

Nicaragua: A chronology of deception

This chronology has been compiled from historical material that is part of the public record, as well as from intelligence sources. All of it has been available to key members of Congress.

April 19, 1980 — First public indication in West that Nicaragua guerrillas are involved with Castro's rebel forces in Cuba when Cuban army raids a Nicaraguan rebel training camp near San Diego de los Baños in Pinar del Rio Province.

July 23, 1961 — Under the direction of Fidel Castro, three Nicaraguan Marxist radicals — Carlos Fonseca Amador, Tomas Borge (now interior minister, overseer of secret police and Castro's closest friend in Nicaragua) and Silvio Mayorga — set up the FSLN in Honduras. FSLN junta now rules Nicaragua.

1969-1970 — Tomas Borge, now one of the nine Sandinista comandantes, functions as one of Castro's principal envoys to the PLO. Trains at PLO camp in south Lebanon and travels throughout the Middle East. Sandinista representative Benito Escobar arranges with three PLO representatives in Mexico City for Libyan-funded PLO training in Lebanon for a contingent of 60 Sandinistas. Among them were the present vice minister of interior, Rene Vivas, the late Communication Minister Enrique Schmidt, and Henry Ruiz, minister for external cooperation.

Sept. 6, 1970 — Sandinista Patrick Arguello Ryan is killed in an El Al airline hijacking attempt. Arguello is now revered by the Sandinistas as a hero; a large dam in Nicaragua is named after him. PLO-trained Sandinista terrorists also participate in the hijacking and destruction of three Western commercial aircraft at a desert strip in Jordan. Later that same month, Sandinistas fight alongside the PLO in the aborted attempt to topple King Hussein.

Feb. 5, 1978 — PLO and FSLN issue joint communique affirming "the bonds of solidarity which exist between the two revolutionary organizations."

March 6, 1978 — The Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPLP) and FSLN issue a joint declaration of war from Havana against "Yankee imperialism," "the racist regime of Israel," and the Nicaraguan government.

1978-79 — PLO-Sandinista relations intensify. Col. Muammar Quaddafi invites leaders of Central America's Marxist-led guerrilla groups, including Sandinistas, to a meeting in Libya where he pledges financial and political support.

1979

Feb. 8 — U.S. formally terminates military aid to Nicaragua (already suspended for several months).

June 16 — Provisional Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction (GRN) formed in Costa Rica to replace the Anastasio Somoza regime in Nicaragua.

June 23 — OAS approves a Venezuelan resolution calling for the immediate replacement of the Somoza regime by a democratic government.

June-July — Julian Lopez Diaz, a veteran Cuban intelligence officer, who has specialized in creating revolutionary upheaval in the Western Hemisphere for 14 years, coordinates Sandinista tactics and the flow of weapons to the guerrillas from a forward command post just inside the Costa Rican border. Cuba provides some 500 tons of supplies in a month. Under Mr. Lopez's direction, the Sandinistas adopt Mr. Castro's example of a dual governing structure — the inner core led by the Marxist-Leninist FSLN, the outer core, designed to hoodwink Western and local opinion, by the FSLN's democratic allies.

July 12 — GRN junta — the outer core — Telexes its program and a pledge of free elections to the secretary-general of the Organization of American States.

July 17 — Mr. Somoza resigns and interim government announced.

July 18 — Julian Lopez Diaz, the top Cuban operative in the carefully orchestrated takeover, flies into Managua and becomes the Cuban ambassador. (He has been Cuban pro-counsel in Nicaragua ever since.)

July 19 — Interim government collapses; FSLN military forces arrive in Managua; GRN officially assumes power.

July 21-27 — Cuban military and civilian advisers begin arriving secretly in Managua. The Interior Ministry is the Cubans' most important power-base. Tomas Borge is Castro's *homme de confiance* in Managua and was his personal choice to run the country after the revolution. With Mr. Borge's okay, Cuban advisers take over the running of all the key agencies involved in political repression. A team of 194 Cuban officers from the Direccion General de Inteligencia (DGI) and the Direccion de Seguridad del Estado move into the Interior Ministry and begin organizing the secret police. The contingent is headed by a Gen. Caldero. It includes three other generals and 18 full colonels. Among those identified: Leopoldo Gonzalez Gires, Paul Garrido, Francisco Ruiz Talavera, Alfredo Vazquez Matus and Zoila Gonzales Proveida. Most of the senior officers had previously controlled provincial directorates of the secret police in Cuba.

July 27 — The U.S. announces airlift of food and medical supplies.

Aug. 1 — More than 100 Nicaraguan police officers, who had graduated from special courses at the Antonio Briones Monoto training academy near Guanabacoa in Cuba, become the nucleus of the Sandinista Police (PS). They are under the command of two Cuban advisers, Gen. Leonardo Gonzalez and Col. Irwin Guaresma. Their orders are to create an elite corps of PS whose members are

totally ideologically "reliable." They had picked local police officers for advanced training in Eastern Europe (15 are sent to the "Wilhelm Pieck" school for political cadres in East Germany and ten to the East German VOPO school at Aschersleben).

Aug. 15 — There are so many Cuban VIPs commuting to Nicaragua that the DGI is now operating an executive air taxi service out of Managua. It has been given an English name (Executive Charter Airways), presumably to conceal its real identity.