarist tendencies of those who have never agreed with a political solution to the problems which affect the region, and encourages those in Honduras who seek and desire a war with Nicaragua.

We are aware that, in these moments, confidence in negotiations and peace efforts is dwindling. Given this grave situation, the Nicaraguan government calls on all governments of the world, on the United Nations, on the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, on the Contadora Group, on the people of the United States, to demand that the United States government:

- 1) Immediately withdraw its troops and means of war from the region.
- 2) Immediately end aggressions against Nicaragua.
- 3) Begin at once to search for reasonable political solutions to the crisis in El Salvador.
- 4) Seriously begin to seek solutions to the problems which have arisen with Nicaragua.

As long as this situation remains unchanged, as long as the United States government does not take steps toward reducing tensions, steps that facilitated dialogue and a political and peaceful solution to the regional crisis, we cannot and should not delude ourselves with false expectations about a political solution; the Nicaraguan people must continue preparing and strengthening themselves in order to confront and defeat imperialist aggression and intervention.

The Nicaraguan government, defending the right to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, calls upon the governments of the world to provide the Nicaraguan people with the technical and military means necessary to defend themselves against the state terrorism unleashed by the United States government against the people and government of Nicaragua.

Meanwhile we shall continue making efforts to institutionalize the Revolution and strengthen democracy. But those who attack us should know that just as our vocation for peace is inexhaustable, equally inexhaustable is our determination to defend our sovereignty, our homeland and our Revolution.

Managua, March 13, 1984, "After 50 Years... Sandino Lives On!"

Box 6, folder 1

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AFTER 50 YEARS. SANDINO LIVES ON!