

## People to People Relationships Urged at U.S.-Nicaragua Sister City Conference

by Avel Gordly

The Seattle Managua Sister City Association was host to a 3-day U.S.-Nicaragua Sister City Conference June 26-28 at the Seattle Center. Focus of the Conference was on several seminars developed to provide resources for the promotion of Sister City relationships with Nicaragua and for the development of Sister programs among health centers, schools and churches.

Fifty-seven Sister City projects between the U.S. and Nicaragua have already been developed. Thirty more U.S. cities have decided to establish a Sister City relationship and have chosen a site in Nicaragua. They are in the process of formalizing ties which is usually done through City County resolutions. Two Oregon cities, Albany and Portland have relationships with Chichigalpa, Chinandega and Corinto Chinandega respectively. Significantly, Black organizations in Washington, D.C., Lower East Side New York City and Detroit, Michigan, have established or are working to establish relationships with Bluefields located on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, which is largely populated by Black Nicaraguans.

Over 300 delegates to the conference celebrated "people to people relationships," which included a delegation of 26 Nicaraguans among them. Comandante Monica Baltodano, Vice Minister of the Presidency, was in attendance, as was Elizabeth Linder, mother of Benjamin Linder, a Portland engineer killed by the Contras. She spoke at the opening church service.

### Black Activists Call for Links

A handful of Black delegates from the U.S. attended the conference including Charles Rolland, Co-Chair of the National Black United Front, Seattle Chapter, and Akua Budu-Watkins of Detroit, who is also a member of the Free South Africa movement. In separate conversations, Rolland and Watkins both spoke of the need for Black activists to make the links between U.S. domestic issues and U.S. foreign policy toward Central America and Southern Africa. They both cited the need to find creative ways to make these issues clear and more widely known in Black communities. They also urged that Black people in the U.S. learn more about the Black population of Nicaragua.

Underscoring the call for "people to people relationships" was a statement released by the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, D.C. These relationships were described as fostering "an understanding between Nicaraguans and North Americans of diverse cultures and eco-

### Free Clinic

A public Hypertension (blood pressure) Screening clinic is scheduled Monday, July 20, 1987, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Carman Oaks Residential Center, 3800 S.W. Carman Dr., Lake Oswego. The clinic is staffed by hospital S.H.E.P. Technicians. There is no charge, and no appointment is necessary. For more information, call 692-2193.

### Single Parent Support Group

Every Thursday evening, from 7 to 9 p.m., this group offers support and social contact for women and men experiencing Single Parenting. Group discussion will include: Parenting Information, Referrals and Resources, Discipline Techniques, Finding Adequate Day Care. For more information, contact: Sue Kaastad, 238-8819 or Debbie McFeron, 249-2825.

This group is sponsored by Parents Anonymous and Parents Helping Parents, a United Way Agency.

### Red Cross Offers Advanced First Aid

The American Red Cross is offering an Advanced First Aid class on the following Mondays and Wednesdays, July 6, 8, 13, 15, 27, 29 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave. A certificate will be issued upon completion of the class. The cost is \$25. Call the Red Cross at 284-1234 to register.

conomic, social and political situations. As well they reinforce our common goals of friendship and mutual respect during this most difficult time of U.S. government sponsored aggression against the Nicaraguan people." The Embassy statement also indicated that "over the past several years, U.S. Sister Cities have sent thousands of tons and millions of dollars worth of medical and other material aid to Nicaraguan cities and rural villages."

For more information about Central America's diverse cultures, and the economic and social conditions

presented from a third world perspective, contact the following people: Martin Gonzales, Director of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Central America Program at 230-9427. Gonzales recently returned from a tour of Nicaragua and El Salvador. Richard Brown, a local photojournalist, who traveled to Nicaragua including Bluefields in 1985, has also traveled to Honduras to cover training exercises of the Oregon National Guard. He can be contacted at 289-0707. Education Activist Sherrian Haggar traveled to Nicaragua in 1986 and can be contacted at AFSC - 230-9429.



Portland activists attending the "Sister City 1987 Conference" met with Nicaraguan representatives. One of the representatives they spoke with

was Azucena Baltadano, Director of Nicaraguan Sister City Program (front center).

Photo by Richard J. Brown

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