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file Cuba

CUBAN PATRIOTIC BOARD
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AREA

P. O. Box 404, Merrifield, VA., 22116

October 3, 1983

Dr. César Sepúlveda, Chairman,
Inter-American Human Rights Commission,
Organization of American States,
F and 19th. Sts. NW.,
Washington, D.C., 20006.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman:

In the condition that I have accredited since the creation of that Commission, as the Coordinator for the Washington Area of almost all organizations of former Cuban political prisoners, and also in my condition of representative of the Cuban Patriotic Board, it is my privilege to address you and, through your intercession the honorable members of the Commission, in order to express our gratitude once more for the opportunity afforded me to appear before the Commission, in order to state and denounce the following:

Through the reports that we have received we have learned that, after a lengthy drafting process, the Commission has completed and is getting ready to debate the approval of the Seventh Report about the Human Rights Situation in Cuba, in a general & comprehensive manner, not only including violations against political prisoners' human rights, especially the so-called "Plantados", all of whom have been subjected and continue being the victims of of "cruel, sub-human and degrading treatment", but also the violations against the human rights that the whole of the Cuban people is enduring, both those in the Island and the ones in exile, a million Cubans who are not able to return to their native country. That commendable work by the Commission must receive, at this time, our gratitude, despite our not having learned about the text of the Seventh Report. Thus, we will reserve our final opinion for that opportunity.

Along this process, we have contributed denouncements and testimonies on the violations against all human rights listed in the American Declaration of Human Rights and Duties and, furthermore, in the American Convention on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. The structure of the International System for the protection of human rights, in the sphere of the Americas, has been destroyed in Cuba.

Besides those denouncements and testimonies, our appearances together with former male & female former Cuban political prisoners; we have accompanied the legal texts that have been requested of us, in which it is possible to verify without any doubt, the INSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA. We delivered all the texts requested by the illustrious late member of that Commission, the Brazilian jurist Dr. Carlos Dunshee de Abranches, for the general meeting of the Commission, and we offered then, as we do now, all of our humble cooperation for the intended purposes.

The INSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS in Cuba stems from the so-called Socialist Constitution of 1976, as well as from the "laws" and "legal regulations" that are in force in Cuba. We are dealing with nothing less than the destruction of values and principles, attributes and rights which are inseparable from the human person, worked out, proclaimed and recognized in the Judeo-Christian civilization, especially in the Americas, with the resulting displacement and substitution of the juridical and political structure that guarantee those rights, values and principles. This is inherent to the Socialist-Marxist-Leninist system, unable to exist without those monstrous violations of the rights of the human being. A similar thing happened with Hitler's Nazism, that led to the slaughter of six million Jews. Both systems, in essence and practice, are equal as to denying

rights to the human person, regardless of their using different methods and fallacious justifications.

That is what the SEVENTH REPORT deals with: INSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA, confronting the system established in Cuba, that violates those human rights consecrated by the Judeo-Christian civilization that prevails in the Americas; not only casuistic and de facto violations, but the structure of a whole system that runs counter to the human being's dignity and rights.

We have been offered in various opportunities that INSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA would be included in this SEVENTH REPORT, and otherwise we know that the Commission was created to protect, safeguard, monitor and defend those rights inherent to men and women of the Americas. That historical role is incumbent upon you today, and that is the reason why we are appearing before you.

The destruction of the Cuban National Spirit, of its traditions, its spiritual and moral values, its culture that is the culture of the Americas and that of the Judeo-Christian civilization, ought to be in a priority place among the violations of human rights, since the latter are the warranty and safeguard of the human being's dignity. José Martí, the Apostle of Cuban Freedom, said it: "The first law of the Republic must be respect for the full human dignity." That respect does not exist in Cuba now.

The International Commission of Jurists, an organism adscribed to the United Nations, stated several years ago: "THE RULE OF LAW DOES NOT EXIST IN CUBA." That statement, issued by free persons in the Western World, is in full force today.

There does not exist in Cuba a basic "RULE OF LAW" for the guarantee of human rights, but a MARXIST-LENINIST TOTALITARIAN STATE, that violates human rights in a totalitarian fashion.

Discrimination in Cuba is totalitarian. There is discrimination and persecution on account of political beliefs, religious practices and race. There were 12,500 Jews in Cuba when Marxism-Leninism acceded to power, and only 600 of them are left today.

