

Sandinistas resist giving up power

by Javier Almario

Although Daniel Ortega, who is still dictator of Nicaragua, has publicly recognized that Violeta Chamorro, candidate of the National Opposition Union (UNO), won the presidential election on Feb. 25, he is trying to force her to share governmental power by wielding the threat of a "national war" if anything is done to threaten Sandinista control of the army.

The name of the Nicaraguan army is the Popular Sandinista Army, which means that the army was created as a political arm of the Sandinista party. Daniel Ortega was the candidate of the Sandinista party.

The Sandinista armed forces "cannot be replaced by the Contras or [deposed right-wing dictator Anastasio] Somoza's guard because this would be the signal for a national war against the mercenaries and the Somocistas," Daniel Ortega said March 5 speaking to a group of pro-Sandinista teachers.

The same threat of civil war was repeated by Luis Carrión, the economics minister of the Sandinista government. In remarks published by the official Sandinista newspaper *Barricada*, Carrión said that "the country's security depends on the integrity of the army and interior ministry, and the UNO must recognize this." If the Chamorro government attempts to change the army or dissolve it, "there will be civil war, instability and chaos here," he added.

Two days after election day, Ortega said that the disbanding of the Contras is a condition for handing over power. The *Contras*, the mercenary narco-group that the Reagan-Bush administration hired to deal cheaply with the Sandinista regime, are now the most important excuse for Ortega to keep power against popular will.

Even though Chamorro, leader of a coalition representing 14 political parties, won the election with a wide margin of 55.2-40.8%, she is accepting the "conditions" set by the losers.

An editorial in Chamorro's newspaper *La Prensa* on March 4 called for the Sandinista army to remain as the country's sole army, without even changing its name.

"The popular Sandinista Army will continue being the country's only legal army, although reorganized and reduced in size," said *La Prensa*.

While Chamorro is making concessions to Ortega, the Sandinistas are reactivating the peasant militia and distribut-

ing arms among their supporters. The Sandinista Army has mobilized troops in the north of the country supposedly because the *Contras* are about to attack the towns of Wiwilli and Rio Blanco.

On the other hand, the Sandinista-controlled trade unions are threatening Chamorro with general strikes if her government does not improve the economy and increase the salaries of the labor force within its first 100 days in power. Real wages have decreased 90% since the Sandinistas came to power, but the trade unions never struck against Ortega.

The message for the Chamorro government is clear: "We, Sandinistas, have the power to destroy the country and make you fail, unless you do what we want you to do." In other words, the Sandinistas are demanding co-government, or else civil war.

The defeat of the condominium

In fact, the Chamorro victory was unexpected by the Bush regime in Washington, by emperor Gorbachov in Moscow, and by dictator Ortega. The agreement made among the superpowers was to hold an election that would have allowed Ortega to become the first elected communist president in the Western Hemisphere. The election would have paved the way for a legitimization of Ortega's government that would have allowed Bush to ease relations with Nicaragua.

Bush himself, on Election Day, said he wanted "improved relations" with the flamboyant jive dictator after Ortega's reelection. But the Ortega defeat took Bush by surprise. The conclusion is too simple: People were hiding their real thoughts about Sandinismo for 10 years.

What happened was the beginning of a revolutionary process against tyranny. Sandinismo is a combination of Fidel Castro and the Theology of Liberation. The Nicaragua model was more important for the terrorist groups in all South America than Cuba itself, because the "Marxist" theory provided a new "ideology" based on Theology of Liberation and the so-called "People's Church." The project is designed to produce a schism in the Catholic Church throughout the continent in which a "new church would be formed."

"Poverty is beautiful" could be the summary of Theology of Liberation, which considers technology, science, and progress an invention of "imperialism" that should be rejected.

Ten years of the imposition of the Theology of Liberation-Marxist model in Nicaragua has resulted in 30% unemployment, a 90% decline in wages, 3,000% inflation in 1988, and 1,600% in 1989.

Now, the Bush-Gorbachov condominium is trying to turn the Chamorro victory into a defeat, using the threat of civil war to force a commitment to co-government with the Sandinistas on one side; and on the other side, Bush is pressuring Chamorro to accept International Monetary Fund conditionalities which have destroyed every nation in Ibero-America.