

chargé d'affaires, I believe, said something he shouldn't have. I personally have great respect for the intellectual capacity of the Israelis, but that diplomat destroyed the image I had of Israeli intelligence. He said that Israel officially only sells arms to governments and won't sell to private parties. The newscaster asked if there were Israeli arms in the black market and he replied: "No." Then, if Israeli arms aren't run through the black market, where do Somoza's Israeli arms come from? They have to be sent by the government of Israel to the government of Somoza.

Several Latin American governments are very worried by the appearance throughout Latin America of those famous little Uzi Israeli machine guns. Police departments and armies are equipped with them and more crop up every day. The Israeli chargé says his government doesn't sell arms to Somoza and arms appear. And three days later, the State Department or the Pentagon, whichever it was, because all those agencies are alike, turned around two Israeli ships loaded with arms for Somoza, making the Israeli government and its chargé d'affaires look ridiculous, and demonstrating that he is merely a vulgar liar. He was sent here to lie, but he can't even earn his pay as a liar.

Our concern with the Israeli case is genuine. Like many peoples of Latin America, we are ashamed of Israel. Poor Israel—when it must forget its past in order to live in the present, it is committing those acts it has complained of for so long. For two or three thousand years, the Jewish people have complained of persecu-

tion, of massacres, of injustices, of genocide, and have asked the whole world to help them, to raise a cry of protest against the Arab countries which, they say, are attacking them. I don't want to get into that problem; but truly, after what the Israelis are doing in my country, I frankly have strong doubts over who is the aggressor and who is the attacked. Examples are lived out in flesh and blood, and we are living through Israeli aggression. Truly, it's shameful that the Jewish people, who have made great contributions to humanity, who have produced scientists of great quality, now are becoming distinguished for supplying arms of great quality to kill a part of humanity which has done them no harm. Really, I think they are becoming the modern Hitlers, becoming that which they hate so much and have suffered from so much. Maybe there's a psychological reason, but that's for scholars to answer.

As far as drugs are concerned, I must tell you this. A journalist told me what he saw recently in Managua. This man is not a leftist reporter, not even a centrist, but an ultra-conservative. He came back shocked to see such scenes, because all over Managua, it's public and notorious that the Guards (Somoza's troops—ed.) from the Basic Training School directed by Somoza's son drug themselves up before going out on patrol. He told of scenes in León where he was barracked, in a manner of speaking, alongside the National Guard. He told me that the Guards who weren't on duty took turns sniffing cement, like U.S. Indians passing around a peace pipe. They sniffed cement, construction cement, which is

The Reconstruction Government assumes power

The complete rout of the remnants of the military and political machine of the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua is in its final stages as *Executive Intelligence Review* goes to press. General Anastasio Somoza, whose family ruled Nicaragua for 40 years, has fled to Miami, leaving behind, as his legacy, a country destroyed by war. The puppet government appointed by Somoza to replace him and headed by Francisco Urcuyo, a "former" employee of the drug-linked United Fruit Company, lasted one day. The disintegration of the National Guard has forced him to flee as well, as garrisons surrendered and turned in their arms across the country.

There is jubilation in Nicaragua,

where the Sandinista-backed Government of National Reconstruction is now in power. Headed by a five-person junta, with an 18-member cabinet already appointed, the Reconstruction Government has drafted a program which outlines their goals of providing for the development of the country: housing, health, jobs, industry and education.

The overthrow of the continent's longest lived dictatorship by popular insurrection marks a turning point in the Western Hemisphere, much as the humanist Mexican revolution of 1917 irrevocably shaped 20th century history of Latin America. The reverberations of Nicaragua, 1979 are already being felt in every one of the dominant military regimes currently

policing the inhuman levels of austerity and destruction demanded by international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

What's ahead

But, despite the scare-mongering cries of "Castroite Communism is now in power in Nicaragua" that are appearing in the U.S. press, the Reconstruction Government represents no threat to vital U.S. interests. In fact, as the interview of *Executive Intelligence Review* Editor-in-Chief Fernando Quijano with Dr. Carlos Gutiérrez, the representative of the Reconstruction Government in Mexico, demonstrates, the United States now has a potential new ally

intoxicating, because reinforcements weren't reaching them, liquor wasn't reaching them, drugs weren't reaching them, and they were resorting to devising drugs accessible to them in the barracks.