We have denounced and proven that workers have lost all their rights to assemble, to associate, to strike, to change employment, to request salary increases, to obtain a minimum number of working hours (the so-called "voluntary work" invalidates that right). When workers desired to establish a labor union similar to SOLIDARITY, in Poland, their representatives were persecuted, imprisoned and sentenced to lengthy terms and even to execution by firing squads.

Freedoms of thought and expression have been abolished. All communications media are in the hands of the TOTALITARIAN STATE.

There is no RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, only a mockery of freedom to deceive the naive.

There is no FREE EDUCATION, since there cannot be any education without freedom. Marxist-Leninist indoctrination is not education. A great Cuban educator, Don José de la Luz y Caballero, stated: "Anyone can instruct; only he who is a live Gospel is able to educate." But the gospel that is taught in Cuba now is that of hate, not of love.

Everything we affirm has been proven before the Commission with our denouncements, testimonies and plentiful documentation. Furthermore, it does not escape the wisdom of that Commission, acquired through its investigations and experiences.

Those who oppose the dictates of the regime continue to be executed by firing squads in Cuba. At the Managua military encampment, only ten miles away from La Habana, youngsters who refuse to serve the Soviet Union in Asia, Africa and Latin-America are being executed. Relatives of the victims do not even have the consolation of interring their dead ones. When they inquire about them, they are told that "they are performing some internationalist task or function, and that communication with them is not possible." Mourning relatives are not able to insist in their inquiries, because they run the risk of being imprisoned and deprived of their meager resources.

Timely and effective intervention by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, in many instances, has saved the lives or achieved the releases of many Cubans. That regime fears the public condemnations of the Commission, although the latter is prevented from investigating in loco.

In this appearance, we wish to request once more the urgent intervention of the Commission, on behalf of the "PLANTADOS" prisoners in the Boniato and other prisons, as well as for the benefit of all Cuban male and female political prisoners. A few of them have been released from prison, but they are forbidden to leave Cuban territory. We could mention an extensive list of them, but we will only cite the case of Dr. Andrés Vargas Gómez, a grandson of Generalísimo Máximo Gómez.

We requested the urgent intervention of the Commission in the case of former Rebel Army Commander (from the Students' Directory) RAMON GUIN DIAZ, who was imprisoned in 1965 and, since January 27, 1983, he was taken out of the so-called "Combinado del Este" prison, and has disappeared. Given the lack of communication that afflicts political prisoners, this situation has recently been known in the Cuban exiles' circles, but we fear for his life.

We furthermore denounce before you, Mr. President, and the other members of that Commission, a dramatic and urgent case, that of Cuban political prisoner SILVINO RODRIGUEZ BARRIENTOS, who has been kept incarcerated for 22 years, and the last 10 years he has been totally incommunicado from the exterior world. Now, the Marxist-Leninist regime is accusing him for "conspiracy", and we have just learned and are notifying that Commission as another denouncement, that they intend to execute Mr. RODRIGUEZ BARRIENTOS by a firing squad through that false accusation, despite his being imprisoned. We respectfully petition the Commission in order for adequate preventative measures to be taken and proper procedures to be followed, in order to spare the life of this Cuban political prisoner, to try to achieve his release from prison and to be allowed to leave Cuban territory.

Another Cuban political prisoner, GUILLERMO CASASUS, has also been transferred to the State Security Department, as a prelude that extreme measures are going to be taken against him, again in violation of his human rights and imperiling his life, because of which the intervention of the Commission is also requested.

We know that these three cases will not be included in the SEVENTH REPORT, which is already in the process for its approval, but we request that the Commission would intervene in accordance with its faculties, and we expect that resolutions will be adopted regarding same, as is usual with the Commission.

We respectfully request from the Commission that the human rights situation in Cuba will be included in the upcoming Annual Report of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, 1982-83, that will be submitted to the General Assembly of the OAS, regarding the SITUATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

If the Marxist-Leninist regime violates human rights in Cuba, because those violations are inherent to the system itself, it would not be sufficient to condemn the effects of those violations, but also and principally, the causes that produce those viola-

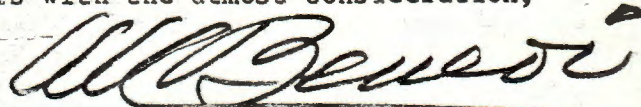
tions, that is, the Marxist-Leninist system must be condemned because of its violating, INSTITUTIONALLY AND DE FACTO, HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA, in an open confrontation with the American Declaration of Human Rights and Duties, and with the principles and values of the Judeo-Christian civilization in the sphere of the Americas.

