

Mexico snarls U.S. Nicaragua plans

Communiqué rejects U.S. policy of 'Somocismo' without Somoza

In an official policy statement released July 11, the Mexican Foreign Ministry delivered a crushing blow to the Carter administration's flagrant backing of the National Guard of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza. Clearly referring to Washington's massive supplying of arms to the Guard, the statement declares that any government providing aid to Somoza's forces not only "offends the juridical conscience of humanity," but is also complicit in "a clear violation of the norms of international law" as stipulated under the war crimes codes in the Geneva Conventions.

The Mexican government, addressing all states in the hemisphere, further erected a significant diplomatic barrier to Washington's desperate moves to keep the National Guard in power after the imminent ouster of Somoza. Any efforts to preserve "somocista structures" in Nicaragua, says the declaration, violates the Organization of American States resolution of June 23, which mandates the replacement of the Somoza dictatorship with a popularly-supported government. And to make matters worse for the Carter administration, the Mexican Foreign Ministry granted virtual diplomatic recognition of the Sandinista-backed Government of National Reconstruction by citing the GNR as the only institution in the country capable of ensuring "a lasting and peaceful solution" to the present crisis.

The bold Mexican initiative has quickly undermined the diplomatic drive mounted by the State Department over the past week to armtwist Latin American governments into approving Washington's plan to save the Guard. This operation went so far as stationing troops in neighboring Costa Rica.

The military deployment into Costa Rica, which according to Radio Sandino included 200 Marines, was denounced by the GNR as a "virtual invasion" of that country, and the Sandinistas immediately placed their forces on full alert for an expected move into Nicaragua. The State Department quickly denied the report, but did admit that a small U.S. helicopter base was set up July 8 near the provincial capital of Liberia, only 70 kilometers south of the Nicaraguan border, for the alleged purpose of evacuating U.S. citizens from Managua. The Department also said that the missile-carrying frigate *U.S.S. Wainwright* was deployed off the north-

west coast of Nicaragua, after the National Security Council had leaked to the *Washington Post* that the U.S. plans to send "more of its warships into the area" or create a "regional strike force."

Although Costa Rican domestic pressure forced Washington to remove its military force, the incident exemplified the diplomatic blitz initiated by the State Department throughout the region, which a high-level Sandinista representative referred to as outright "blackmail." Undersecretary of State Viron Vaky, a Henry Kissinger protégé, was sent on a "shuttle diplomacy" mission to several capitals to bludgeon the area's progressive governments into dropping their support for the Sandinistas.

The Panamanian government, which was being threatened with sabotage of the Canal treaties, let Washington know where it stands by leaking a complete grid of covert U.S. arms shipments to Somoza, compiled by Panamanian intelligence. The report, published in the daily *Estrella de Panama* on July 6, reveals that between June 16 and 30, more than 100 flights of U.S. C-130 military transports left Howard Air Force Base in the Canal Zone, loaded with weapons and equipment for the Nicaraguan National Guard, as well as Special Forces personnel. Eighteen flights of Argentine air force transports into Nicaragua were also monitored.

Even more shocking, however, is the fact that Washington's own press outlets are making it known that the administration is using the National Guard's atrocities as a diplomatic bargaining chip. The *New York Times* of July 10 quoted a U.S. official as saying Washington had "asked" Somoza not to resign until it had "neutralized" the "radical elements" among the opposition. Earlier, the *Washington Post* hinted that Washington's ultimatum to the Sandinistas is that unless they agree to U.S. terms for maintaining Somoza's apparatus intact, the U.S. will give its nod to even more National Guard horrors. Washington "seems to have no doubt," the *Post* commented, "that the provisional junta can be influenced by the possibility of avoiding perhaps another month of bloodshed."

What the Carter administration is threatening was amply illustrated by the latest crimes committed by the Guard this week. According to evidence described by

a Reconstruction Government diplomat in Mexico, to be published in an exclusive interview in the next issue of the *Executive Intelligence Review*, Guard troops throughout the country are extending their extermination drive against male youths by seeking out 11- to 13-year-old males in hospitals, casualties of Somoza's saturation bombings. The youths are then shot in their hospital beds. Even the *Washington Post* reports that "truckloads" of teenagers are driven off to isolated rural areas at night, where they are blindfolded and machine-gunned. In addition, a Red Cross refugee camp was raked by National Guard gunfire, leaving six people dead. In the Sandinista-held city of Esteli, Somoza kept a promise he made three weeks ago by poisoning the city's water supply with arsenic.

The Guard, however, may not be around much longer to carry out Washington policy. Despite a hideous incendiary barrage, Somoza's troops were unable to retake the important city of Masaya, 40 kilometers

southeast of Managua. The Sandinistas are reported to be making steady advances in the south, and have also massed several columns for a renewed assault on Managua itself. Many military analysts are predicting that this time the capital will fall.

There are late reports that in response to the total rout of the National Guard forces, the Carter administration is now turning to "humanitarian" intervention—i.e., food warfare against the Nicaraguan liberation struggle. It was announced today that three U.S. C-130s per day will fly into Managua, purportedly to bring food to Nicaragua's 500,000 war refugees through Red Cross-sponsored food control centers. Under this scenario, the Red Cross, which is the "humanitarian arm" of the black gulph Order of St. John of Jerusalem, will thus play the role of intelligence and communications center for a potential invasion.

—Chris Curtis

The Mexican Foreign Ministry communiqué

The following is the full text of the official communiqué issued by the Mexican Foreign Ministry July 10 on the Nicaraguan situation. The communiqué, without specifying the United States, is a devastating attack on the Carter administration's open military and diplomatic efforts to maintain Somoza's political-military machine, and was directed to the 16 members of the Organization of American States who sponsored the resolution passed by that body on June 23 calling for the replacement of the Somoza regime.

In view of the prolongation of the battle in Nicaragua and of the growing use by the Somoza regime of inhuman methods of warfare, the government of Mexico made known its opinion on this situation to the other 16 countries that voted June 23 in favor of the resolution of the XVII consultative meeting of the OAS.

This position is summarized in the following five points:

- 1) The resolution of June 23 contains as an essential element the immediate and definitive replacement in Nicaraguan territory of a democratic government which includes representatives of the principal opposition groups.
- 2) Therefore, the participation of the Somoza-linked institutions in the formation of a new government would be contrary to said resolution.
- 3) On the other hand, the National Government

of Reconstruction, made up of representatives of different sectors of the opposition to the Somoza regime, corresponds to the guidelines laid out in the resolution of the XVII consultative meeting. Its establishment would facilitate a lasting and peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan problem.

4) The countries that continue supplying arms and war materials to the Somoza regime are acting in violation of the resolution of the consultative group. This question takes on a particularly serious character in view of the fact that that regime is making use of white phosphorous napalm and fragmentation bombs against the civilian population, according to international press reports. Aside from the extreme cruelty, this conduct wounds the juridical conscience of humanity and constitutes a clear violation of the standards of international law including, to cite only some statutes, the Geneva Accords of August 12, 1949, the additional Protocol Number 2 to said Accords adopted in Geneva in June, 1977.

5) The government of Mexico considers that the best contribution that members of the international community can make to help put an end to this bloody conflict, is to act in scrupulous accord with the previously cited resolution of the XVII consultative meeting, leaving it exclusively to the Nicaraguan people to choose their form of government.

SIGNED: Minister of Foreign Affairs

RELEASED BY: General Information Office