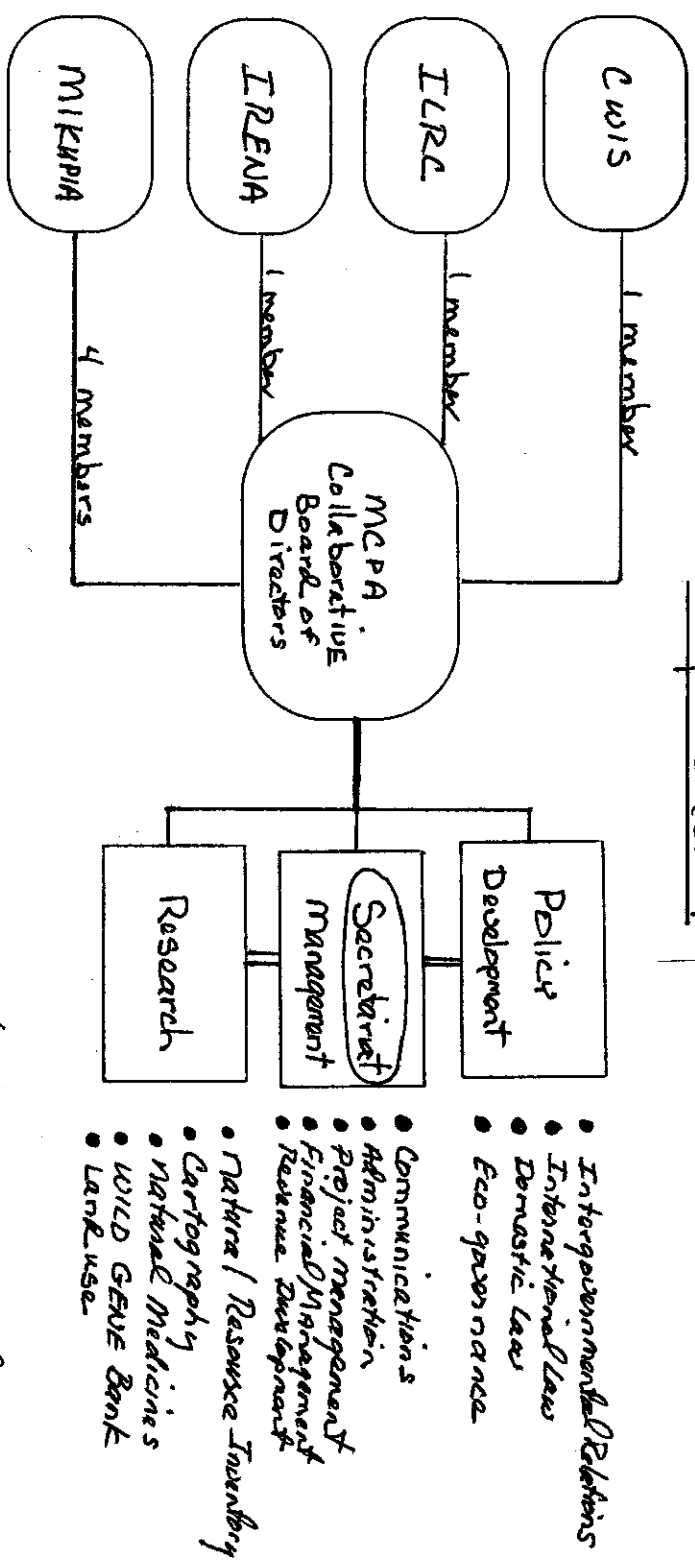


Miskito Coast Protected Area Proj.

Organization



Draft: June 3, 1991 CUIS

JOHN D. and CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ON HUMAN SOCIETIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

THE MISKITO COAST PROTECTED AREA PROJECT:

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR MISKITO CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Proposal Submitted by

Acesores Científicos-IRENA (AC-IRENA)

Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS)

MIKUPIA (Miskito Environmental Protection NGO)

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Amount Requested: \$407,436

Starting Date of Project: January 1, 1992

Duration of Project: two years -- 1992, 1993

Project Administration: Center for World Indigenous Studies

**A. Miskito Coast Protected Area Project:
Conservation of Biodiversity
in the Tropical Coastal Area of Miskito Territory**

{Cover page}

B. Summary

{250 words}

C. Project Description (4000)

1. Purpose and Objectives

(a) PURPOSE

On the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua, establish a 5,000 square mile coastal conservation zone with an effective management regime which protects some of the world's most biologically productive and species-rich tropical ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrass pastures, coastal lagoons and wetlands, and mangrove forests) while sustaining the social, economic and cultural development of the indigenous Miskito population within a framework of international cooperation.

(b) OBJECTIVES

[1] Establish a detailed project management plan involving the Project Collaboration group January 1, 1992 through January 28, 1992.

[2] Conduct Miskito and International Technical Corps development (up to twelve combined Miskito and other indigenous technical personnel) involving intensive Team Leader preparatory consultations and instruction and establish three Team Leader Units responsible for management, research, and policy development February 1, 1992 through February 15, 1992.

[3] Under the leadership of the Policy Development Team, establish a communications network in cooperation with the Management Team between the Project and domestic Indian communities, and establish formative cooperative communications between the project, the Regional government, the government of Nicaragua and twelve other countries and several international agencies concerned with the project coastal zone and provide on-the-job-training as well as two weeks of formal instruction and preparation, for a minimum of twenty Miskito beginning February 16, 1992 through December 31, 1992.

[4] Under the Research Team conduct a "baseline natural resources inventory" (the first of three phases followed by Phase II: Natural Resource Monitoring; and Phase III: Natural Resource Enhancement) of the proposed conservation zone relying on training enhance capabilities of up to 23 Miskito Indian people, and including indigenous and other consultants, scientists beginning March 1, 1992 and continuing through to December 31, 1992.

[5] Under the Management Team, establish twelve project management stations throughout the conservation zone - each serving as a research, policy and management facility including a management staff of three persons each from February 1, 1992 to March 15, 1992 and operating for the duration of the project.

[6] Conduct a minimum of quarterly (eighty) Community

Consultations reporting on project progress and receiving Community suggestions in each of the twenty management areas from January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1992.

2. Collaborative Process

In an unprecedented commitment of cooperation three non-governmental indigenous organizations joined in accord with the Nicaraguan government Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA) to organize and conduct a five year project to establish the Miskito Coast Protected Area.

After ten years of formal and informal cooperation and association the Indian Law Resource Center (Washington, D.C.), Center for World Indigenous Studies (Kenmore, WA) and leaders in MIKUPIA (Managua and Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua) will now formally collaborate to secure the Miskito Coast Protected Area. The Indian Law Resource Center (ILRC) will be represented in the collaboration by Mr. Armstrong Wiggins, an attorney and a Miskito. Mr. Rudolph C. Rýser, a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS) will represent that body in the collaboration. Mr. Rony Pont, Mr. Marcos Hoppington in Managua and Mr. Dennis Castro and Mr. Rudolf Spear in Puerto Cabezas will represent MIKUPIA. Mr. Bernard Nietschmann, on loan from the Department of Geography, University of California - Berkeley, will represent the Nicaraguan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA). These persons will comprise a seven member "collaborative group" which will oversee and participate in the conduct of the Miskito Coast Protected Area Project.

Both the Indian Law Resource Center and the Center for World Indigenous Studies have extensive experience in international relations and maintain extensive contact with indigenous nations and their government around the world. The Indian Law Resource Center will play a key role in the development of cooperative relations between the Project and nations and states concerned with the Miskito Coast Protected Area. The Center for World Indigenous Studies will play a key role in the development of technical cooperation from other indigenous nations. MIKUPIA will play a primary role in the management and organization of Miskito participation in the Project. Finally, IRENA will participate in the organization of technical support from non-Indigenous institutions.

All seven "collaboration group" participants will guide the project's overall plan, management, policy development and research as "project directors."

3. **Methods to be employed**
4. **Relevant Bibliography**
5. **Plans for Dissemination**

D. Budget

E. Resumes of applicants

Castro, Dennis (MIKUPIA)
Hoppington, Marcos (MIKUPIA)
Nietschmann, Bernard Q. (UC, Berkeley/IRENA)
Pont, Rony (MIKUPIA)
Ryser, Rudolph C. (Center for World Indigenous Studies)
Spear, Rudolf (MIKUPIA)
Wiggins, Armstrong (Indian Law Resource Center)

**F. Statement of any Previous, Current or Potential
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MEMORANDUM

TO: MCPA PROJECT COLLABORATORS: MIKUPIA, IRENA, ILRC

FROM: R.C. Rýser, CWIS *R.C. Rýser*

DATE: July 3, 1991 9:53 AM TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

SUBJECT: MCPA PROJECT SCOPE: BIODIVERSITY, NATURAL MEDICINES, SATELLITE IMAGING and Fourth World Technical Collaboration, DRUG CONTROL

After putting together the July 1 (CWIS) outline draft of the MCPA Project proposal to the MacArthur Foundation, I had some additional thoughts that we might consider for including in the scope of the project. These include the issues of biodiversity, natural medicines and satellite imaging. Here I will take them one-by-one.