The present regime in Cuba fashions an open case of anti-lawfulness, or more properly stated, lack of lawfulness, and it must be declared thus.

We petition you, Hon. Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, of the Organization of American States, that everything hereby stated and denounced will be considered with the same elevation, reflexion and respect that have always been afforded us, and that we may receive the same generous acceptance and consideration that we have been granted in past opportunities.

We take pleasure in remaining,

Yours with the utmost consideration,



Dr. Claudio F. Benedi

Coordinator, Representative of the Cuban Patriotic Board and several organizations of Cuban former political prisoners, male and female.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 26, 1983

Dr. Claudio F. Benedi
Junta Patriotica Cubana
900 S.W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33130

Dear Mr. Benedi:

On my behalf, and in that of my colleagues who voted in favor of the 1982 Joint Resolution (Symms Amendment), we want to publicly acknowledge our appreciation for the assistance that we received from the Junta Patriotica Cubana. The May 20th meeting held in front of our U.S. Senate has had a great patriotic and political impact in support of President Reagan's Central America and Caribbean Policy. The document delivered to us has been included in the Congressional Record for permanent testimony of this historic event.

Please transmit to Dr. Varona our best wishes for the success of the coming Convention of the Junta Patriotica Cubana. We are highly appreciative of the Junta's assistance in our joint endeavors on behalf of freedom in Cuba and the Latin American countries, in their struggle for liberty, democracy and the eradication of communism.

Please, Dr. Benedi, accept my heartfelt congratulations concerning your study of American law and International Treaties, Conventions and Resolutions adopted by the United States. You are correct when you state that our Government and President Reagan have not only the right, but a moral and legal obligation to expel from this hemisphere an extra-continental power, the Soviet Union, that endangers the security, peace and liberty of America.

Cordially yours,

Steve Seguros

TRADUCCION AL ESPANOL DE LA CARTA DIRIGIDA POR EL SENADOR STEVE SYMMS AL DR. BENEDI

SENADO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20510

Mayo 26 de 1983

Dr. Claudio F. Benedi
Junta Patriotica Cubana
900 S.W. 1st. Street
Miami, Fl. 33130

Estimado Dr. Benedi:

En mi nombre y en el de mis colegas que votaron a favor de la Resolucion Conjunta de 1982 (Enmienda Symms), deseamos reconocer publicamente nuestro agradecimiento por la ayuda que recibimos de la Junta Patriotica Cubana.

La reunion celebrada el 20 de Mayo en las escaleras de nuestro Senado de los Estados Unidos ha tenido un gran impacto patriotico y politico en apoyo de la politica del Presidente Reagan para la America Central y el Caribe. El documento que ustedes nos entregaron a nosotros ha sido incluido en el Registro del Congreso para que sea un testimonio permanente de este acontecimiento historico.

Sirvase transmitir al Dr. Varona nuestros mejores deseos por el exito de la proxima Convencion de la Junta Patriotica Cubana. Estamos muy agradecidos a la Junta por su ayuda en nuestros esfuerzos conjuntos a favor de la libertad de Cuba y de las naciones latino-americanas, en su lucha por la libertad, la democracia y la erradicacion del comunismo.

Haga el favor, Dr. Benedi, de aceptar mis felicitaciones cordiales por su estudio de Derecho y las leyes de Estados Unidos en relacion con los tratados, convenios y resoluciones firmadas y ratificadas por Estados Unidos. Ud. esta en lo cierto al declarar que nuestro Gobierno y el Presidente Reagan tienen, no solo el derecho, sino tambien la obligacion moral y legal de expulsar de este Hemisferio a la potencia extracontinental, Union Sovietica, que pone en peligro la seguridad, la paz y la libertad de las Americas.

De. Ud. cordialmente,

(fdo) Steve Symms
Senador

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file C. A.

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9/30/83 - Central American portion of speech for FKW
Prepared by Syce Thumann

As you may have seen in various news reports, my Office is engaged in an outreach effort to tell the American public precisely what is at stake for the United States in Central America.

On April 27th of this year, President Reagan asked to address a joint session of Congress. He made this request because of his growing concern about the spread of communism in that area.

