

AIDS outbreak in Nicaragua, Contras

The Sandinista government faces a terrible outbreak of AIDS in Nicaragua, informed sources in Washington, D.C. reported in early November. According to the reports, recently published in *New Solidarity* newspaper, Sandinista officials are attempting to determine how far the killer disease has spread through their ranks, without letting the news leak to the general public.

Promiscuous sexual practices were inculcated in Sandinista ranks as proof of commitment to "revolutionary freedom," even before the guerrilla group seized power in 1979 with the help of the Carter administration.

"Intellectual" controllers of the Sandinistas, such as Jesuit Father Fernando Cardenal, promoted "eroticism" as a central part of Sandinista ideological training, while Cardenal's brother, the Trappist monk Ernesto, is famous for having organized orgies at the Sandinista training center on the Isle of Solentine in the 1970s.

Once in power, the Sandinistas have relished their new role as the little brown darlings of the "radical chic" international jet-set. Bianca Jagger, ex-wife of Rolling Stones star Mick, cavorts with the Sandinista leadership and with the wife of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Ortega made quite a scene during his visit to New York last fall, attending a party of the Peter, Paul, and Mary "folk-singing" group, and spending \$3,000 on designer glasses!

The Sandinista Armed Forces magazine plays up the sexual life of the troops, reporting the adventures of their soldiers as following in the footsteps of their founder, Augusto Sandino, a member of the theosophy cult who vaunted his sexual exploits.

Sandinista promiscuity, combined with economic devastation in Nicaragua, created ideal conditions for transmission of the AIDS virus. News of the epidemic could spark a revolt among Nicaraguans, already angry at Sandinista attacks on Pope John Paul II and the Catholic Church in the name of "theology of liberation." Simmering anger at the dictatorship has been limited by fear of the "Contras," seen as foreign-controlled guerrilla bandits differing little from the Sandinista rulers.

U.S. soldiers infected?

Worrying Washington, however, is the danger that the ranks of the U.S.-sponsored Contra fighters may be decimat-

ed by a similar AIDS outbreak. Washington officials are said to be examining the possibility that Cuban exiles advising the Contras brought in the disease.

The major Contra base of operations is located in Honduras, like Nicaragua an extremely impoverished country. Thousands of U.S. soldiers have been rotated through Honduras in the past three years, building up military operations to back the Contras. Honduran papers have repeatedly complained of widespread promiscuity among American soldiers.

Leading the foreign mercenaries brought in to advise Contra military operations are Cuban exiles, many from the old Brigade 2506 made famous in the CIA's attempted Bay of Pigs invasion in 1960. While Brigade 2506 includes Cuban patriots, others in it were recruited from the drug-running gangsters who ran Batista's Cuba and were disgruntled at losing the franchise over the "pleasure haven" that was Cuba under Batista. This wing of the Cuban exile movement, which used its proclaimed "anti-communism" as a cover to infiltrate U.S. security operations, is so penetrated and counter-penetrated by Castro's Cuban intelligence, the DGI, that it is an open question where their loyalties lie.

Castro's DGI and the old Batista crew meet in the South American-U.S. drug trade, where the "Cuban mafia" has held a longtime franchise. DGI penetration of this Cuban exile mafia was upgraded in 1981, when some 120,000 Cuban "exiles" were dumped into the United States by Fidel Castro, through the Mariel boatlift. Thousands of criminals, homosexuals, drug-users, and social misfits entered the United States at that time, as Castro emptied Cuba's prisons onto U.S. shores, under the cover of letting "dissidents" leave.

U.S. law enforcement agencies have recognized the Mariel operation as a cover for infiltrating into the United States hundreds of Cuban intelligence agents specializing in espionage and sabotage activities. Once in the United States, many of the DGI agents took up command posts in the South American-U.S. narcotics trade, joining some of the Cuban exiles now involved in drug-trafficking.

Unnoticed before was the danger of AIDS, which was then only beginning to come to public attention, as the slow-incubation virus struck down its first victims. Since then, medical investigators have established that the thousands of Cuban homosexuals sent in the Mariel boatlift—including homosexual Cuban soldiers discharged from service in Angola, where the epidemic is raging—brought the killer disease with them to the United States.

The concentrations of the AIDS virus developing around the Nicaragua crisis, could create a holocaust of the scope of that now sweeping Africa. Immunological resistance in the area is already low. Other epidemics are spreading from camps of refugees and displaced persons throughout Central America. Central American health and nutritional levels, historically low, have plummeted to danger levels in the past decade, as the combination of civil war and International Monetary Fund austerity has collapsed food supplies.