

# Selective enforcement charged in prosecution of neutrality act



by Ronnie Loveler  
Pacific News Service

**MIAMI**—On the same day Haitian exile leader Bernard Sansaricq and 24 others were taken into FBI custody for their attempted invasion of Haiti, Nicaragua's exile leaders met here to plot the overthrow of the Nicaraguan government. None has been arrested, or even investigated.

That day, Jan. 15, more than 100 Nicaraguan exile leaders met in Little Havana at the behest of Fernando Aguero, a former Nicaraguan senator who heads the recently formed association Nicaraguan Union of Democratic Action.

Aguero, who lives in comfortable exile in an exclusive Miami Beach condominium, told the gathering of exiles, who came from as far away as Costa Rica and Venezuela, that "armed struggle is the only way we can retake Nicaragua."

The call to arms was repeated by each of the dozen exiles who took the podium, including Maximiliano Perez, a former member of Nicaragua's National Guard. "I come here to you with the conviction of a professional soldier," Perez said. "Many of you know of my doings in Miami and other parts of America. I have been involved in military activities and I have gone to collect arms for our soldiers." The applause was deafening.

By the meeting's end, the delegates had reached a tacit agreement to bring their diverse groups into one umbrella organization to hasten the counter-revolution. Earlier, rep-

resentatives of three anti-government military units had agreed in Florida to unify their command structure.

Meanwhile, in another part of Miami, federal authorities were filing charges against Sansaricq and his followers for violating the 1794 United States Neutrality Act. The act calls for prosecution of anyone who, from within the United States, "provides or prepares a means for or furnishes the money for or takes part in any military or naval expedition" against a foreign government with which the United States has diplomatic relations.

In a bond hearing, Sansaricq, a longtime legal resident of the United States, said he and his followers "took great caution not to violate U.S. law." And in fact, his effort to overthrow Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier was launched from South Caicos island, about 100 miles north of Haiti.

It is no secret that Nicaraguan and Cuban exiles are engaging in paramilitary activities in training camps in California and South Florida, and that some trainees have already left for Central America where they are making military thrusts into Nicaragua. Exile leaders have publicly admitted as much, and federal law enforcement officials have acknowledged the existence of the training camp.

The exile unity meeting here was common knowledge in Miami's Latin community.

Why, then, is Sansaricq facing prosecution under the Neutrality

Act for his ill-fated attempt to oust Duvalier, when the Nicaraguans appear free to act as they will? Philippine exile activists in California have asked the same question in connection with a federal probe into possible violation of the Neutrality Act by Steve Psinakis, an anti-Marcos activist in San Francisco.

"It's clear what they have done here in Miami is single out the Haitians," said Ira Kurzban, a prominent local attorney who specializes in immigration and international law. "The disparate treatment is clearly motivated by foreign policy concerns."

The government of Nicaragua, of course, is at the opposite end of the political Richter scale from both Haiti and the Philippines. Although the repressive character of the Haitian and Philippine regimes is generally acknowledged, their anti-communist stance pleases Washington.

The socialist policies of Nicaragua's government, on the other hand, have made the Reagan Administration anxious for a change in that country. "The U.S. government is behind the Nicaraguans and the Cubans in their training to invade other countries," says the Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, director of the Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. and spiritual leader of Miami's Haitian community. Jean-Juste says the prosecution of Sansaricq and the others is one more example of U.S. government bias toward Haitian refugees.

Attorney Neal Sonnett, who is representing Sansaricq, believes the charges filed against his client are

"a diplomatic offering to calm down 'Baby Doc' [Duvalier]. My feeling is the State Department felt: 'We had to do something or we might lose our standing with Duvalier.'"