Biodiversity:

While it is quite clear that the designated 5000 square mile area contains "some of the most diverse and rich ecosystems" anywhere in the world, we ought to carry this notion further and establish a link between "environmental abundance and human need." How is this abundance used to sustain human life? Is any of the flora or fauna under environmental stress? To what extent have the ecosystems been affected by the "Green Revolution?" Is the genetic stock of "wild strains" sufficiently plentiful to ensure a strong, natural gene pool for both flora and fauna? To what extent does the MCPA constitute a source of strong genetic diversity for food crops?

I suggest that not only should there be a "natural resource inventory" in MCPA, but there ought to be a program element specifically concerned with sustaining the biodiversity contained in each ecosystem. There ought to be emphasis placed on defining "wild genetic stock" of food crops as well. William K. Stevens wrote in the New York Times (Tuesday, June 25, 1991 "Loss of Genetic Diversity Imperils Crop Advances") that many seed banks are becoming "gene morgues" because of storage problems, and problems with money maintaining the system of banks. "Other gene collections are useless, researchers say, because their contents have not been identified, analyzed and catalogued, leaving them like a library without a card catalogue - or even any book titles."

Community people knowledgeable about "wild stock" flora and fauna must be included in the Miskito/International Technical Corps. Distinctions must be made between those flora and fauna "originating in the MCPA" as opposed to those "introduced to the MCPA."

Natural Medicines:

Another element of the project ought to be formal identification, cataloging and descriptions made for all natural medicines both in their "singular state" and "compound state" if appropriate. The role that flora, fauna and minerals play in the medicines is an essential

element of ensuring self-sustaining community life. People familiar with these medicines in their natural surroundings must be included in the Miskito/International Technical Corps. I further suggest that this activity ought to be a significant element of a natural resource inventory. Angé would clearly be an important contributor to this element.

Satellite Imaging:

I spoke with Gary Morishima, Advisor on Environment to the Quinault Indian Nation, and determined that it is entirely probable that the Quinault Indian Nation will be willing to lend some of its expertise in the conduct of "natural resource inventories," and Satellite Imaging within a framework of a Miskito/International Technical Corps. He suggests that the Project use Satellite Imaging as a first major step to initiating the MCPA inventory. On-the-ground data collection is, of course essential, to documentation of flora/fauna details. I think Satellite Imaging is essential, and perhaps now we should link up with the contact in Alaska and other contacts which may be suggested by Quinault. Interpretation of the Satellite Images, will require some OJT (on the job training).

Technical help from the Fourth World:

Quinault, Colville Confederated Tribes, Confederated Salish-Kootenai and the Yakima Indian Nation are the tribes in the U.S. with the most advanced technical experience with natural resource inventory, satellite imaging and environmental protection efforts. CWIS can bring them into the project as technical assistants. The Federated States of Micronesia ought to be brought into the project on the technical side because of their experience with tropical ecosystems. Rosalee Tizya is one of the best "community organizers" I know, and while that skill is clearly strong among the Miskito, I would like to bring her in on this and other issues.

DRUG CONTROL

I know there is a concern for the control and regulation of "drug-traffic" in the MCPA. I would suggest that this issue become a factor of "area management" so as not to confuse the "environmental agenda" with the "mind-altering control" question. For your info, I have enclosed a copy of an article on "cocaine traffic" which appeared in a recent issue of the local rag.

I have drawn up a rough diagram of the MCPA organization as I see it. This might need to be used to amplify the section on "collaborative process." What do you think? - of course needs flesh.

Need to know what kind of money is needed to pay for Principals, and other key positions. Working up a draft budget for consideration.

Ought we be engaging in a "multi-national discussion" (You, me, Armstrong and MIKUPIA) regarding the development of this proposal. How would you propose we conduct the discussion by telefax?

**MISKITO INDIAN CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE
"MISKITO KUPIA" TROPICAL COASTAL PROTECTED AREA,
NORTHEASTERN NICARAGUA**

A Briefing

By

MIKUPIA, the Miskito Environmental NGO

Concerning

**MISKITO KUPIA, the proposed 5,000 square mile
tropical coastal protected area**

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Close-Up

THE DRUG WAR'S NEW BORDERS

Cartel chiefs adapt by hiring others, joining 'peace' train

The first of a two-part series

By Ana Arana Knight-Ridder Newspapers

BOGOTA, Colombia — The surrender of Pablo Escobar and his top associates last week begins a new chapter in the multibillion-dollar cocaine industry — one that law enforcement officials believe will bring decentralization of smuggling, growth of markets outside the United States and the public rehabilitation of the major figures who have dominated the drug market.

Even in jail, Escobar and other top associates will participate in the new order, authorities predict. Given the tight organization that has always controlled drug operations, the top Medellín Cartel members will keep ruling through associates, they say.

Even if they wanted to leave the business, they couldn't, because of the agreements they have with other traffickers," said a law-enforcement source.

Moreover, with every new law enforcement weapon, the traffickers have come up with a new countermeasure.

When the U.S. stepped up enforcement on the lucrative Colombia-Miami cocaine smuggling route, the drug barons opened new avenues — through Central America, Mexico and California. When the growth of the cocaine market in the U.S. slowed, the drug traffickers branched out into Europe.

Now law-enforcement officers believe the cartel will find ways to make use of the legal way offered by Colombian President César Gaviria to end the bloody drug war. Some officials say the drug trade has already begun to adapt.

Critics of Colombia's policies say the benefits program actually benefits traffickers. During the height of the drug war, they lived on the run and were forced to hire hundreds of guards to protect their safety. Now they no longer

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Cocaine prices as high as \$89,000 a kilo in Europe have encouraged the drug trade to go global.

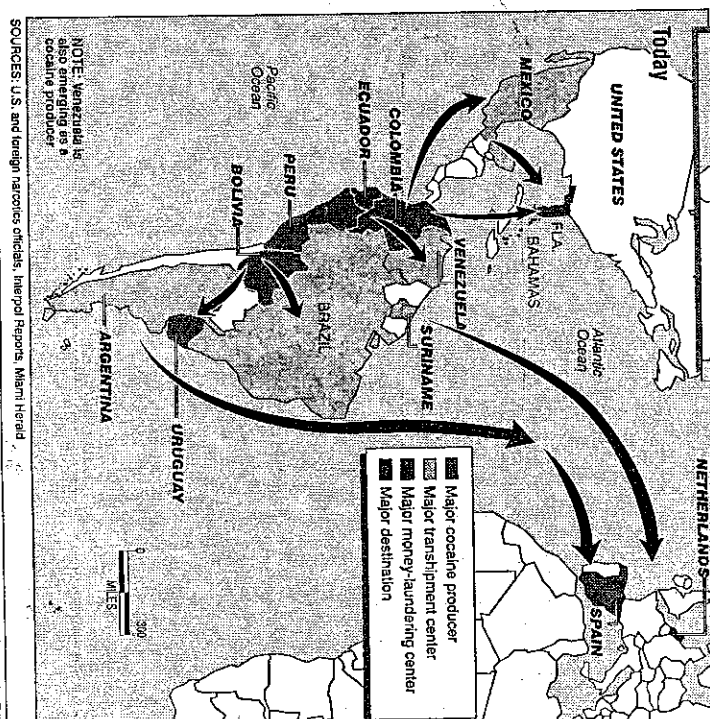
guards or worry about security. Among the major developments police in Colombia and the U.S. expect:

- The business will become more decentralized inside Colombia, with hundreds, if not thousands of smaller traffickers taking part. Known as "narigueros" (little traffickers) because their annual profits are a mere \$5 million to \$10 million, they already are working with Colombian Cartel as subcontractors. The larger numbers of traffickers involved, without the central control of the Medellín Cartel, will make it harder for law enforcement to track them.
- Operations will be moved to other countries.
- Drug traffickers will be less publicly defiant. They now are portraying themselves as patrons who are surrendering and bringing peace to the country and bringing victims of human-rights abuses by the Colombian government's security forces.
- Every Colombian believes the traffickers, because human rights have never been respected in this country, said a human-rights lawyer.
- The flamboyant style of flashy jewelry and cars also will fade. Said one lawyer, referring to the cartel's hit man, "Any *swingo* who scores a little hit drives an expensive, imported car. It is too much show."

