

U.S. defends Latin crime networks

State Department seeks to save Somoza's National Guard for United Brands

With the announcement that a Government of National Reconstruction has been formed by the opposition forces in Nicaragua—and the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza imminent—the Carter administration is making a desperate bid to enforce an “interim solution” which would bring Somoza's hated National Guard intact through the present crisis period and reestablish its control over the next Nicaraguan government. At stake is not the 40 years of personal rule by the Somoza family, which the Carter administration has already given up for lost, but rather decades of control over a vast drug-and-crime financial empire which extends from the Guatemalan/Mexican border to the jungles of Colombia.

That empire, effectively a series of “banana republic” fiefdoms largely run under the auspices of the United Fruit Company (now United Brands), is policed by the Condeca military alliance of the Central American dictatorships, of which the well-armed and well-financed Nicaraguan National Guard is the backbone. The leaders of that empire, a who's who of organized crime, include United Brands chairman Max Fisher, “fixer” and arms merchant I.I. Davidson, and Meyer Lansky, godfather of “Murder, Inc.” A military victory by the Sandinista Liberation Front and the dismantling of the Somoza National Guard could unravel United Brands' control over the entire region, and perhaps shatter the empire for good.

The decision of the Carter administration to convoke an emergency summit of the OAS last week, therefore, had little to do with concern for the security of the Nicaraguan people, or that of the region. Rather, the OAS member states were being set up to sanction the invasion of Nicaragua by a Carter administration acting in the interests of United Brands. The flimsy cover for that invasion will be, as it was with the Dominican Republic in 1965, “an inter-American peace-keeping mission.”

The Carter administration's call for Somoza's resignation has fooled no one, for Latin America has long identified Teddy Roosevelt's despised “Big Stick” as official U.S. foreign policy. Warning of an imminent U.S. military intervention into Nicaragua, Venezuelan ex-President Carlos Andres Perez declared last week: “Now that the revolution is near triumphing,” the U.S.

talks of intervention. “But when the defenseless population was being killed there was no interest in ending the bloodbath.”

Reconstruction victory nears

International recognition of the new Nicaraguan government is expected shortly from several Latin American countries. Panama and Ecuador have joined Costa Rica and Mexico in breaking relations with the Somoza dictatorship this past week, and similar action is under discussion among the other Andean Pact nations.

Militarily, the Somoza National Guard has been unable to beat back the Sandinista Liberation Army's advances, despite the much touted “counteroffensive” designed to disguise Somoza's near defeat and justify an “intervention.” The surrender of the National Guard garrison in Leon, Nicaragua's second largest city, is seen as the first major crack in National Guard morale, and complete defeat of the Guard is regarded as imminent by most observers.

Significant sectors of Nicaraguan territory are under the control of the Reconstruction Government, and provisional authorities have announced that local civilian governments are being set up throughout the liberated zones. The Sandinista capture of the crucial southern city of Rivas—where the new government of Nicaragua is to be established—is viewed as the beginning of the end for Somoza.

The National Reconstruction government is made up of a five-person ruling body representing the full range of Nicaragua's opposition forces. Sergio Ramirez is a member of the prominent professionals Group of Twelve; Alfonso Robelo is from the “Frente Amplio,” a coalition of the most conservative opposition layers in the country; Moises Hassan represents the National Patriotic Front, a coalition largely of labor, student and liberal professional layers; Daniel Ortega Saavedra is of the Sandinista Liberation Front; and Violeta Barrios is the widow of the murdered owner of the newspaper *La Prensa*, Joaquin Chamorro.

United Brands' drug empire

Since before the turn of the century, Central America has been used as a crucial operations base and deployment center for Zionist-British arms and drug-smug-

gling internationally, as well as a drug plantation area for shipment to the United States. That empire has cost incalculable numbers of lives, as the continued existence of its control over Central America is enforced through a policy of murder and starvation of the region's population.

The story of United Fruit, known and hated throughout Latin America as "The Octopus," sums it up. Operating as the British East India Company of the Caribbean, United Fruit has been headed since its Rothschild-funded founding at the turn of the century by the same Zionist Mob-Boston Brahmin combination that runs Dope, Inc. in the United States down to the Chairman of the Board today, Detroit's Max Fisher.

Drug Enforcement officials estimate that over 20 percent of cocaine coming into the United States enters the country on United Brands ships. United Brands owns the world's largest private navy and its own air fleet. Owning hundreds of thousands of acres of land throughout Central America, the Caribbean, and northern Latin America, United Brands people admit that bananas represent only a small portion of company activities.

Whenever United Fruit sovereignty in the area has been challenged they have responded with one policy up to this day: shoot 'em. The Guatemalan coup of 1954, directed from United Fruit headquarters in Boston, was run against the Arbenz government because it ordered the expropriation of all uncultivated lands—affecting nearly 85 percent of United Fruit ownings!—

and imposed a labor code on the company's treatment of its workers! Tens of thousands were massacred within the first weeks of the coup. United Fruit's genocide policy has continued unaltered. An estimated 35,000 people have died in Guatemala since 1954 in "political" deaths alone.

The original Somoza (the present dictator's father) was installed by U.S. Marines in the early 1930s as the central policing agent for the United Fruit empire throughout the area. Somoza's role as a mercenary for the drug- and arms-running cabal was so blatant that he granted ambassadorial status to one Yehuda Arazi, a Zionist arms smuggler working under the British Lord Orde Wingate's direction in the Middle East in the late 1930s. Arazi, as "Nicaraguan ambassador," could ship millions of dollars of military equipment from the United States to the British-run Haganah terrorists in Palestine!

Sandinista Commander Eden Pastora warned last weekend that some 30-40,000 Nicaraguans will probably have died by the time Somoza is overthrown. Over 150,000 refugees have already been forced into camps as Somoza's Guard levels every city it cannot retake.

Reconstruction government spokesmen have warned that the population will continue to fight if foreign intervention is sent to maintain Somoza or his National Guard. If U.S. troops are sent, the death toll in Dope, Inc.'s empire will soar even higher.

—Valerie Rush and
Gretchen Small

What the U.S. State Department is defending

U.S. State Department policy in Nicaragua was most succinctly summed up in a "Delphic" dispatch filed to the *New York Times* by London *Financial Times* correspondent Alan Riding, who is notorious in the Mexico City press corps as a British-American intelligence stringer. Reported Riding: "Opposition sources said that once they [Mexico, Costa Rica, etc.] had recognized the provisional government, these countries might seek intervention by the Organization of American States to negotiate a cease fire and peaceful transfer of power. *This would avoid the destruction of the National Guard and President Somoza's Liberal Party in exchange for the departure of the dictator*" (emphasis added).

The National Guard which the U.S. State Department wishes to preserve intact is internationally abhorred for its barbaric tactics against the Nicaraguan population. Just days ago, the Guard commenced a new tactic of "leveling towns and villages"

under the control of rebel forces with continued air raids and heavy bombings. These have left several provincial towns and cities completely destroyed. Not even schools, hospitals or Red Cross refugee centers were spared. Hundreds have been murdered and thousands wounded; tens of thousands have been left homeless.

The Guard, which has been consistently dropping napalm bombs into the peasant-populated mountain regions of the north for many months, is also noted for its members' vicious rape tactics on women and children. Those who are not killed instantly or sexually abused by the Guard, are subjected to other, brutal torture tactics; imported from Chile and Paraguay military torturers have been hired by the Somoza Guard as trainers and advisors to add horror to Somoza's "war of extermination" against the Nicaraguan population.