

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 18A

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
7 JANUARY 1983

Ire at U.S. expected at conference

By Alfonso Chardy
Inquirer Washington Bureau

UNITED NATIONS — The Non-Aligned Movement opens a five-day conference Monday in Nicaragua to examine crisis areas of Latin America and the Caribbean and is expected to denounce Reagan administration policy as the source of hemispheric troubles.

Sandinista commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan junta, will inaugurate the conference of foreign ministers, which is sponsored by the movement's 34-nation Coordinating Bureau but is open to all 97 member states.

Nicaraguan diplomats at the United Nations said they expected delegations from 70 to 80 countries but discounted reports that Cuban President Fidel Castro, nominal head of the Non-aligned Movement, might attend the session. They said Ortega was the only head of government expected to attend.

One Latin American diplomat noted, however, that "Fidel is unpredictable in these cases and may decide to show up at the last minute."

The conference, to be attended by at least 14 foreign ministers, will lay the groundwork for a summit of heads of state from nonaligned nations in New Delhi, India, later this year.

U.S. criticized

Beyond the expected barrage of anti-American speeches, a major task of the conference in Managua will be to debate a 19-page document prepared by the leftist government of the host country.

The document, a copy of which was made available to Knight-Ridder Newspapers by Nicaraguan U.N. diplomats, essentially constitutes a broad indictment of U.S. policy toward the region.

Virtually every one of its 74 paragraphs carries sharp criticism of U.S. programs, ranging from involvement in Central America to the aftermath of the Falklands war, and from the debt crises in the region to President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Other Latin American diplomats at the United Nations said moderate nations of Latin America, Africa and the Middle East would attempt to tone down the more militant passages and incorporate the U.S. view that Nicaragua, Cuba, Grenada, the Soviet Union and leftist guerrillas — not Washington — are endangering peace.

Latin focus

Jorge Canda, alternate Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations and one of the officials involved in organizing the conference, said his government would try to use the meeting to focus world attention on Latin American problems, particularly the Central American crisis, which he said usually receives scant attention at triennial nonaligned summits.

"We believe that the time is right to tell the international community about the dangers in Central America, and of all the major problems in Latin America," Canda said.

"This way," he said, "the international community and the non-aligned countries will see that the tensions in the region are a potential danger to international peace, and that the U.S. is one of the major contributors to the problems of our troubled region."

The draft, which is to become the Declaration of Managua once it has been debated and adopted, says that the conference comes "at a time when tension is rising in the Caribbean; the South Atlantic, and particularly in Central America, as a result of the interventionist policy of the United States in the region."

Alleged U.S. harassment

The document accuses the United States of clandestine operations in Central America to assist anti-Sandinista counterrevolutionaries whose strikes inside Nicaragua "have left a toll of more than 400 dead, wounded and kidnapped Nicaraguans since 1979."

It contends that the United States harasses Nicaragua with spy planes, the presence of warships and the staging of combined military maneuvers with the Honduran armed forces.

Washington is "fomenting" war between Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras, it says, by increasing its military links with Honduras and financing enlargement of Honduran air bases, as well as by sending military advisers to the region.

The paper accuses the United States of "blocking" a settlement by opposing peace initiatives from Mexico and Venezuela and by ignoring Nicaraguan offers of talks with the United States and Honduras.

It also contends that U.S. political and military involvement in El Salvador is contributing to a "deterioration" of the situation in that country.

[United Press International reported that the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Miguel d'Escoto, said yesterday in a Managua radio interview that the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, Anthony Quainton, had reviewed with him the Reagan administration's "worries" about the meeting.

[Barricada, the official newspaper of the ruling Sandinista Front, said the Reagan administration fears that the nonaligned movement will depict the United States as "a war-like nation and aggressor against Nicaragua."

[Managua's leftist regime has contended the United States is backing right-wing commandos based in Honduras and staging almost daily raids on Nicaraguan border towns, killing numerous civilians and soldiers.]