Even with the top cartel leadership now in jail, no law-enforcement official will be quoted by name for fear of retaliation. Hundreds of judges and drug police have died in the war against the cartel.

The changing face of world cocaine traffic

Five years ago, cocaine flowed principally from Colombia through Mexico and the Bahamas to Florida. Today, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador are major cocaine producers. Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Suriname are key transshipment centers and Uruguay, since the U.S. invasion of Panama, is a growing money-laundering point. Even the preferred destination has changed. Spurred by slowed U.S. consumption and stepped up law enforcement, drug traffickers have shifted their attention to Europe, where Spain and the Netherlands have become the new Florida.



NOTE: Venezuela is also emerging as a cocaine producer. SOURCES: U.S. and foreign narcotics chiefs, Interpol Reports, Miami Herald.

Tracking traffickers

Associated Press

Here's a look at what has happened to some other drug lords besides Pablo Escobar. All are Colombians, except where noted.

■ Carlos Lehder, 38, co-founder of the Medellín cartel, was extradited to the U.S. in 1987 and is serving a 140-year sentence for drug trafficking and conspiracy.

■ Rafael Caro Quintero, 37, Mexican drug kingpin, was convicted in 1988 of the torture slaying of DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar in Mexico and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

■ Fabio Ochoa, 33, last year became the first Medellín cartel leader to surrender under a Colombian government offer not to extradite trafficking suspects to the U.S.

■ Jorge Luis Ochoa, 41, the No. 2 man in the Medellín cartel, surrendered to Colombian authorities in January in exchange for the government's promise not to extradite him to the U.S.

■ Luis Arce Gómez, 52, a former Bolivian interior minister, was sentenced in March to 30 years for conspiring to import and distribute cocaine into the U.S.

■ Roberto Escobar, the brother of Pablo, also turned himself in last week. Of 12 men listed by the U.S. attorney general in August 1989 as the most-wanted Colombian drug traffickers, six remain at large. They are José Santacruz Londoño, José Duarte Acero, Jaime Raúl Duque, Gerardo Moncada, Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, the leader of the rival Cali cartel, and his brother Miguel Rodríguez Orejuela.

they are concerned by evidence that traffickers who have surrendered have continued to operate from Colombian jails.

Colombian police and a former drug associate now jailed in Spain said Pablo Ochoa, Jorge Luis Ochoa and Juan David Ochoa, associates of Escobar, are issuing orders to their drug empire under denials, even though they have been behind bars for months.

The Ochoas are housed in a high-security jail a few miles from Medellín, but police are not allowed inside the grounds, and the brothers hired their own jail guards. The prison is equipped with cable television, VCRs and a

No one knows exactly what goes on inside the prison, law-enforcement officials say. But police sources say the Ochoas were behind a shipment of 14 tons of cocaine into Spain last March, months after the three brothers surrendered.

"Escobar's interest in surrendering was influenced by the success of his former partners," said one senior law enforcement official.

Continuing the business is relatively easy because the basic infrastructure of the drug trade remains in place, police say.

While the leaders have surrendered,

Knight-Ridder/Tribune News

**MISKITO INDIAN CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE
"MISKITO KUPIA" TROPICAL COASTAL PROTECTED AREA,
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Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Environments

In Central America, as in most other world regions, the the areas of greatest biodiversity and surviving natural environments are found where indigenous peoples live. In areas without indigenous peoples, biodiversity is usually low and the forests are most often gone. Because indigenous peoples and surviving nature are found together, institutional support for conservation and indigenous self-reliance should be done together. It is this that will have maximum impact for constructive protection.

The greatest advances in protecting biodiversity and intact environments can be achieved by working directly with indigenous peoples, their governments and emerging environmental organizations. Programs for national parks have saved many critical areas in several Central American countries -- and there is still time to incorporate some areas into national park systems, but population pressure is quickly reducing both forests and opportunities. This means that an alternative and large-scale conservation strategy is also necessary, one that would leapfrog over the fast-advancing frontiers of environmental destruction to assist indigenous peoples in the protection of their still biotically-rich environments.

The Caribbean coast of Central America is the main area in the region where this can be done: it is the area of the greatest diversity of nature and the most diversity and greatest expanse of indigenous peoples.

Within this 1500-mile-long Caribbean coast, the Miskito have the most extensive territory and largest population of indigenous people (250,000).

With growing and necessary attention being devoted to tropical forest conservation, equally diverse and fragile tropical coastal and marine ecosystems have been overlooked. Perhaps the most important coastal "hotspot" in the entire Caribbean is the Miskito Coast which contains the region's largest expanses of some of the world's most biologically productive and species-rich tropical ecosystems: coral reefs, seagrass pastures, coastal lagoons and wetlands, and mangrove forests.

To protect these environments and associated wildlife -- upon which their livelihood depends, the coastal Miskito have created their own NGO with the goal of establishing a 5,000 square mile protected coastal area, which would be the largest in Latin or Indian America.

Miskito Coast Environments and Wildlife

The Miskito Coast (eastern Nicaragua) has the most biodiversity of any coastal area in tropical Latin-Indian

America. It has large expanses of the world's most productive tropical ecosystems: mangrove forests, lagoons and estuaries, coral reefs, and seagrass pastures. Together, these make up one of the most concentrated pieces of wildlife real estate to be found anywhere in the world. The secret to this wildlife concentrate is simple: the vast expanses of inundated wetlands and the extensive fresh-brackish-marine shallow waters absorb large amounts of sunlight which sets off a chain reaction of life that is elsewhere unmatched.

The Miskito Coast's continental shelf is the largest in the Caribbean and contains the largest surviving populations of the threatened green turtle, the endangered hawksbill turtle, and the biggest developmental and fishing grounds for spiny lobster and many species of shrimp. The huge coastal lagoons have rich fish faunas, and two have perhaps the largest remaining populations of manatees in Central America and the Caribbean. The adjacent vast wetlands are home and wintering areas for abundant numbers of resident and migratory waterfowl, many which are elsewhere rare and threatened; and the interconnecting waterways harbor resurgent populations of caimans and crocodiles.

The Miskito Coast is a world class wildlife and environmental region which has received very little scientific or naturalist attention despite its huge size and still very abundant though now threatened biota. It is the premier coastal and marine "hotspot" in the Caribbean and Central America.

The Miskito People

The paramount cultural-ecological feature of Central America's 1500-mile-long Caribbean Coast is the geographic concordance of the Miskito people to the highest concentration of coastal lagoons and widest area of continental shelf. A chain of nine large coastal lagoons and an extensive continental shelf stretch from Cabo Camarón in Honduras to Pearl Lagoon in Nicaragua, a distance of 360 miles. This is also the exact coastal distribution of the Miskito. And where the lagoons are large and the continental shelf wide the Miskito have the largest number of coastal communities. Of all indigenous peoples in Central America, the Miskito have the most extensive coastal territory, due in large part to their historical control of the biotically rich and largely unspoiled lagoons, intervening wetlands and beaches, and offshore continental shelf waters, reefs and cays.

Historically, the Miskito have been a coastal people, only rather recently have they expanded away from the lagoons and shallow coastal waters to move up rivers to new areas.

Known as the world's best turtlemen and among the world's best small boat seamen, the Miskito have an extensive knowledge of the coast, its environments and wildlife. These skills and knowledge are of great importance for developing necessary programs to protect the region's wildlife and for creating a protected coastal area.

The Miskito are the most numerous and extensive indigenous people along Central America's Caribbean coastline. Caribbean Coast peoples are mainly black and Indians, who are often economically poor though they live in a resource-rich region. This has been due to a recurring pattern of resource takeovers, destructive exploitation and unrestricted exportation throughout the region. At the same time, this Caribbean littoral is experiencing a resurgence of indigenous self-determination movements to re-establish control over the threatened resource base. Along with the Kuna, the strongest indigenous self-determination movement in the Central American-Caribbean region is that of the Miskito. The Miskito are now developing their own ecopolitical strategies to protect their autonomy by protecting their environments (Nietschmann, 1988, 1991b).

The Miskito Environmental Initiative

The Miskito people have long practiced environmental conservation and promoted environmental protection. What elsewhere is called "conservation" was such normal behavior in Miskito society that it was unremarkable. However, with increasing outside pressure on Miskito land and sea environments and resources -- including a nine-year-long resource war, many leaders and community people recognize the need to develop and formalize Miskito environmentalism as an integral part of the Miskito's long struggle for self-determination and autonomy.

With support from the Sumo and Rama peoples, the Miskito began to develop and promote environmental issues with land

rights. Statements on the need for indigenous programs and control of environmental protection were presented at the 1979 and 1981 MISURASATA General Assemblies, and the 1987 YATAMA General Assembly (2000 community representatives). During the 1984, 1985 and 1988 peace negotiations with the Frente Sandinista, MISURASATA and YATAMA presented indigenous environmental initiatives within the context of proposed peace plans to end what was largely a war over indigenous resources (see Nietschmann, 1985a).