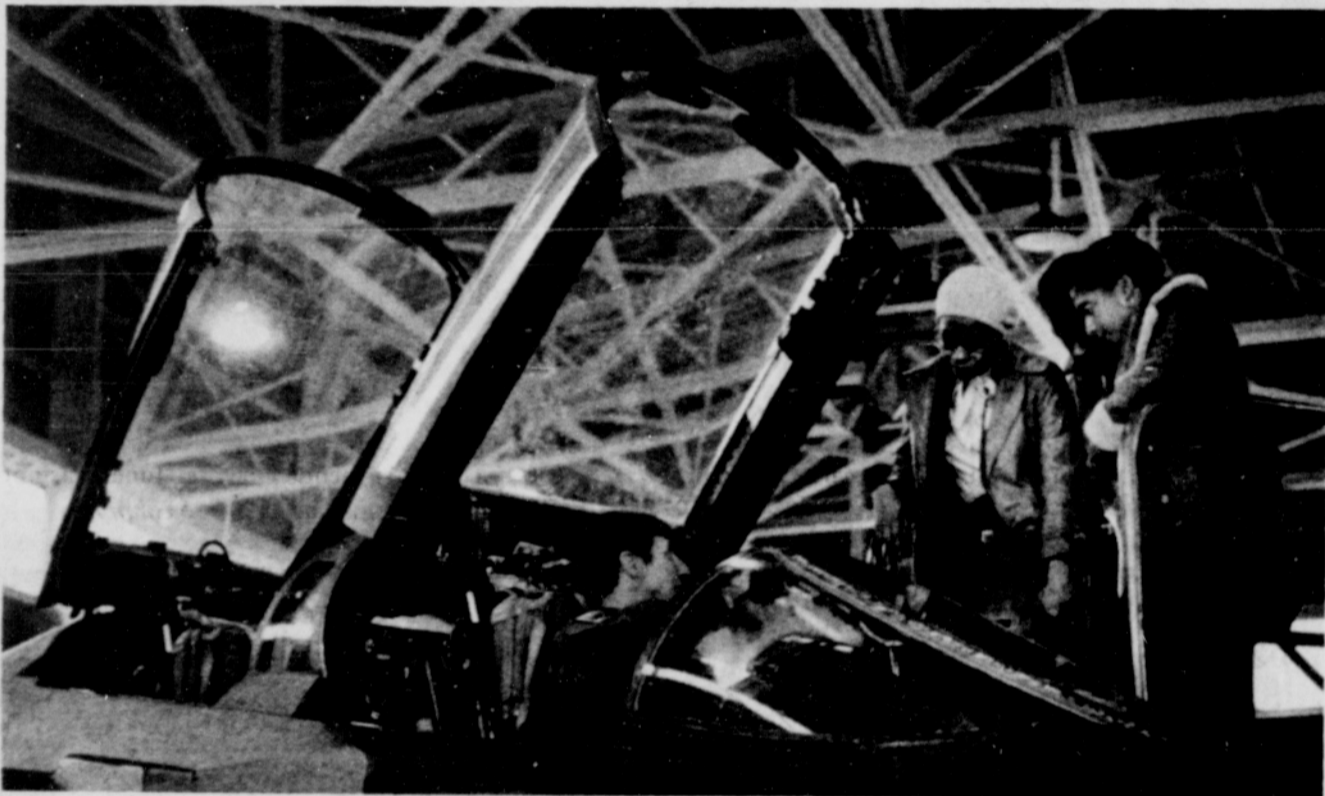
Sonnett says that because Sansaricq and his men were picked up by the Coast Guard in international waters, the best the prosecution can show is that some of the men are residents of south Florida.

But while Duvalier and Marcos appear to have political weight in Washington, the Nicaraguan government has had no success in its efforts to get U.S. authorities to clamp down on the Nicaraguan exiles' paramilitary training activity. The position of the State and the Justice Departments is that since the maneuvers are conducted on private property with legal weapons, exiles are acting within the law. "No allegations have ever been made about the Nicaraguan exiles, or have been brought forth to this office," stated Juan Briones, and FBI spokesman in Miami.

Washington attorney Paul Reichler, who represents the Nicaraguan government, argues that the decision not to prosecute the Nicaraguan exiles is politically motivated. "If you look at the bottom line, we see that this government is prepared to prosecute those who attempt to act against right wing governments such as Haiti's," he said, "but for political reasons won't prosecute those who are engaged in acts against government this administration feels are leftist."

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Nicaraguans train to protect their country against US aggression.  
(Photo: Jose Agaz, Granma)



Lt. Col. "Deb" Ward explains intricacies of the F-4C Phantom to Julia Robertson, Bill Newbourne and Kay Toran during Portland Air Base tour Jan. 9. The tour provided a chance for them to learn about Air National Guard opportunities offered in

the Portland area. Robertson is women's coordinator for the Urban League; Newbourne is a career counselor at Portland Community College's Cascade Center; and Toran is affirmative action director in the governor's office in Salem.

## Eugene conference explores military issues

**EUGENE**—Some of the country's foremost authorities on national security will gather Feb. 25-27 at the University of Oregon to debate issues of military spending, the draft, nuclear warfare and the Soviet threat.

The Northwest National Security Conference, organized and sponsored by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon, will center

on whether current U.S. foreign policy enhances or endangers the country's national security interests. All sessions, open to the public, are set for the Ballroom of the Erb Memorial Union, East 13th and University.

Among the conference's 13 invited speakers are Ray Cline, former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency and now a senior as-

sociate at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies; Leslie Brown, a U.S. foreign service officer currently serving as deputy director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs; and John Drain, a retired Navy captain who, as an aerospace engineer and defense analyst, designed numerous U.S. defense systems.

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