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>NICARAGUA/>MACNEIL: Our next focus section is a documentary report >POLITICS 2> on Nicaragua, where the Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, was inaugurated president today in a ceremony attended by Cuban President Fidel Castro. Ortega was elected last November in a vote criticized by the United States as a sham, because the opposition could not freely take part. Today, a crowd of about a thousand government officials, party leaders and foreign guests gathered for the ceremony on the shores of Lake Managua. Ortega became a revolutionary when he was a teenager. Soon after the Sandinistas seized power in 1979, he began to emerge as the central figure in the military junta and eventually he was named coordinator. Then the directate (sic) named him to be the Sandinista candidate for president. Our special correspondent, Charles Krause, has given us the following report on the state of the opposition now and the views of those who oppose the Sandinista definition of democracy.

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KRAUSE: Ortega's supporters claim he was elected president with more than 60 percent of the vote because most Nicaraguans support the Sandinista revolution. But there's no way to know if the opposition could have done better, had there been a completely fair election. Ortega was able to campaign freely; opposition candidates were not. Arturo Cruz, for example. He worked closely with the Sandinistas for many years, first as a member of the government junta, then as ambassador to Washington. Disillusioned with the revolution, Cruz returned to Nicaragua last summer to run against Ortega as the Democratic Coordinador's presidential candidate. But after several of his rallies were disrupted, Cruz pulled out of the election. Five opposition party candidates did remain on the ballot, but Cruz's decision not to run was crucial. It ended any chance the election would be viewed as credible outside Nicaragua. ARTURO CRUZ (opposition leader): The elections were nothing more than a preparatory, ritualistic step to confirm the Sandinistas in power. There was no real contest. They believe in holding absolute power and, with that power, graciously make concessions to other members of society. But that will not work. That will not be functional. You see, totalitarians regarding freedoms are like a miser regarding money. They just hold on the same way that a miser hold ons (sic) to gold coins.

KRAUSE: The Sandinistas claim Cruz did not withdraw because of lack of political freedom in Nicaragua, as he says. They point to an article in The New York Times, which reported that Cruz's political allies were taking orders from the CIA. Carlos Tunnerman is Nicaragua's ambassador to Washington. CARLOS TUNNERMAN (Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, voice of translator):

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They knew that if Arturo Cruz participated or if the Coordinador participated and lost these elections, that would give more legitimacy to the Sandinista front. So they took the decision to try to discredit the election by alleging that there weren't sufficient guarantees. CRUZ: Not only I don't agree with Carlos Tunnerman, but I reject the allegation as false. In luncheons that I have with members of the administration on a personal basis, they felt that with a Coordinador should go to the elections regardless of conditions or not.

KRAUSE: Whether or not the CIA tried to discredit the election, the Reagan administration has provided arms, airplanes and covert training to counterrevolutionary guerrillas trying to overthrow the Sandinistas. In Washington, Cruz has urged Congress to renew financial aid for the contras. Inside Nicaragua, opposition leaders claim they have no direct ties to the guerrillas. But Enrique Bollandos, head of Nicaragua's most powerful private business association, told us the contras have helped the political opposition. ENRIQUE BOLLANOS (opposition businessman): I think that if you look at the facts, that ever since the contra has been operating, we found more room to maneuver inside. It's not anything that we planned or anybody planned, but the Sandinistas felt that the contra is more dangerous and they paid more attention to the contras and they didn't pay attention to us, by coincidence.

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