Support for Miskito protection and conservation of environments and resources always has been strongest in the communities. Each community has well-defined territorial boundaries that demarcate rights and responsibilities to resources. Territorial invasion, resource exploitation and depletion by outsiders are the primary grievances that fuel widespread community support for Miskito autonomy and self-determination.

With the end of the 1980s war, and demobilization of the Miskito fighters and the virtual end of Sandinista sea and air surveillance, the Miskito Coast instantly became the target of international resource and drug traffickers and toxic waste and destructive fisheries schemes (Nietschmann 1990, 1991a). The biotically richest coastal area in tropical Latin-Indian America is again under siege after a 9-year-long, war-induced respite because the Managua government is too poor and politically distracted to help, and many leaders in the Puerto Cabezas

autonomous government are too interested in profit from unrestrained, foreign resource exploitation. As a result, resource pirate boats from at least 12 different countries now enter unopposed in Miskito-Nicaragua waters and each month take an estimated \$2 million dollars worth of lobster, shrimp, turtles and fish. Colombian fishing vessels trade cocaine for lobster with Miskito divers, creating many serious social problems in the communities.

The Miskito Coast also is being used as a refueling and transshipment base for cocaine and derivative products by the Colombian Cali Cartel. In addition, several toxic waste schemes have been promoted to dump industrial, hospital and nuclear wastes (from New York, Miami, Houston, and elsewhere) onto the region's magnificent coral reefs and coastal lagoons. Some unscrupulous people are continually trying to push through deals with foreign commercial fishing companies for exclusive, unrestrained rights to literally strip-mine the area's marine resources.

In the face of these present grave risks and environmental threats, a Miskito environmental protection organization was created in February, 1991. Called Mikupia (an acronym meaning Miskito Heart), this grassroots group was created by community initiative, after a series of World Wildlife-funded seminars and workshops were held that brought together 90 representatives from the 23 Miskito coastal communities between Old Cape and Wounta (estimated population of more than 15,000 people), and Miskito and international environmentalists.

Mikupia's goal is to organize and instruct the Miskito coastal communities in environmental conservation and protection, to coordinate the training of Miskito resource specialists and resource guards, and to spearhead the establishment of a 5,000 sq. mi. protected coastal area that will be designed and run by the Miskito communities with national and international cooperation.

Miskito Kupia -- the Miskito Coast Protected Area

The idea for a Miskito Coast Protected Area originated in the 1970s, and was supported in 1980-81 by a group of scientists-conservationists invited by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA) to visit the area and to make recommendations (Carr III, et. al., 1981).^{*} With the outbreak of the war in 1981 between the Frente Sandinista and the east coast indigenous peoples, the plan was shelved. In 1990, newly-elected President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro named Dr. Jaime Incer as Minister of IRENA, and Dr. Incer reactivated the plan, organized an October, 1990 expedition to the Miskito Cays and invited Miskito community leaders and international conservationists on the voyage. This reconnaissance and discussions with Miskito turtle fishermen and lobster divers in the area, convinced members of the expedition to form a committee

^{*} The group included Drs Archie Carr (Univ. of Florida), Archie Carr III (New York Zoological Society), Nancy Foster (NOAA) and Bernard Nietschmann (University of California).

to organize local, national and international support for a protected area (Jukofsky and Wille, 1990a, 1990b). By December, 1991, the World Wildlife Fund provided a grant to hold seminars and workshops on the Miskito coastal communities, which was done in February, 1991.** Support from World Wildlife and Cultural Survival permitted a follow-up visit to the region in May, 1991.

The proposed MCPA will include 23 coastal Miskito communities (population of more than 15,000) located between the Nicaragua-Honduras border to Walpasiksa 120 miles to the south. Within these communities' coastal territories are six large lagoon-wetland systems with extensive mangrove forests and abundant wildlife, including large populations of manatees. The MCPA would extend up to 90 miles west to the edge of the continental shelf (or to the 82 degrees west longitude sea boundary between Nicaragua and Colombia), which, again, follows the communities' historic territorial areas. Within this sea zone are the Caribbean's largest surviving populations of green and hawksbill turtles, most extensive stretches of seagrass and coral reefs, and most important developmental grounds for shrimp and lobster. The MCPA total some 5,000 square miles of sea, lagoons, wetlands and coastal plain.

Critical to the development and establishment of the MCPA is coastal community participation at all stages from research to

** The 1991 consulting group included Charles Luthin (Caribbean Conservation Corporation), Bernard Nietschmann (UC Berkeley), Widdicombe S. Schmidt (photographer) and Armstrong Wiggins (Indian Law Resource Center).

management. The MCPA will be a Miskito project, run by Miskito from the coastal communities, assisted by national and international people and funding. Defending the area from resource and drug traffickers will be initiated as soon as funding is available for boats and motors, probably by the end of 1991. But it will take approximately two to three years to do the research, develop the management plan, select and train MCPA people, and investigate and implement community development projects that will provide alternative economic resources to compensate for possible reductions in fishing pressure. Much of the work in the communities will be coordinated by Mikupia.

MIKUPIA

The acronym Mikupia means "Miskito Heart" and stands for Miskito Kus Kan Kahbaya Pawanka, or Miskito Coast Protected Area Development.

Mikupia is in the early stage of development. It has an office in Puerto Cabezas and a staff of eight people (four office and four regional coordinators) and some 90 community volunteers from the February 1991 seminars and workshops. The communities are presently preparing to demarcate their collective territory and are discussing environmental priorities and selecting community Mikupia representatives.

Mikupia has a been promised \$35,000 from World Wildlife Fund and perhaps \$15,000 from Cultural Survival for emergency funding of some of its operation.

Coordinated by Dennis Castro, the Mikupia staff is made up of people from the coastal communities who have worked for some 10 years promoting and defending indigenous rights.

Mikupia seeks funding for three years so that it can carry out priority work in the communities and develop critical local, national and international support and funding necessary for sustainable environmental activities and the establishment of the Miskito Coast Protected Area.

Environmental Projects

For its first year, Mikupia will focus on technical and staff training, community assistance, environmental education, demarcation of community resource territories, international coordination and exchanges, and general operations. These activities will be organized as a series of projects, composed of Mikupia staff and nominated community representatives. Subsequent years will see biological inventories, greater training and environmental education activities, and community development projects. These projects and activities will produce the local skills and research necessary to develop and manage the protected area.

For the first year:

1. Technical Training Project. Mikupia is working with the communities to select the most capable people to receive training in various areas, such as protected area design and management, coastal conservation, environmental education, conservation biology, community organization, etc. Training is available at several institutions, for varying lengths of time: Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Tortuguero, Costa Rica; University for

Peace, San José, Costa Rica; CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica; and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami.

People trained in these fields will then help direct community projects.

Lack of funding for technical training has frustrated a Mikupia effort to send one of its coordinators to the University of Miami in May for a one-month seminar and workshop on Coastal and Marine Parks and Protected Areas. The individual met all the requirements and was accepted, but the necessary funds were not available.

2. Community Assistance Project. Mikupia does most of its work in the communities. This project will work with community people to a) gather information on environment and resource problems and concerns, b) set up networks for reporting environmental threats, resource pirates, and other problems, c) assess current levels of wildlife use, and d) keep communities informed about national and regional resource issues and other indigenous organizations. wildlife problems and concerns.

3. Community Environmental Education Project. A major objective is to begin environmental education work in the communities. Mikupia will invite experts on this subject to work with teachers and leaders in the communities. At the same time Mikupia wants to have at least two people trained in environmental education. The project will develop school materials based on fundamental ecological principles and examples from local wildlife and environments. The project will also include gathering information on wildlife and environments from lobster divers, turtlemen, fishermen, hunters and others in the communities. This information as well will be included in schools and community seminars. Critical published information will be translated in Miskito.

4. Demarcation of Community Territories Project. Each coastal Miskito community has its own traditional land, lagoon and sea zones of resource use. These were important means to manage access and use of resources. Community people are interested in demarcating and reactivating these communal tenure systems, much as has been done by various Pacific peoples (Nietschmann 1984, 1985b).

5. International Coordination and Exchanges Project. Mikupia wants to become part of a network with other indigenous organizations working on environmental issues as a means to share information and to help form regional environmental protection initiatives. Mikupia would like to exchange delegations with the Kuna, Kuna Yala, as well as other indigenous peoples.

6. General Operations. Funding for Mikupia is needed to maintain staff and community representatives, an office in Puerto Cabezas, transportation, and communications. These funds will provide the salaries for most of the project personnel.