You know, there are many people who seem to believe that the United States regards all insurrections against injustice and oppression as Communist inspired.

They are not. And we know that.

But in the case of Nicaragua, for example when THEY, the new leaders of the Government of National Reconstruction identify themselves as communists shouldn't we take them at THEIR word? Daniel Ortega, the head of the Junta has said, "Marxism-Leninism is the guide of Sandinismo and without Marxism-Leninism, there is no Sandinismo."

We have the words of Fidel Castro when he said, "I became a Communist at the age of seventeen. I am one now, and I will be one until the day I die."

And we have other, even more ominous words of the Nicaraguan Sandinistas when they and the Palestine Liberation Organization issued a joint communique in Mexico City in 1978 that "affirmed the ties of solidarity existing between their two revolutionary organizations" and declared they were united in their hatred of what they called the

"racist state of Israel."

I am sure you have all heard the axiom, "Actions speak louder than words." We have the words of Castro and of the Sandinistas. Now, let us look at their actions.

I would not for one minute presume to explain to you how the PLO treat the Jewish people. The stories are, unfortunately, becoming legion. But I think you need to know that very close to our own homes there is anti-Semitic activity going on in Central America.

Let me share with you a few words from Mr. Isaac Stavisky a Nicaraguan Jewish refugee who spoke to our White House Outreach Working Group on Central America on July the 20th:

"The Jewish community has always been small, numbering about 50 families at its peak. Jews began coming to Nicaragua in the late 1920's from Eastern Europe. Nicaraguan Jews never encountered anti-semitism -- until the Sandinistas started their revolution. Even before the Sandinistas came to power, they began threatening Jews. In 1978, the Sandinistas sent a strong message to the entire community when the synagogue was attacked by five Sandinistas wearing face handkerchiefs. They set the building on fire by throwing gasoline in the main entrance doors, shouting PLO victory slogans and anti-Jewish defamatory language. This direct attack on the synagogue showed the PLO influence on the Sandinistas. As

the doors caught fire, two members of the community at prayer during Sabbath Services, ran through a side door. The Sandinistas met them with a show of automatic weapons and ordered them back inside.

"The two men who were confronted by the Sandinistas as the synagogue doors burned were both survivors of Nazi concentration camps."

"The Sandinistas threatened to take our property, and they did. They threatened our lives and for that reason, we left our country."

If you would be interested in some of the information we have on the PLO involvement in Central America, we would be happy to send you a copy of our White House Digest of July 20, 1983, entitled, "The PLO in Central America." Just give Joyce Thomann of my offices a call at 456-2657 and she will send you a copy of it.

I think enough documentation exists so there should be no question in anyone's mind that Cuba is indeed a Soviet satellite who will do their master's bidding at anytime and anyplace.

You might enjoy a description of Cuba which was given to me by Ambassador Vernon Walters. He noted that Cuba had received the title of the largest country in the world. Its' capital was in Havana, its' government in Moscow, its' army in Africa, and its people in Miami.

Actions do speak louder than words.

Now, what have been the actions of the United States?

President Reagan asked to address a Joint Session of the Congress on Central America and he has spoken out again and again on the issue. He has committed the resources of the White House to speaking out on the gravity of the situation in Central America and he has asked Congress to provide full funding for economic aid so desperately needed by the countries of Central America.

Three out of every four dollars of American aid to Central American countries is economic.

Let me lay out for you the four points of the President's policies toward Central America. We call them the four "D's."

First and foremost, we seek to have the peoples of Central America able to elect their own form of government. The people of Central America are no less people than we are. If we like for ourselves the advantages of freedom and democracy, why should we deny them to others? This Administration believes that the peoples of Central America should have a chance to develop a pluralistic, democratic society, one in which they have a chance to change their minds. One in which, if they want to try some experiment, they can have an occasion four years later to review that experiment and see whether or not it was any good. Right now, democracy is in trouble in Central America, and if we who enjoy all the

benefits brought to us by democracy will not speak out to defend the principle of democracy, who will?

Secondly, this Administration is committed by a factor of 3 to 1 to the economic development of the region. Seventy-seven cents out of every dollar we will spend in Central America goes for food, fertilizers and other essentials for economic growth and development.

Third, we will aid in the defense of the region. The President has emphatically stated, and I quote,

"There is no thought of sending American combat troops to Central America. They are not needed and indeed, they have not been requested there. All our neighbors ask of us is assistance in training and arms to protect themselves while they build a better life."

