

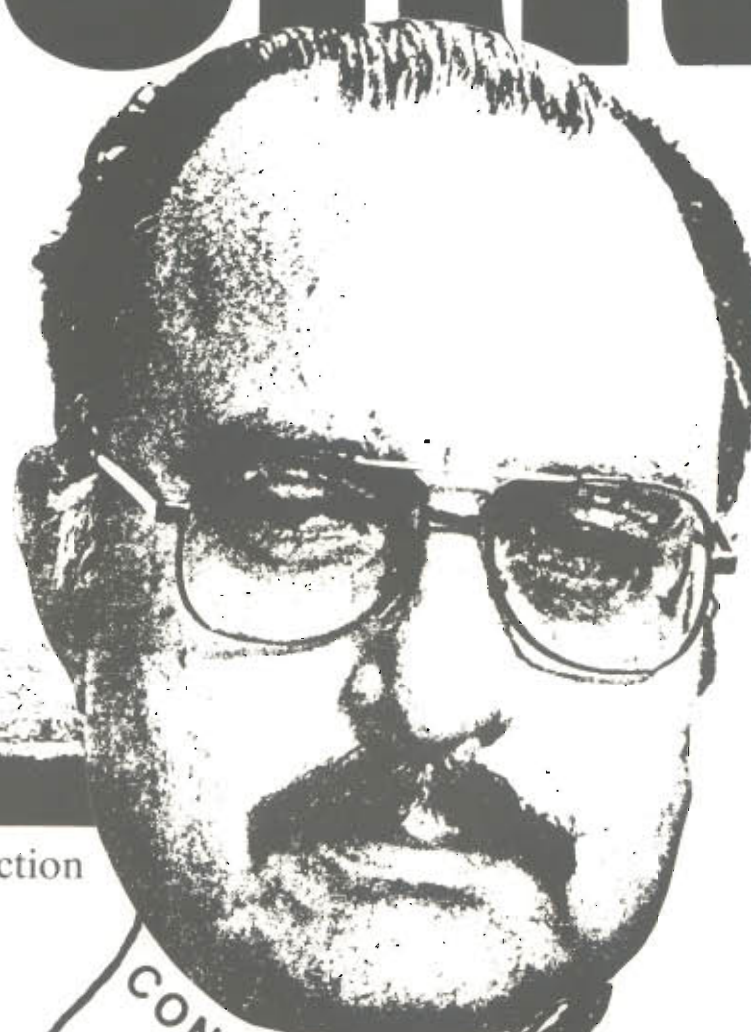


POPULAR INSURRECTION

BY THE LATE '70s THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ACHIEVE TOTAL UNITY IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO OVERTHROW THE DICTATORSHIP.



Alliances are formed, under the direction of the FSLN (Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional). The FSLN, founded in 1961, had continued in the tradition of Sandino in the northern mountains. In the 1970s they strengthen their popular support in the factories and among the urban unemployed. The middle classes traditionally opposed to the nationalist movements find themselves marginated by Somoza's family growing business monopolies. After the 1972 earthquake Somoza excels himself in corruption, alienating even further the middle classes: he pockets 250 million dollars in aid while the National Guard thrive on black market sales of aid supplies and blood trafficking. Bourgeois political groups though opposed to Somoza could not gain the people's support. Instead the people turned to the FSLN, who recognised that the workers and peasants must determine their own future.



In August 1978 the outrageously bold seizure of the National Palace releases 78 Sandinista prisoners. As they drive to the airport, and exile, thousands line the road to cheer. Within days, five cities rise up in insurrection. Fierce repression by Somoza's forces follows bringing military defeat . . . but political victory for the people . . .

'IN ESTELI, WHEN THE FSLN PULLED OUT, THOUSANDS TOOK TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH THEM . . . BY THE TIME THE GUARD HAD FINISHED



THEIR REVENGE THERE WAS NOT A PERSON LEFT IN ESTELI WHO DID NOT SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION.'

The final offensive is launched in 1979. A Frente communique announces: 'PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA . . . THE HOUR OF THE TYRANT HAS COME. ALL NICARAGUANS TO THE GENERAL STRIKE . . . TO ARMS . . . THE POPULAR INSURRECTION WILL TRIUMPH . . . A FREE COUNTRY OR DEATH . . .'

The insurrection is total: 30% of the fighting force are women, children as young as nine or ten are on the barricades.

Somoza is finished, his scorched earth policy, the destruction of his own country brings nothing but international isolation. The Nicaraguan people are determined to win. By mid June Northern Nicaragua is liberated *again*. One after another, the southern cities fall to the FSLN. On July 19th Nicaragua has a revolutionary Government of National Reconstruction.

