

# SOLIDARIDAD

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Reading Rock Festival Special

**FREE!**

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R.N.S.G.  
c/o David Sutton  
29 Rowley Road  
Reading RG2 0DR  
(Tel.: 862386)



## ¡LA LUCHA CONTINUA!

### SUPPORT THE SANDINISTAS

July 19th was the eleventh anniversary of "El Triunfo", the day of triumph in 1979 when the Sandinista army completed its victory over the Somoza dictatorship. A great day in world history.

Throughout the 1980s the resilient socialist imagination of the Sandinistas, as they overcame obstacle after obstacle, inspired a whole generation on the left. The defeat of the Sandinistas by the UNO coalition in February's elections was a setback and a great sadness, but the Sandinistas aim to remain the main political force in Nicaragua - "governing from below".

Some who supported the Sandinistas when they were in government (and especially some Labour Party "electoralists") would now like quietly to forget about Nicaragua. We must have the courage and determination to keep up our support.

### Barricades and Banners

In recent weeks, the streets of Managua have seen barricades and violent street-fighting between Sandinista supporters and backers of the UNO government (allegedly including former *Contras*). There have been a number of strikes organized by Sandinista trade unions since UNO took power. The most recent strike ended early in July with a government climb-down. The rôle of the Army, still controlled by the Sandinista General Humberto Ortega, has been decisive.

"The armed forces will never carry out a *coup d'état* against a government headed by Violeta Chamorro", General Ortega said. "But this army and this police force will also never fire on the people."

### SUPPORT READING'S LINK WITH SAN FRANCISCO LIBRE

Since 1988, Reading has been twinned with the small Nicaraguan town of San Francisco Libre. The twinning link was established as a two-way process, so that people in Reading could learn about, and learn from, the Sandinista way of politics; so that people in Nicaragua could exchange ideas with us; and so that people in Reading could give material support to help their Nicaraguan sisters and brothers.

The Reading San Francisco Libre Association has raised money for projects including a children's play-scheme and a ferry-boat, and has also sent educational and medical goods to San Francisco Libre.

### San Francisco Libre Stays Sandinista

The link goes on - not least because in the February elections the people of San Francisco Libre voted, by a large majority, for the FSLN and for a Sandinista mayor and local council. Now a Sandinista outpost against a hostile UNO government, San Francisco Libre will be needing help from Reading more than ever. Donations can be sent to David Sutton (address above) - cheques should be made payable to the Reading San Francisco Libre Association.