Before I go on to the fourth point of the President's program, let me stop for one moment to say, who better than the women who comprise not only the Sisterhood of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, but the women of the Jewish faith know better about the need and desire to protect themselves? Many of your sisters, daughters, and mothers in Israel have trained and fought alongside their male counterparts. The nation of Israel exists today because of your joint determination to protect yourselves and with the help provided by the United States, Israel has done a remarkable job in doing just that.

Now to the final point in the President's Central American program -- dialogue. Talking. You know, people are people. In a family when you stop talking to one another, a family feud begins. Nations are no different than the people who make them up. It is imperative that we continue talking to one another. President Reagan has committed himself and the resources of his Administration to keeping the lines of communication open!

The dialogue on Central America is not a partisan issue. It is a question of meeting our moral responsibility to ourselves, our friends, and our posterity. It is a duty that falls on all of us. The President, the Congress and we, the people. We must perform it together, for who among us would wish to bear responsibility for failing to meet our shared obligation.

One holocaust is enough for all time.

file
C.A.

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

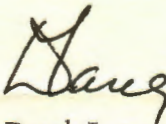
Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Enclosed is an information copy of a recent letter to Under Secretary Fred C. Ikle. It preceeds but covers the theme of the policy recommendations that I have to present to you and (hopefully) through you to the National Security Council.

The White House mail room should be soon receiving some letters that express support for the President's Central American policy. Those that come from our *Task Force on Peace & Justice* will have the letters "TF" in the lower left corner. You may want a count of how many of our people actually respond to our request to write.

Another letter is in preparation. It is an account of my own five years in Nicaragua, three months of which were behind enemy lines (where the enemy is, to me, the Sandinistas). This and any other material that may be pertinent should be used at your discretion to support the administration's policy. I regret that I don't have a tape of a half hour TV appearance (Cable W, Santa Monica) that aired September 21st. but let me assure you that I am increasing my public support of the President. We will be working to broaden our support.

With every good wish,

+ 

+ Derek Lang
Bishop of Middleburg

2103 South Portland Street
Los Angeles, California 90007
September 25, 1983



September 25, 1983

Dr. Fred C. Ikle
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Dr. Ikle:

Thank you for forwarding a copy of your remarks on U.S. Central American policy. It was most interesting. I hope you won't be disappointed but, on reading the full text, I encountered nothing that I could say occasioned discomfort. As you well know, however, a vast amount of material was left unsaid. I cannot say whether we would find ourselves in such close agreement on all points. As what is presently occult begins to reveal itself, we may be in disagreement.

I am sending my recommendations on to the White House (with an information copy to you) within the next ten days, meanwhile, let me make a few (possibly) urgent comments.

I have no difficulty whatever with the administration's placing the governments of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala closer to the United States than Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and the USSR, in terms of both being *our friend* and a *force for democracy*. I am less persuaded (indeed, disturbed) by the administration's apparent failure to define criteria by which the various elements of the "contra" are fitted into the same gradient scale. While the President may rightly group them together as "freedom fighters" for public purposes, I sincerely hope someone is keeping him informed of the real world nature of the situation. As I commented to you, we are now back to where we were during the first century of Nicaragua's independence from Spain — we have highly politicized *partisan armies*, each intent on catapulting itself into power by force of arms, not a single one of which can be said to be a friend or ally of the United States. While they may be less committed to hard-line communism than the regime in power (the high level of opportunism in their motivation clouds this point) they are each infected to one degree or another with the "Sandinismo" plague (i.e., an anti-U.S., anti-G.N. position). I count this as equally dangerous to U.S. (and ultimately to Nicaraguan) interests as communism.

Thus, the whisperings about a *negotiated settlement* with the Sandinista regime which have been called for by the MDN-FRS coalition as well as the FDN are as worrisome to me as the possibility of the administration's recognizing a *provisional government* set up by one of these groups if they manage to hold on to some small piece of Nicaragua's national territory. Neither one will solve that country's problems!

In terms of viable alternatives (and I strongly recommend this as the policy of choice — but if unacceptable as the policy of choice, then, as a fall back position) we have the *Guardia Nacional de Nicaragua*. It was created by the United States (for the precise purpose of eliminating partisan armies and maintaining the peace); it was trained by the United States (its first chief-director was a U.S. Marine), it understands and appreciates its peace-keeping rôle in Nicaragua; and it is a hundred percent *pro-U.S.* because of its close ties to this country and not because it is merely expedient.