That shows the drug picture clearly.

Reaping the whirlwind

Q: *What is the political-military situation in Nicaragua and what kind of maneuvers are Somoza and the U.S. carrying out?*

A: I think that success is at hand for the Nicaraguan revolution, that it is a triumphant revolution. The north of the country is totally controlled; the center of the country, in total ferment; the south is cut in two and, where there are pockets of the National Guard, the military maneuvers of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation prevents them from receiving supplies at this time. Somoza, we might say, has only his Managua bunker. National Guard morale is constantly falling. The morale of the people of Nicaragua and its armed vanguard is constantly rising.

International opinion turns more positive toward the Nicaraguan people every day. There's no doubt that few revolutions have had the unanimous opinion of all peoples of the earth in their favor. I dare to say that I believe that the American people have their hearts with us. But you know what happens with the American people? For years they have been poisoned by fears of communism and ignorance about Latin America. In the best of cases, the U.S. mass media systematically

has distorted us or hasn't cared enough about Latin America, hasn't given us the importance which we deserve as a continent and as countries. And today this grave error is being shown.

The United States simplistically believed that Latin Americans are Indians with big sombreros taking a siesta under a tree. They never thought of us as people with the potential for intelligence, for education, people capable of discerning, capable of feeling, capable of planning, and capable of comparing our cultural capacity with U.S. culture. There is no doubt we are superior to many North Americans in this, because we have the two basic elements of a culture: the culture in itself and its humanistic complement. The United States has lost that sensibility, it has become more and more dehumanized. Many years ago, a Nicaraguan, Ruben Dario, wrote a poem to (Theodore) Roosevelt saying, "You have got everything, but you are missing one thing, God." This has made American society a little forgetful of first principles. The U.S. has viewed us, the inhabitants of Latin America, as wild animals. It's a problem of humanistic thinking.

Unfortunately, I think that (Henry) Kissinger was right when he said that the United States was going to reap the whirlwind; but this whirlwind is made by themselves. Today the U.S. is reaping the whirlwind not only in Latin America, but all over the world. Latin America is the worst for them, since they had an erroneous policy, because they based their position on the worst caste, on the people least competent to rule

for America's founding goals of fostering other humanist republics across the globe. Nicaragua is no Iran, where a medievalist Khomeini is now destroying the country. The Reconstruction Government has made clear its intent to develop the country.

A tremendous task of reconstruction lies ahead in Nicaragua. The six-week war carried a heavy toll: an estimated 40,000 dead, hundreds of thousands homeless, starving in food-scarce refugee centers; towns and cities in rubble from the National Guard's indiscriminate bombings.

As the leadership of the new government frankly states, if the job of developing the country was monumental before the war because of 40 years of Somoza's leeching of the population and resources, the job following the war is arduous. International support will be crucial.

Mexican President José López Portillo has already ordered that all possible aid be extended for reconstruction, and Mexican Defense Minister General Galván has expressed the willingness of the Mexican military to participate in that aid, including sending plane-loads of food, medicines, and supplies.

The Carter administration, however, has already made clear its intention to suffocate the Nicaraguan reconstruction effort in a blind effort to maintain the previous status quo of the backward, drug-producing-and-shipping Nicaragua of Somoza. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter announced the news of Somoza's flight two days ago with the warning that "today's events do not mark the end of suffering in Nicaragua"—if President Carter can help it. The *New York Times* and other press have already advocated

the use of economic aid to the war-torn country as the United States' greatest "bargaining chip" with the new government. It is threatening to withhold aid if U.S. demands are not met, just as, up until the last minute, the administration deliberately prolonged Somoza's bloodbath against the country as a "bargaining chip."

There still remains the possibility of renegade National Guard units running guerrilla warfare against the government. There are also reports of troops of the Central American Defense Council (Condeca), the Pentagon-run regional military body, massing on Nicaragua's borders.

If the U.S. persists in fomenting chaos in Nicaragua, it will only achieve what it protests so much to fear: an "anti-American" government forced to develop in spite of the U.S.

—Gretchen Small