

SOLIDARIDAD

BULLETIN OF THE READING NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY GROUP

Number 1

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BEATING THE US EMBARGO

As part of the "Nicaragua Must Survive" campaign the NSC are again collecting material and money donations for the next container of Rural Supplies for Nicaragua.

A tremendous amount of work and effort has gone into the container appeal in the past. The first container was sent in 1985 and in 1986 some £150,000 worth of goods was sent.

Since the imposition of the US embargo in 1985, Nicaragua has faced a crippling shortage of all kinds of basic mechanical, educational and medical supplies, made all the more acute by the Contra war. The goods NSC is able to send (be they writing materials, syringes or wellington boots) are all urgently needed.

As part of this appeal, the Reading Group urges all its members and supporters to give generously to this vital effort.



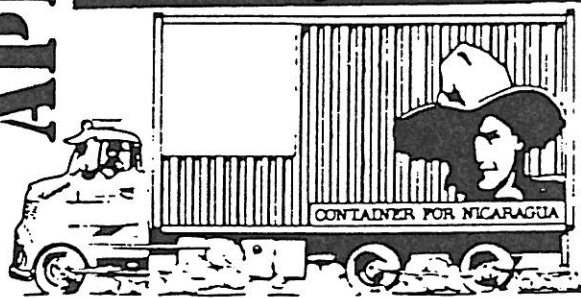
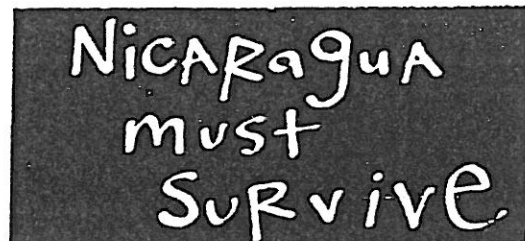
"BLOOD MONEY"

"Notwithstanding seven years of struggle, hardship and suffering, the Nicaraguan people continue to be hopeful, continue to believe that the forces of reason, of rationality, of pragmatism in the United States, of the morality and the traditions of that great country will ultimately prevail - because we happen to believe in the American people as we believe in people everywhere."

These are the words of Alejandro Bendana, Secretary-General of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, speaking at the launch of the NSC's "Blood Money" campaign at a large public meeting in Caxton Hall on March 24th.

The purpose of this campaign has been to collect 100,000 signatures for a petition to be presented to the US Congress prior to its vote on Reagan's request for a further \$105 million in aid for the Contra terrorists. This critical debate has been rescheduled for September, and petitions should be returned to the NSC as soon as possible. The Reading Group has already collected a good number of signatures, but if you have not yet signed please contact us as soon as possible. Don't miss this opportunity to tell Reagan where to get off.

CONTAINER
APPEAL



CAMPAIGN NOTES

The address of the NSC is:
Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign
23 Bevendon Street
London N1 6BH
(Annual affiliation for individuals:
£10 waged, £4 unwaged)

The NSC's new sales catalogue lists Nicaraguan coffee and rum, badges, postcards, posters, mugs, stationery etc. The local Group also has stocks of some of these.

Recent NSC publications include the summer issue of *Nicaragua Today* and *Nicaragua Special Report: the British connection* (a revealing up-to-date account of Britain's shameful record towards Nicaragua past and present).

For information about town-twinning, contact:
David Dixon
Oxford-Leon Association
Town Hall
Oxford OX1 1BX

Publication: *Meeting our Partners: impressions of Leon* (published by Oxford City Council at £1.75)

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The Reading Nicaragua Solidarity Group is one of the 67 support groups throughout the British Isles affiliated to the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign (NSC). Our aim is to provide all the material and moral support we can for the government and people of Nicaragua and to promote an increased awareness of the achievements of the Sandinista revolution as well as the present situation of direct US intervention.

Locally the Group has arranged events, exhibitions and a festival; raised money through campaigns and the sale of Nicaraguan goods; and begun the initiative of creating direct links between Reading and Nicaragua itself.

The next meeting of the Group will be held at 76 Donnington Road on Monday 17th August at 8 p.m. All members and non-members will be very welcome. For further information contact:

David Bales (Convenor)
49 Northumberland Avenue
Reading (Tel. 860594)

David Sutton (Secretary)
76 Donnington Road
Reading (Tel. 664976)