Funding for three years is sought to support these and related activities. Approximate amounts would be \$375,000 per year.

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JOHN D. and CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ON HUMAN SOCIETIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

THE MISKITO COAST PROTECTED AREA PROJECT:

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR MISKITO CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Proposal Submitted by

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Amount Requested: \$298,583

Starting Date of Project: January 1, 1992

Duration of Project: two years -- 1992, 1993

I. SUMMARY

The Miskito Coast is a world-class wildlife and wildlands region and part of the territory of the Miskito Indians. Non-Indian incursions and depredations threaten the Indian people and environmental degradation on land and in the sea. Unchecked, these environmental changes will biologically impoverish and economically suppress the Miskito Coast.

In response to these threats and as a means to promote conservation and development, a 5,000 square mile Miskito Coast Protected Area (MCPA) is being created with international funding agencies and organizations, the Nicaraguan government, and a Miskito environmental protection NGO. The grassroots initiative for the MCPA came from representatives of the 23 communities which are to design, manage and live within and from the protected area. Though funding exists for necessary biological inventories, vehicles, boats, radios, and for Mikupia (the Miskito NGO), what is needed is a program to train people in the communities to manage the MCPA and their environments. This requires linking the communities with outside human resources, institutional support and technical assistance so that they may become more self-reliant in resource management.

An international MCPA Project Team will organize and assist in community-level planning and training and in developing an international support network for the protected area. Much of the planning, training and support for the communities will come from an international network of indigenous people. The project results will be published and distributed in the Miskito communities, Nicaragua and abroad in a series of MCPA newsletter reports, and newspaper, magazine and journal articles, and by radio and videotape.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An Alternative Strategy

In Central America, as in most other world regions, the areas of greatest biodiversity and surviving natural environments are found where indigenous people live. A resource-cultural gradient exists across Central America from the Pacific watershed with few resources and non-Indian people to the Caribbean watershed with many resources and Indian people (Fig. 1). In the Pacific verdant, biodiversity is usually low, human population densities are high, and environments are often severely degraded. This condition greatly reduces the potential for environmentally-sustainable development. In these areas population pressure and economic and political disparities are fast reducing both the forests and the opportunities for conservation-based development.

In addition to needed research and assistance in these heavily degraded non-Indian areas, an alternative conservation-development strategy is needed. Such a strategy would leapfrog over the fast-advancing frontiers of environmental destruction and poverty to assist the Caribbean verdant indigenous peoples in the protection of their still biotically-rich homelands and to promote democratically responsible and environmentally sustainable economic and social progress.

The vast majority of foreign aid and assistance efforts to Latin America do not focus on indigenous peoples, their economic or political situation, or their environments and resources, although indigenous peoples are often a significant part of a state's population. Sometimes indigenous people are the majority population - as in Bolivia, Peru, and Guatemala. In Central America, for example, indigenous people have 25 percent of the population, 30 percent of the area, most of the surviving natural environments, and yet receive less than 1 percent of foreign assistance and aid.¹

¹ A July, 1991 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service for Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, found that current aid efforts "are insufficient and do not come close to meeting the specific needs of the indigenous peoples of the hemisphere." The report cited the following recurrent problems faced by indigenous peoples not adequately addressed by foreign assistance: The defense and recovery of traditional lands and resources; the recognition of the right to exist as distinct peoples with different cultures and beliefs; equal rights before, and access to the functions and services of the state; and the denunciation of all forms of repression and violence. To better counter these and other problems, the report suggested channeling foreign aid to assist indigenous peoples for institution building, economic empowerment, strengthening cultural identity, fortifying indigenous legal rights, and increased support for skills training.

The greatest advances in protecting biodiversity, redressing social, economic and political injustices, and promoting sustainable development can be achieved by working directly with indigenous peoples, their governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international indigenous-support organizations. One important area where this can be most effectively done is along the Caribbean coast of Central America, where the most numerous and extensive indigenous people are the Miskitos. As a nation they are 250,000 people (larger than the population of Belize) and they control 25 percent of the 1500-mile-long coastline.

The Miskito Coast

The Miskito Coast has the most biodiversity of any coastal area in tropical Latin-Indian America. It has large expanses of the world's most productive tropical ecosystems: Mangrove forests, lagoons and estuaries, coral reefs, and seagrass pastures. Together, these make up a major, concentrated piece of wildlife real estate found anywhere in the world. The secret to this wildlife concentrate is simple: The vast expanses of inundated wetlands and the extensive fresh-brackish-marine shallow waters absorb large amounts of sunlight which sets off a chain reaction of life that is elsewhere unmatched.

The Miskito Coast's continental shelf is the largest in the Caribbean and contains the largest surviving populations of the threatened green turtle and the endangered hawksbill turtle. Also, the biggest developmental and fishing grounds for spiny lobster and many species of shrimp are on the shelf. The huge coastal lagoons have rich fish faunas, and two have perhaps the largest remaining populations of manatees in Central America and the Caribbean. The adjacent vast wetlands are home and wintering areas for abundant numbers of resident and migratory waterfowl -- many of which are elsewhere rare and threatened. The interconnecting waterways harbor resurgent populations of caimans and crocodiles.

The Miskito Coast is a world class wildlife and environmental region which has received very little scientific or naturalist attention despite its huge size and still very abundant though now threatened biota. It is the premier coastal and marine "hotspot" in the Caribbean and Central America.

The paramount cultural-ecological feature of Central America's 1500-mile-long Caribbean Coast is the close "geographic fit" of the Miskito people to the distribution and ecology of the coastal lagoons and widest area of continental shelf. The 360-mile distribution of the coastal Miskito conforms exactly to the network of nine coastal lagoons and shallow offshore continental shelf waters (Fig. 2).

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And almost nothing is known about the intensity and scale of the Miskitos' present use of the resources, or anything about the demographic characteristics of their population. A population

survey in the Miskito territory is urgently needed. An adequate one has never been done and all information on the Miskito is no more than approximations, estimations and extrapolations. No reasonably accurate demographic information is available to help design a sustainable development and protected area management plan. Nothing is known about the effect of the war on population characteristics or resource use patterns. Also needed is information on the eastward movement of non-Indian people into Miskito territory and the extent of deforestation in the upper watersheds that appears to cause increases in sedimentation effecting coastal lagoons and fisheries. Without this information nothing can be known about the nature of the interactions between these populations and ecological zones.

Over several hundred years, the Miskito have fought many wars and sought many means to protect their territory, natural resources and communities. During the 1980s they organized one of the strongest self-determination movements in the hemisphere, raised the only Indian army in the Americas, fought Central America's largest army to a standstill, and were the first armed force in Central America to seek peace through negotiations (1984-1988). These negotiations led to the central government's 1987 constitutional amendment recognizing Miskito autonomy (along with other coastal indigenous peoples). Miskito autonomy was further strengthened in the 1990 election.

With the end of the 1980s war, and demobilization of the Miskito fighters and the virtual end of Sandinista sea and air surveillance, the Miskito Coast instantly became the target of international resource pirates and drug traffickers and toxic waste and destructive fisheries schemes. Resource pirates steal large quantities of shrimp, lobster, turtles and fish each month from Miskito and Nicaraguan waters. Colombian drug traffickers are beginning to use the offshore waters and Miskito Cays as a transshipment route, staging ground and refueling site for moving cocaine northward. Some fishing vessels "launder cocaine" by trading it for lobsters from Miskito divers. This is creating a serious social and economic problem in several communities. In addition, several toxic waste schemes have been promoted to dump industrial, hospital and nuclear wastes (from New York, Miami, Houston, and elsewhere) onto the region's magnificent coral reefs and coastal lagoons. Some unscrupulous people are continually trying to push through deals with foreign commercial fishing companies for exclusive, unrestrained rights literally seeking to strip-mine the area's marine resources.

Though the war is over, its affects and aftermath present many serious unresolved problems on the coast: continuing militancy, a broken economy, widespread unemployment, dislocated people, inexperience with democracy, a lack of experienced technical people and policy-makers, and the absence of means or institutions to mitigate problems.

The present conflict on the Miskito Coast is over resources. Though the area is recognized to be an autonomous region -- largely under Miskito control -- non-Indian people coming from the west to take land and lumber and from the east to take lobster, shrimp, turtles and fish widely ignore Miskito resources

rights. This is part of a similar, overall pattern in Central America (Fig 3).

In January, 1991 two Miskitos were killed when they challenged Honduran resource pirates for illegally fishing lobsters in Miskito waters. On June 28, 1991, unidentified people attacked a Honduran resource pirate boat and sank it in Miskito waters. Miskito community people are considering taking up arms again to defend against the resource pirates and against Nicaraguans who steal and destroy their resources (Nicaraguan army groups are using explosives to fish in Miskito lagoons south of Puerto Cabezas, and another group of Nicaraguan army people are using Mi-24 helicopters to bring in soldiers with chain saws and drums of gasoline to log out mahogany and cedar on Miskito lands west of Pearl Lagoon to the south).

