

Nicaragua invasion: a 'New Yalta' plot

by Valerie Rush

U.S. preparations for an invasion of Nicaragua—first confirmed by on-the-ground military circles in Central America—are now emerging more openly in the United States as well. Trilateral Commission circles in and around the Reagan administration are using the June 25 House of Representatives vote approving Contra aid as a foot in the door to what is intended as a full-scale Vietnam-style engagement of U.S. troops in Central America. "Official Washington," as the July 13 *Washington Post* put it, is already "on a kind of war footing."

The "game plan" comes straight from such "New Yalta" strategists as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, et al., and is part of a deal struck with their Soviet counterparts to orchestrate a U.S. troop redeployment out of Western Europe and into Central America. The Soviets get Europe, the United States gets a new Vietnam south of the border.

Former National Security Council director Brzezinski describes the deal in his recently released book, *Game Plan*, which portrays an "endless game" being played out between the United States and the Soviets, where the object is not "victory of the traditional type," but rather "to avoid defeat." Writes the former executive director of the Trilateral Commission:

"Moscow's posture made it clear that an American invasion of Nicaragua would precipitate a rhetorically violent Soviet propaganda campaign—but no more than that. . . . The Soviet Union cannot at this stage become directly involved in contesting the paramount position of the United States in the Western Hemisphere. . . . Manpower withdrawn from Europe should be absorbed into an enlarged Rapid Deployment Force through the creation of additional light divisions for use . . . in Central America."

While leaving the details of implementation to his Trilateral associates, the late Soviet boss Yuri Andropov in 1983 described the same general scenario in an interview to the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*, in which he suggested that the Soviets would turn a blind eye to an overthrow of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, as long as the United States acknowledged a Soviet "sphere of influence" in Europe and the Middle East.

The House vote on Contra aid, interpreted universally in Ibero-America as the green light for an invasion scenario, is polarizing the continent. Peruvian President Alan García immediately denounced the vote as putting the United States on a track of military escalation which could lead to full-scale invasion. In that event, he warned, **Peru** will be "on the side of Latin America." Behind the scenes it is rumored that debt relief for Mexico, now under negotiation with the creditor banks, is being linked to that country's taking a more pro-U.S. position on Central America.

Even the most right-wing generals in **Argentina**, still burning from the Reagan administration's abandonment of its own Monroe Doctrine during the Malvinas conflict, have made it clear that, ideologies aside, they would come to Nicaragua's defense should a U.S. invasion take place.

The Central American countries, whose territories would be rapidly engulfed in any U.S. military adventure in the region, are under the most intense pressure by the Kissinger crowd in the State Department to desert the Contadora peace initiative and throw their lot in with the "New Yalta" gameplan.

Promised military superiority to the Nicaraguans, **Honduras** has responded by offering itself as a staging ground for U.S. invasion plans. On July 14, President José Azcona warned Honduran businessmen to brace themselves for a poor investment climate in the near future, and added: "It will cost thousands and thousands of Nicaraguan lives during the coming months or years to eradicate the terrible dictatorship" there.

Costa Rica, forced to impose a murderous austerity regime in exchange for vitally needed operating funds from the World Bank/International Monetary Fund, now appears to be taking a more "conciliatory" attitude towards U.S. Contra policy. But **Guatemala**, similarly pressured, remains an open question. President Vinicio Cerezo has just returned from an early-July visit to Mexico, where the urgency of Latin American solidarity was emphasized. A September visit to Guatemala by Peru's Alan García will presumably reiterate the argument.

The real irony of the Nicaragua situation is that, were the Reagan administration really intent on "stopping the spread of communism," it would have given its wholehearted support to the Contadora Group. That regional mediation effort had time and again managed to box the Sandinistas in, only to see Managua let off the hook by U.S. State Department interference which allowed the Sandinistas to back away from commitments they had already made.

As part of their gameplan, the New Yalta strategists have been bludgeoning the government of **Panama**. In particular, they hope to eliminate—politically or otherwise—Panama Defense Forces chief Gen. Manuel Noriega, whose proposal for a Contadora-linked military capability has been described as a "security without war" alternative to current U.S. strategic doctrine for Central America.