

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files

Folder Title: Americas Coalition

Box: 2

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Americas Coalition 
c/o Capital Bank, N.A.
815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 872-1470

November 2, 1983

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building, Room 191
Washington

Dear Morton:

As suggested by you, through Dolf Droge, I enclose here a copy of a letter I have just written to President Reagan in the name of the Americas Coalition.

As to your further suggestion re particular points that might be emphasized in reply, the main one should probably be Point Two (see second page) on inviting leading Americans to sit on our National Advisory Board.

It would be very useful if leading figures in the entertainment world, in particular, as well as those in industry and commerce, joined the Board. Our hope is that the former would work with us to stage a "spectacular," from coast to coast, dramatizing the struggle in the Caribbean and Central America so that all Americans would be moved to support the President. Such a dramatization, with the participation of the President of course, could be filmed and re-run any number of times.

Other suggestions by you would be more than welcome.

With all best personal wishes,

Sincerely,



Daniel James
Director

Americas Coalition
c/o Capital Bank, N.A.
815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 872-1470

November 2, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Wilson Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington

Dear Mr. President:

The Americas Coalition takes this opportunity to express its enthusiastic approval of the action you have taken to remove the nascent Soviet-Cuban military base from Grenada and give its people a chance to be free once more. Under your courageous leadership, our brave men and women in uniform have dealt a serious blow to the developing Soviet "Caribbean Triangle."

But two sides of the "Triangle" remain, Cuba and Nicaragua. They represent an even greater danger to the region, and to our vital interests, since they are dedicated to converting the entire Central American mainland into a military base using subversion and guerrilla warfare to overthrow friendly neighboring countries such as El Salvador. You will need maximum support from every American to accomplish the removal of that threat.

Unfortunately, although the American people supported you overwhelmingly on the Grenada issue, there is no consensus for your policies elsewhere in the region. This lack is reflected in Congressional opposition to your requests for sufficient military aid for El Salvador, threatening our efforts there with failure.

Clearly, there is only one way to resolve the Congressional-Executive impasse: mobilize American opinion in favor of a determined military and economic commitment to the region's political integrity, democratic development, and peace. To form, in short, a consensus.

The Americas Coalition was founded for the purpose of forging that consensus. It consists of concerned private citizens determined to act on behalf of the principles of freedom for which this country stands. It is nonpartisan, nonpolitical, and nonprofit. It seeks to draw into its ranks other like-minded citizens, be they Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives. It calls upon all sectors of our society — industry, commerce, labor, science, education, politics, religion, performing and fine arts — to join with us in the struggle to keep the Americas free.

The Americas Coalition also calls upon our neighbors to the south to join us in that struggle, to form a counterpart "Coalición Américas" in their countries, thus reaching out to unite the entire Western Hemisphere in defense of shared values.

To achieve our objectives, we have begun to take these actions:

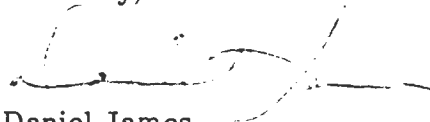
The President of the United States...2

1. Organize chapters of the Americas Coalition in the fifty states, at the grass roots.
2. Invite American leaders in all walks of life to sit on a National Advisory Board of the Americas Coalition.
3. Prepare a massive information-education campaign nationwide to include activities such as: placement of paid advertising and Op-Ed articles in the principal media; establishment of a research and documentation center, news service and newsletter; publication of books and pamphlets; production of TV shorts and documentary films; organization of a speakers' bureau, press conferences and mass rallies.
4. Conduct educational work among legislators to persuade them of the need to support your Central America policies.

Mr. President, we believe that nothing less than the survival of the United States and the values of Western civilization are at stake in the unfolding struggle in Central American and the Caribbean. Neither this country nor its neighbors can permit Soviet-Cuban penetration of this hemisphere. Indeed, totalitarianism of whatever stripe is unacceptable and must be opposed. The Americas Coalition, dedicated to uphold these concepts, consequently pledges to support your Central America policy and to rally the American people behind it.

Let us keep fighting to keep the Americas free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel James', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel James
Director