

Nicaragua and Us

BY MANUEL COMEZ

WAR with Nicaragua!

The last reports of casualties caused the U. S. Navy Department to rush 1,000 more marines to the battlefront to reinforce the 1,500 already there. There are now more U. S. Marines in Nicaragua than in all of China. Four light cruisers are in Nicaraguan waters, and the whole scouting fleet is close at hand, at Guantanamo Bay.

War with Nicaragua! A war of invasion, in which Nicaraguans defending their own territory are stigmatized as "bandits" and are being forced to face death or surrender to ruthless marine rule.

American workers and farmers, the great mass of the American people, are aroused to indignation by this new bloody venture of Wall Street and Washington, carried on at the very moment when President Coolidge is prattling about "good will" and "cooperation with the peoples of Latin America!"

John S. Hemphill of Ferguson, Mo., whose son, Sergeant John F. Hemphill was killed in action in Nicaragua on New Year's eve, wrote the following protest to President Coolidge:

"What we are doing is no less than murder, for the sole purpose of keeping in power a puppet President and acting as collector for Wall Street.

"My son survived honorable service thru the World War against Germany, only to be officially murdered in a disgraceful war against this little nation."

Harold Leavey, Jr., a Brooklyn milkman whose son was in the latest contingent of marines ordered to Nicaragua, made a statement to the press on January 5 declaring that the despatch of U. S. forces there was "nothing else but plain murder," adding:

"The boys are being sent to fight for Wall Street brokers, not Uncle Sam, I'm only a poor milkman and I need my boy more than they do."

War with Nicaragua! Even those who still cherish illusions about the terrible World War cannot be deceived about this wanton assault upon the territory of Nicaragua.

It is an undisguised war of aggression.

It throws once more into the limelight the sinister story of U. S. activities in Haiti, Santo Domingo, Panama, and the whole Caribbean area, where, with accompanying threats of force against Mexico and countries of South America, the military might of the U. S. Government has long been playing the role of universal oppressor.

United States marines have been in Nicaragua since Dec. 24, 1926. Since last May eighteen pitched battles have been fought.

On July 15th occurred the massacre of Octobal, in which an indiscriminate bombing raid by U. S. army planes resulted in the murder of 300 to 500 Nicaraguans, more than 200 of them civilians—men, women, and children.

Why are the marines in Nicaragua? Ostensibly they are there to insure

a fair election of the Nicaraguan president. In reality they are there to prevent the constitutional president Dr. Juan B. Sacasa, supported by the majority of the Nicaraguan people, from taking office in opposition to the usurping president, Adolfo Diaz. Diaz, formerly an employee of an American mining company of Nicaragua, is now maintained in the presidency by U. S. bayonets. Under these circumstances we can be sure that the next president will be someone no less acceptable to American financial interests than Diaz himself.

There is more than a suspicion that it will be General Jose Maria Moncada, the Sacasa Commander in Chief who was bought off by Col. Henry L. Stimson, personal emissary of President Coolidge. Stimson "made peace" between Diaz and Moncada in a secret conference on an American warship. Sacasa was exiled and the terms of peace "legalized" U. S. occupation in Nicaragua.

According to these terms of peace which the people of Nicaragua can never accept—Americans are to officer the Nicaraguan constabulary even after the fake elections next August.

Meantime Dr. William P. Cumberland, has been made financial dictator in Nicaragua. Nicaraguan customs are in the hands of American collectors, and negotiations for \$20,000,000 of long term loans are in progress.

It is no temporary occupation but a permanent one entrenching itself.

American financiers have again taken hold of the Nicaraguan railroads and the National Bank of Nicaragua. The bankers in question are J. & W. Seligman & Co., close allies of the house of Morgan, long active profit mongers in Nicaraguan affairs.

The war in Nicaragua is a profit war!

Another, and indeed the chief objective in the invasion of Nicaragua is the Nicaraguan canal zone, across which is to be built a new Atlantic-Pacific gateway of American imperialism. The right to build a canal across the Nicaraguan territory was bartered to the United States government in 1916—by a government then as now, maintained in power by U. S. bayonets. Most of the \$3,000,000, which was to be paid for it has never found its way into Nicaragua. The Bryan-Chamorro treaty, which contains the canal grant, also gives the United States control by lease of the Great Corn and Little Corn Islands and of a naval base in the bay of Fonseca.

This treaty infringes the rights of Honduras, Salvador and Cost Rica, and is therefore illegal. It has been formerly declared illegal by a special Central American court convened to consider it.

President Coolidge, in his speech made as early as last January, declared plainly that the United States needs the Nicaraguan canal as the radiating center of expanding United States interests in the Atlantic and the Pacific as well as in Latin America.

The war in Nicaragua is a war of imperialism! Imperialism means great profits for the lords of Wall Street, who have already planted \$5,000,000.

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000 of profitable investments in Latin America. It means suffering and death to the Latin American peoples. It means suffering and death to American workers and farmers.

General Augusto Sandino, fighting bravely against the greatest imperialist power in the world, has the support of all anti-imperialist Latin America because it is recognized that he is fighting against the imperialism that menaces all Latin America.

Sandino was a General in the liberal army led by Moncada. He refused to recognize the shameful deal which Col. Henry L. Stimson negotiated with Diaz and Moncada. For six months he has continued to struggle.

Stigmatized by the U. S. Government as a bandit, with only a couple of hundred men at his command, and without any support from the people of Nicaragua, he has already lost nearly seven hundred men according

to the official U. S. government reports, and his forces continue to swell. Dr Sacasa now in Guatemala has declared him to be a patriot, as have Sacasa's old envoys, Zepeda in Mexico and Dr Vaca in the United States.

The harbor workers at Corinto, at the opposite end of the country from Sandino's stronghold, went on strike and refused to unload supplies for the American invaders. Major Robert J. Jordan, collector of Customs at Corinto, declared that the strike was called for the purpose of assisting Sandino.

American workers must not scab on their Nicaraguan brothers, must not hinder their plainly indicated aims, even tho they themselves are forced to give up their strike action in the face of superior armed force!

The masses of the American people must support the army under General Sandino in its resistance to imperialist aggression.