In the face of the present grave crisis and environmental threats, Miskito people created an environmental protection organization in February, 1991. Called Mikupia (an acronym meaning Miskito Heart), this grassroots group was created after a series of World Wildlife-funded seminars and workshops. The workshops brought together 90 representatives from the 23 Miskito coastal communities between Old Cape and Wounta (estimated population of 15,000 to 20,000 people), and Miskito and international environmentalists. Together, these communities and Mikupia want to establish a 5,000 square-mile Miskito Coast Protected Area which they would design and manage in consultation and cooperation with national and international government and private organizations and individuals (Fig. 4). This grassroots initiative for constructive change represents a significant opportunity for collaborative study and assistance between international, national and local institutions and individuals to achieve environmentally- and socially-sustainable development, to provide the catalyst for democratic participation and governance, and to protect a world-class expanse of coastal wildlife and wetlands -- an aquatic "hotspot" of biodiversity.

Mikupia and the Miskito Coast Protected Area project have been received enthusiastically by the international conservation community, several funding organizations, and by Dr. Jaime Incer, Nicaraguan Minister and Director of the Institute of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA). Mikupia will receive funding from the World Wildlife Fund, the MacArthur Foundation, Cultural Survival and US AID. At the same time, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation has received a matching grant from AID for biological research in the MCPA and training programs for some Mikupia people in Costa Rica and elsewhere.

What is critically needed for the success of this Miskito grassroots conservation and development project -- and the objective of this proposal, is the creation of an interdisciplinary and international team that will assist in the development of a national and international support network and the training of local technical groups which will then help sustain the transition to Miskito control and management of their environments, resources and economic development.

This project is important for several reasons:

» **First**, alternative strategies for conservation-based development must be evaluated by affected communities and put into action now or the sheer weight of economic necessity will force the communities to accept the offers to cut the forests, strip-mine the sea, and dump the toxic wastes.

» **Second**, the real need is not just to study or create a protected area, but to prepare the communities to design, run, sustain, and live from a protected area.

» **Third**, the project will serve as an information-technical bridge for the first two years as the Miskito communities and Mikupia are very isolated -- only one seasonal road and no telephones-- and have little access to the critical people, institutions, information, and opportunities that will make a huge difference in achieving a socially and environmentally sustainable people-nature relationship.

» **And fourth**, a success model is very much needed to demonstrate that sustainability is viable, can be implemented, and might reverse destructive changes that are imploding on indigenous -- as well as non-indigenous -- peoples.

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To promote a new and vital collaborative approach to establishing environmentally and socially sustainable development in the region, the Project Team made up of three persons from three NGOs will focus on two areas: local and international. The basic idea is to create a chain reaction of constructive assistance that will (a) promote and reinforce community participation, self-reliance and development; and (b) link key international people and institutions that will collaborate with Miskito communities and Mikupia.

1. Technical and Organizational Training. No training or adequate education facilities exist on the east coast of Nicaragua. It is too expensive to rely on sending a few people to other countries for training workshops, seminars and short courses. Instead, the Project Team and Mikupia will select teams of people and they will be given training in the communities by the Project Team and invited specialists. The Technical teams will form the nucleus of a **Juventud Mikupia** (Mikupia Youth Corps) which will then spread out to work in the communities and be supported by the communities. Technical and organizational training will be given in a series of workshops to groups of 10-20 people in various communities:

a. Environmental Team (environmental conservation, education, and management; surveys on the status of resources, wildlife, environments, and their use and misuse; sustainability; mapping of environments and the collective community land and sea territory; resource pirate occurrence and problems; create solutions to current and foreseen environmental problems).

b. Community Team (surveys on population totals, profiles and projected growth rates by community, areas

and the region; survey of the domesticated and natural resources and varieties used; estimates of present and future resource exploitation levels; create solutions to current and future problems).

c. Women's Team (women in government and developing political skills as a major force in the transition to democratic systems; as key participants in regulating human use of ecosystems; women as educators in early childhood -- shapers of future social norms; conceptualizers of renewed human society; starters and sustainers of economic viability).

d. Management and Policy-making Team (protected area planning; economic alternatives; international relations; transition to democracy; evaluation of alternative decision-making models at the community level; identification of current and possible future problems stemming from sustainable use strategies; strategies for mitigation of problems; coordination with regional and national authorities).

e. Health Team (drug abuse; diver's health [Miskito divers' health is jeopardized by lack of training]; local medicines; survey of major health problems; improvement of water quality and safety); funding possibilities).

f. Communications Team (selection of most talented communicators; development, coordination and dissemination of information produced by the other five teams and by the international support network; collection of oral histories and community documentation; information to be distributed locally and internationally in a MCPA newsletter [Miskito, Spanish and English]; fund raising).

2. International Support Network. Key to the success of local community efforts to create a viable protected area for both conservation and development will be the creation of an international support network. The purpose of the network is to supply specialists to help train the **Juventud Mikupia Teams**; link Mikupia with other indigenous groups and organizations, and environmental protection organizations; to coordinate with Nicaraguan government offices -- especially IRENA; and to assist in securing national and international recognition of the protected area and Mikupia.

a. International Specialists. The Project Team has identified several individuals who are experts in fields needed for **Juventud Mikupia** training. Other specialists will participate in support activities outside of the Miskito Coast.

b. International Coordination. Members of the Project Team have worked with many individuals, institutions and organizations internationally which will assist in

providing information, logistics, materials, and political support; assist Mikupia and the MCPA in obtaining international recognition and in joining various international environmental, indigenous and economic agreements and accords; help coordinate exchanges with indigenous nations and groups (especially the autonomous Kuna people in Panama and the Honduran Miskito organization **Mopawi**); identify funding opportunities; provide guidance on legislation, regulation, resource assessment, environmental education, cooperative international initiatives; help identify and repatriate professional costeños exiled during the war.

- c. National Coordination. The east and west coasts have had an acrimonious relationship since the 16th century. Considerable misunderstanding and mistrust exists. The MCPA project is the first initiative that will test the willingness of the new Managua government and Miskito communities to work together on what is a local-national and international protected area. Members of the Project Team will work with Nicaraguan government offices and Mikupia to build confidence and understanding to facilitate the creation of a large protected area that is within both an autonomous indigenous region (Región Autómoma del Atlántico Norte -- RAAN) and Nicaragua. The project team will also help coordinate the exchange of technical help, information, and visits between Managua government people and Mikupia and the communities. The Project Team will work with IRENA, Mikupia and their counterparts in Honduras to explore the possibility of expanding the MCPA into a transborder protected area.

IV. The Collaborative Process

This collaborative assistance project will bring together Miskito community people and leaders, Mikupia, policy-makers from Nicaragua and elsewhere, technical experts from several Indian nations in North America, and scientists and institutions from several countries. Together, this multidisciplinary, international network will study and implement approaches to channel technical training and institutional assistance to help the Miskito communities run the proposed MCPA protected area (the development of the protected area itself and Mikupia are being funded from other sources).

The project team is composed of three people from three international organizations who have many years of experience working in the region, indigenous communities, and on natural resource and development topics.

Collaborative Organizations

AC-IRENA (Acesores Científicos-Instituto Nicaragüense de Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente)

AC-IRENA is a scientific advisory group formed in August 1990 at the request of Dr. Jaime Incer, Minister of the Instituto Nicaragüense de Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente (IRENA). The group is made up of a wide range of scientists from various disciplines in several countries. These scientists are consulted by IRENA for advice, suggestions and research on natural resource and environment problems and topics in Nicaragua. The advisory group's work and services are non-profit. AC-IRENA is headed and coordinated by Dr. Bernard Nietschmann.

Bernard Nietschmann (Department of Geography, University of California) and AC-IRENA will work with international scientists and organizations, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mikupia and the Miskito communities to coordinate technical and scientific assistance. Bernard Nietschmann has 20 years of experience working in Nicaragua and with the Miskito communities and is a specialist on Central America, tropical coastal resources, and the Miskito people.

ILRC (the Indian Law Resource Center)

The Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit law office and advocacy organization established and directed by Indians. The ILRC provides legal help without charge to Indian nations and tribes in major cases of important Indian rights. Founded in 1978, the Center gives special attention to combating racism in the law and to the development of human rights for Indian and Native peoples throughout the Americas. The Center is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Armstrong Wiggins and the ILRC will coordinate international legal, diplomatic and institutional support, specialists from indigenous nations, Mikupia and the Miskito communities. Armstrong Wiggins is a Miskito from the region who served as the Miskito Foreign Minister during the 1980s war. He is a specialist on Indian rights, and indigenous self-determination and environmental issues in the Americas.

