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# Bolanos describes fears that led to defection

Former guerrilla Miguel Bolanos on defecting from Nicaragua, and the workings of that country.

*Miguel Bolanos, 24, led a 60-man guerrilla unit in the final battles that brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979. He defected from Nicaragua about 10 weeks ago by hijacking a light plane to Costa Rica.*

*From January 1980, until his defection May 7, Bolanos was an official of state security. He said he was schooled in Cuba for four months, and helped stage the public demonstrations during the pope's visit to Nicaragua last March. Thousands of anti-Sandinista Catholics were kept away while the pro-Sandinistas heckled the pontiff. He participated in a two-year plan to discredit opposition forces. "Operation Spiderweb" led to the recent expulsion of three U.S. diplomats from Nicaragua.*

*Bolanos served briefly after the Nicaraguan revolution as special assistant to the Sandinista army chief of staff, Joaquin Cuadra. He defected because he felt that genuine principles of the Nicaraguan revolution have been betrayed by the Soviet and Cuban contingent of the Sandinistas. He fears that Nicaragua is headed for totalitarianism.*

*Before fighting in the revolution, Bolanos attended college in the United States. His mother, Gloria Hunter, is an American. When he landed in Costa Rica in a hijacked plane he was carrying an expired U.S. passport. Bolanos has been debriefed by the State Department and the CIA. Bolanos spoke in English during the following interview conducted by free-lance writer Richard Bodurtha for The Washington Times.*

**Q:** Are the Soviets planning to build nuclear missile bases in Nicaragua? Tomas Borge (a powerful member of the Sandinista junta) has said, "I can assure the United States that that is one thing it need not worry about."

**A:** They don't need to (build the missile sites). The strategy of the Soviets and the communists is to maintain the view that the big conflict, the battle against communism, will be a nuclear war. Then they can take over countries step by step by exporting the revolution and fighting little wars. With this kind of movement they plan to isolate the United States, France and some other European countries they can win without fighting.

**Q:** Some members of Congress have publicly doubted whether the Sandinistas are supplying the El Salvadoran guerrillas with arms. Are they?

**A:** Not any more. Just ammunition and whatever it takes to maintain whatever they've sent in the last four years. Sandinistas have supplied the El Salvadoran guerrillas with 6,000 or 7,000 machine guns. When I was fighting with the Sandinistas in 1979 we had 150 machine guns in Managua. In just Managua. About 2,000 in the whole country.

**Q:** What were your reasons for fighting Somoza? You came from a background that was, what would you say, upper middle class?

**A:** In the final two years Somoza was crazy. Until then he had always let the opposition party run against him. And the press, too. An opposition press. But then in the last two years it became a crime to be young. If you were 18 you were a communist. He was killing too many people. It was a humanitarian motivation that made me fight against Somoza.

**Q:** Recently in Washington there has been talk about the possibility of "peeling away" the hard core Marxists and communists among the El Salvadoran guerrillas. What do you think about that?

**A:** For the international communists it is a matter of procedure to lead journalists and others into thinking that some of the guerrillas are moderate and others are hard communists. But they are all pro-Cuban. All their talk about dialogue is just getting them

time. It was the same way in Nicaragua. I was on the inside there and I can tell you that all the talk about having a dialogue is a lie.

**Q:** You knew Melinda Montes during the revolution in Nicaragua. She later went to El Salvador to join the guerrillas there. She was murdered by the guerrillas. Why?

**A:** She wanted the Salvadoran guerrillas to have a dialogue with the government. Honest dialogue with the Salvadoran government.

**Q:** Felipe Gonzalez, the president of Spain, said during his recent trip to Washington that the current U.S. administration lacks "vision" regarding Latin America. What about adopting a policy formed by the Conadora Group or something like the San Jose Declaration signed in Costa Rica last year by the region's prime ministers? It states that the Salvadoran government talks to its external opposition and the Sandinistas do the same with their external opponents. Also that Cuba withdraws its advisers from Nicaragua and the United States brings its military advisers home from Honduras and El Salvador.

**A:** Then the Sandinistas and communists can work in peace. They will be able to consolidate their communism and neutralize their internal opponents. At that moment there will be a static situation and they will have a dialogue to change international opinion, which has been generally bad for them.

**Q:** What are some of your thoughts about the contras? Some of them have said that they can topple the Sandinistas in a few months. Is that Latin bravado, big talk?

**A:** The contras cannot win the Sandinistas in that short of time. But you see, they have many factors on their side. All of the Indians are with them. The contras are making Sandinistas retreat from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific.

**Q:** How is the junta holding up? Is there dissension among the nine members?

**A:** The people see them join hands in public and they think that the junta has unity. I was an intelligence officer and I can tell you that the junta is not united. Underneath the surface there are fractions.

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