The chief-director, General Federico Mejia, the chief of air operations, Colonel Marcial Lopez, and the assistant military attaché to Washington, Colonel Sergio Calderon, are all men of high standards and integrity. Indeed, they have been working closely with us to work out some of the moral - ethical issues that have arisen since the Sandinista insurgency came out into the open in 1977 and they have accepted us in the rôle of counsellor and "conscience" of the Guard. I suspect that the DoD would find itself much more able to work with such men than what you are presently faced with. There are two additional points (other than the simple "rightness" of the case) in favor of supporting a rehabilitated National Guard. First, it would fit into the scenario of CONDECA becoming the instrument of decisive action in Central America's anti-communist, anti-insurgency operations (which I would prefer over partisan guerrilla operations). Secondly, it would almost immediately place forty percent of the combatants under military control (I am sure the DoD can properly relate itself to CONDECA) and, within a very short time span it would probably bring the bulk of the remaining combatants along as auxiliaries. The present chaos might be thus converted to something manageable.

The principal arguments against such a policy arise from two sources: (a) the fear that the "old regime" would be restored. To this I say that as corrupt as it was, the old regime was definitely a lot better than what we now have or what any of the partisans offer for the future. But, in point of fact, the old regime is gone. President Somoza is dead. None of those associated with his government have the "personalismo" necessary to hold the nation together. I am convinced that that fear is ill-founded. (b) the fear that "Sandinismo" will not become prominent. I have every confidence that such a fear is well founded. But, my recommendation is that we should be going toward developing a strong U.S. friend and ally, not an "anti-gringo" regime with as much contempt and hostility toward us as what is in place.

To those who say that the National Guard has been discredited, I suggest a refresher course in the basic of guerrilla warfare and terrorism. The demoralization of the National Guard was an essential tactic and strategy of the Sandinistas; without it they could not have seized power. Its continued demoralization and denigration is essential to the survival of the Sandinista regime, just as it is essential to the success of the partisan armies now seeking to seize power from the Sandinistas. Having lived in Nicaragua for five years, I am well persuaded from experience that the things attributed to the National Guard by their enemies were isolated incidents (if true in the first place) and did not represent the policy of the institution. Since we don't condemn the whole U.S. military establishment on the basis of a few Lt. Calley's, we oughtn't condemn the whole National Guard for the few psychopaths that found their way into its ranks.

The Carter administration was led astray by such propaganda and disgracefully handed Nicaragua over to the communists. The proof that President Somoza was

neither a tyrant nor dictator is to be seen in his refusal (at our behest) to take decisive action against the seditious and subversive elements working freely and openly in Nicaragua. This blind loyalty to the United States cost him his life and the Nicaraguan people their freedom. I count it as one of the darkest pages in American history. But the point is that Carter was misled (I prefer this to the charge that he knew what he was doing) by professionally directed propaganda and, unfortunately, the present administration hasn't done anything to change this situation.

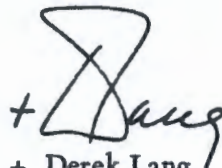
Returning to the moral aspect, I believe the Reagan administration should take the lead to rectify this error and that it should do so by restoring to the National Guard the opportunity to regain its honor. (That there are pragmatic gains to be had is, for me, entirely secondary).

Finally, let me ask — is the administration willing to “stay the course” during the recovery period (which may be protracted) even in the face of leftist charges of another U. S. “occupation” of Nicaragua? If we repeat the policy of 1909, we are foredoomed to failure. The U.S. must persevere — even in the face of such criticism and also of the frustrations of dealing with a people that is virtually ungovernable, that is, highly idiosyncratic. Some Nicaraguans have suggested to me the desirability of establishing a U.S. protectorate — an idea which is very appealing in principle but which (I suspect) would be very difficult in today's leftist climate of “anti-colonialism” etc. If the President doesn't feel comfortable with that, then I would hope that he will see the wisdom of supporting at least one pro-U.S. institution in that country ... the National Guard.

Now, let me ask you, does the theme of my policy proposal appear particularly distressing? If not, is there any realistic chance that we can get it before the administration and adopted?

I like your policy statement of September 12th. very much. So does the National Guard. What next?

With kindest regards,


+ Derek Lang
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cc: Morton Blackwell
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