CWIS (Center for World Indigenous Studies)

The Center for World Indigenous Studies is an international interdisciplinary network of indigenous people who work as volunteers and contribute their time and efforts to developing appropriate ideas for problem-solving in Fourth World Nations and between Fourth World Nations and neighboring states. The Center for World Indigenous Studies has since 1984 contributed to conflict resolution measures to bring peaceful settlements in conflicts between state governments and indigenous nations. In addition, CWIS works to facilitate cooperation between indigenous nations to advance self-help initiatives.

CWIS has published many manuscripts in its Fourth World

Journal (Quarterly) and Occasional Papers written by indigenous authors advancing historical, political, social, cultural and economic analysis based on original research. Circulated in indigenous communities and made available to libraries and scholars outside indigenous nations, CWIS publications have contributed to a growing dialogue among indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples about alternative strategies for political, economic and social development.

Rudolph C. Rýser will coordinate the participation of indigenous community organizers and environmental strategists, formulate approaches to adapting workshop models to Miskito community requirements and develop the communications methods and techniques for the project. Mr. Rýser is a Cowlitz from the northwest coast of the United States of America who has served as a communications advisor to Indian leaders in the United States and Canada. He was instrumental in organizing international and local indigenous community linkages as Special Assistant to the President of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. As the Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies, Mr. Rýser has pioneered strategies for international cooperation between indigenous nations emphasizing self-sustaining initiatives and conflict resolution, and he has lead a network of indigenous thinkers and activists who have contributed to the definition of alternative land rights, political, community organization, and, economic and food strategies for indigenous national development.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies will provide Project Administration, Budget Management, financial audit and reports to the funding agency. CWIS is recognized by the U.S. International Revenue Service as an exempt non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and a non-profit organization in Canada.

MIKUPIA (Miskito Environmental Protection NGO)

Mikupia was created in February 1991 by community leaders and representatives from 23 Miskito coastal communities. Mikupia is the first indigenous peoples' environmental protection NGO in Central America. The acronym Mikupia is short for "Miskito Kupia," or Miskito Heart, and stands for Miskito Kus Kan Kahbaya Pawanka (Miskito Coast Protected Area Development). The organization works directly with Miskito communities on environmental protection and sustainable development projects, one of which is the creation of the 5,000-square-mile Miskito Coast Protected Area. In the near future Mikupia will also begin organizing and working in Miskito pine savanna and river communities to the west and in the rain forest and coastal communities to the south. Though the organization is new, Mikupia people have ten years experience in community work.

V. METHODOLOGY

The MCPA Project Team will apply community organization methods and techniques which emphasize personal community communications, building leadership based on existing social, economic and political infrastructures, self-reliance, and sustained low-intensity community empowerment. Reinforcing community values through the introduction of reliable and

accepted visitors from non-Miskito, indigenous nations who focus on those values and compare them to similar values in other indigenous communities is a technique used by indigenous community organizers around the world. Rosalee Tizya, a community organizer, educator and self-government strategist from the Vantuk Gwichin Nation will serve as a consultant to the project and contributor in the Health, Women's and Community Team workshops. Russell Jim, Manager of the Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Program of the Yakima Indian Nation will consult with the Project and contribute to the Environmental Team workshop. John Mohawk of the Seneca Nation will be invited to consult with the Project and contribute to the Communications Team Workshop. Lars Anders-Baer of the Sammi will be invited to consult with the project and contribute to the Management and Policy-making Team workshop. Carol Minugh of the Gros Ventre Nation, and expert in community education, will be invited to consult with the Project and contribute to the Community and Women's Team workshops.

In addition, strengthening community decision-making capabilities through the introduction of trained local youth who are supportive of traditional community values and are themselves reliant on community good-will has succeeded in building community systems of self-help among aboriginals in northern Australia, Indians in Canada, Sammis in Norway and Sweden, and Inuit in Greenland.

International cooperation in "local community development initiatives" has long been recognized as important to successful indigenous peoples. The difficulty has always been establishing sustained and working linkages between the local and the international groups. The method we will employ relies on long-term developed contacts established by the collaborators and their organizations - providing them with consistent briefings and establishing direct contact between key international personalities and key Miskito community personalities.

VI. PLANS FOR DISSEMINATION

1. Publications:

The Communications Team and the Project Team collaborators will periodically issue news releases for use by Nicaraguan newspapers describing the MCPA project and its progress. Similar releases will be issued to Nicaraguan radio and television.

The Communications Team will write, edit and the Center for World Indigenous Studies will publish a trilingual project bi-monthly report for distribution in the affected 23 communities of the Miskito Coast, in Managua and internationally. The 11x17, three column, four page project report will describe ideas, opinions, and status information concerning the MCPA project.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies will periodically publish papers prepared by Communications and Project Team members presenting findings and analysis concerning economic, environmental, political and legal aspects of the MCPA project. In addition, articles will be offered to the National Geographic

Society, news services and other appropriate journals. Emphasis will be placed on the collaborative approach to establishing environmentally and socially sustainable development in indigenous areas.

Publication of findings and analysis will augment community policy-making efforts by providing concrete analysis of specific issues confronting affected communities. Publications, therefore, will be used as one tool to facilitate the formulation of community policy on environmental management.

2. Radio/Public Fora:

The Project Team collaborators will with Mikupia host a day-long public forum near the end of the first project year to present information for public discussion on the MCPA project. This Public Forum will be audio and video taped for later broadcast on Nicaraguan radio stations on both the East and West Coasts of Nicaragua. The video taped version of the Public Forum will be offered to the British Broadcasting Company to feature the MCPA project on a later broadcast.

3. Speeches/Presentations

Each of the Project Team collaborators will be offered to non-governmental organizations like the World Affairs Council, Foreign Affairs Council and the United Nations Association in the Western Hemisphere to deliver speeches on the progress and implications of the MCPA Project. Similarly, foreign affairs and environmental organizational conferences in Europe will be offered an opportunity to hear a presentation on the project delivered by one of the Project Team collaborators. The Swedish Broadcasting System will be specifically invited to consider developing an interview program focusing on the MCPA project.

VII. BUDGET

MISKITO COAST PROTECTION AREA PROJECT - CWIS, ILRC, AC-IRENA

Budget January 1, 1992 - December 31, 1993

ITEM	Rate	Term	Annual Unit	CalYear 1992	CalYear 1993	OVERALL TOTAL
<u>PERSONNEL:</u>						
Wiggins, A.	\$3,333/mo	1/3 time/yr		\$13,333	\$13,333	
Nietschmann, B.	\$4,667/mo	1/2 time/yr		\$28,000	\$28,000	
Ryser, R.	\$3,333/mo	1/2 time/yr		\$20,000	\$20,000	
TOTAL PERSONNEL				\$61,333	\$61,333	\$122,667
<u>PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
PER DIEM	\$55	320 days		\$8,800	\$8,800	\$ 17,600
TRAVEL >>>>>>>>				\$17,500	\$17,500	\$ 35,000
International	\$700	38 trips		\$13,300	\$13,300	
Nicaragua	\$100	40 trips		\$2,000	\$2,000	
Miskito Coast	\$220	20 trips		\$2,200	\$2,200	
CONSULTANTS	\$2,500	12 trips		\$15,000	\$8,700	\$ 23,700
RESEARCH/TECHNICAL ASSIST >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>				\$12,800	\$12,800	\$ 25,600
Per Diem	\$40	550 days		\$11,000	\$11,000	
Gasoline/Oil	\$300	12 trips		\$1,800	\$1,800	
COMMUNICATIONS	\$425	24 months		\$5,100	\$5,100	\$ 10,200
RESEARCH SUPPLIES >>>>>>>>				\$7,125	\$5,145	\$ 12,270
Airphotos	\$6	80 photos		\$480	\$0	
Supplies	\$20	100 people		\$1,000	\$1,000	
Satellite Image	\$1,036	8 scenes		\$4,145	\$4,145	
Maps	\$10	150 maps		\$1,500	\$0	
COMM WRKSHP/TRGN	\$1,000	12 workshops		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$ 12,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$25	24 months		\$300	\$300	\$ 600
SUBTOTAL PROGRAM				\$72,625	\$64,345	\$136,971
ADMINISTRATION	15.0% Personnel/Admin.			\$20,094	\$18,852	\$38,946
SUBTOTAL PROGRAM/ADMIN.....				\$92,719	\$83,197	\$175,917
GRAND TOTAL				\$154,053	\$144,531	\$298,583

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JOHN D. and CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ON HUMAN SOCIETIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

THE MISKITO COAST PROTECTED AREA PROJECT:

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR MISKITO CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Proposal Submitted by

Acesores Científicos-IRENA (AC-IRENA)

Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS)

MIKUPIA (Miskito Environmental Protection NGO)

Rony Pont
Vice President
Mikupia
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Managua, Nicaragua

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(415) 845-8505
(415) 642-3370

(206) 672-7272
(206) 672-4918

Amount Requested:

\$407,463

Starting Date of Project: January 1, 1992

Duration of Project: two years -- 1992, 1993

Project Administration: Center for World Indigenous Studies

I. SUMMARY

The Miskito Coast is a world-class wildlife region and part of the territory of the Miskito Indians. Non-Indian incursions and depredations threaten the area's people and environments. Unchecked, these environmental changes will biologically impoverish and economically suppress the Miskito Coast.

In response to these threats and as a means to promote conservation and development, a 5,000 square mile Miskito Coast Protected Area (MCPA) is being created with international funding agencies and organizations, the Nicaraguan government, and a Miskito environmental protection NGO. The grassroots initiative for the MCPA came from representatives of the 23 communities which are to design, manage and live within and from the protected area. Though funding exists for necessary biological inventories, vehicles, boats, radios and office facilities, what is needed is a program to train people in the communities to manage the MCPA and their environments. This requires linking the communities with outside human resources, institutional support and technical assistance so that they may become more self-reliant in resource management.

An international MCPA Project Team will organize and assist in community-level planning and training and establishment of a Miskito Youth Corps (Juventud Mikupia) for conservation and sustainable development, and in developing an international support network for the protected area. Much of the planning, training and support for the communities will come from an international network of indigenous people. The project results will be published and distributed in the Miskito communities, Nicaragua and abroad in a series of MCPA newsletter reports, and newspaper, magazine and journal articles, and by radio and video.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An Alternative Strategy

Central America areas of greatest biodiversity and surviving natural environments are found where indigenous people live. A resource-cultural gradient exists across Central America from the Pacific watershed with few resources and non-Indian people to the Caribbean watershed with many resources and Indian people (Fig. 1). In the Pacific verdant, biodiversity is usually low, human population densities are high, and environments are often severely degraded. This condition greatly reduces the potential for environmentally-sustainable development. In these areas population pressure and economic and political disparities are fast reducing both the forests and the opportunities for conservation-based development.

An alternative conservation-development strategy is needed. Such a strategy would leapfrog over the fast-advancing frontiers of environmental destruction and poverty to assist the Caribbean verdant indigenous peoples in the protection of their still biotically-rich homelands and to promote democratically responsible and environmentally sustainable economic and social progress.

The vast majority of foreign aid and assistance efforts to Latin America do not focus on indigenous peoples, their economic or political situation, or their environments and resources, although indigenous peoples are often a significant part of a state's population.

A July, 1991 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service for Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, found that current aid efforts "are insufficient and do not come close to meeting the specific needs of the indigenous peoples of the hemisphere." The report cited the following recurrent problems faced by indigenous peoples: The defense and recovery of traditional lands and resources; the recognition of the right to exist as distinct peoples with different cultures and beliefs; equal rights before, and access to the functions and services of the state; and the denunciation of all forms of repression and violence. To better counter these and other problems, the report suggested channeling foreign aid to assist indigenous peoples for institution building, economic empowerment, strengthening cultural identity, fortifying indigenous legal rights, and increased support for skills training.

The greatest advances in protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable development can be achieved by working directly with indigenous peoples. One important area where this can be most effectively done is along the Caribbean coast of Central America, where the most numerous and extensive indigenous people are the Miskitos. As a nation they are 250,000 people (larger than the population of Belize) and they control 25 percent of the 1500-mile-long coastline (Fig. 2).

(Figure 1)

MAP

Figure 2

Fig. 2

Fig. 2

The Miskito Coast

The Miskito Coast is a world class wildlife and environmental region which has received very little scientific or naturalist attention despite its huge size and still very abundant though now threatened *biota*. It is the premier coastal and marine "hotspot" in the Caribbean and Central America.

The Miskito Coast's continental shelf is the largest in the Caribbean and contains the largest surviving populations of the threatened green turtle and the endangered hawksbill turtle. Also, the biggest nursery and fishing grounds for spiny lobster and many species of shrimp are on the shelf. The huge coastal lagoons have rich fish faunas, and two have perhaps the largest remaining populations of manatees in Central America and the Caribbean. The adjacent vast wetlands are home and wintering areas for abundant numbers of resident and migratory waterfowl -- many of which are elsewhere rare and threatened. The interconnecting waterways harbor resurgent populations of caimans and crocodiles.

The paramount cultural-ecological feature of Central America's 1500-mile-long Caribbean Coast is the close "geographic fit" of the Miskito people to the distribution and ecology of the coastal lagoons and widest area of continental shelf. The 360-mile distribution of the coastal Miskito conforms exactly to the network of nine coastal lagoons and shallow offshore continental shelf waters.

Very little is known about the intensity and scale of the Miskitos' present use of the resources, or anything about the demographic characteristics of their population. No reasonably accurate demographic information is available to help design a sustainable development and protected area management plan. Nothing is known about the effect of the war on population characteristics or resource use patterns. Also needed is information on the eastward movement of non-Indian people into Miskito territory and the extent of deforestation in the upper watersheds that appears to cause increases in sedimentation in the coastal lagoons and is likely injurious to the fisheries. Without this information little can be understood about the nature of the interactions between these populations and ecological zones.

Though the Nicaragua/Indian 10 year war is over, its impacts and aftermath present many serious unresolved problems on the coast: A broken economy, widespread unemployment, dislocated people, inexperience with democracy, a lack of experienced technical people and policy-makers, and the absence of means or institutions to mitigate problems. The virtual end of Sandinista sea and air surveillance instantly made the Miskito Coast into a target of international resource pirates and drug traffickers, and toxic waste and destructive fisheries schemes.

The Miskito Coast is recognized as an autonomous region -- largely under Miskito control. Still, non-Indian people coming from the west to take land and lumber, and from the east to take lobster, shrimp, turtles and fish widely ignore Miskito resource

rights. This is part of a similar, overall pattern in Central America (Fig 3).

In the face of the present grave crisis and environmental threats, Miskito people created an environmental protection organization in February, 1991. Called **Mikupia** (an acronym meaning Miskito Heart), this grassroots group was created after a series of World Wildlife-funded seminars and workshops. The workshops brought together 90 representatives from the 23 Miskito coastal communities between Old Cape and Wounta (estimated population of 15,000 to 20,000 people), and Miskito and international environmentalists. Together, these communities and Mikupia want to establish a 5,000 square mile Miskito Coast Protected Area which they would design and manage in consultation and cooperation with national and international government and private organizations and individuals (Fig. 4). This grassroots initiative represents a significant opportunity for collaborative study and assistance to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable development, to provide the catalyst for democratic participation and governance, and to protect a world-class expanse of coastal wildlife and wetlands.

Mikupia and the Miskito Coast Protected Area project have been received enthusiastically by the international conservation community, several funding organizations, and by Dr. Jaime Incer, Nicaraguan Minister and Director of the Institute of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA). Mikupia will receive funding from the World Wildlife Fund, the MacArthur Foundation, Cultural Survival and US AID. At the same time, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation has received a matching grant from AID for biological research in the MCPA and training programs for some Mikupia people in Costa Rica and elsewhere. What has not yet received support -- the object of this proposal -- is the creation of an interdisciplinary and international team that will collaborate to assist Miskito communities to prepare for taking control and assuming management of the protected area: Environments, resources and economic development. Through international support and community training of local technical groups that will make up a Miskito Youth Corps, this project emphasizes informed community empowerment.

This project is important for several reasons:

▶ **First**, alternative strategies for conservation-based development must be evaluated by affected communities and put into action now or the sheer weight of economic necessity will force the communities to accept the offers to cut the forests, strip-mine the sea, and dump the toxic wastes.

▶ **Second**, the real need is not just to study or create a protected area, but to prepare the communities to design, run, sustain, and live from a protected area.

▶ **Third**, the project will serve as an information-technical bridge for the first two years as the Miskito communities and Mikupia are very isolated -- only one seasonal road and no telephones -- and have little access to the critical people, institutions, information, and opportunities that will make a huge difference in achieving a socially and environmentally sustainable people-nature relationship.

(Figure 3)

(Figure 4)

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To promote a new and vital collaborative approach to establishing environmentally and socially sustainable development in the region, the Project Team, made up of three persons from three NGOs (AC-IRENA, CWIS and Mikupia), will focus on two areas: local and international. The basic idea is to create a chain reaction of constructive assistance that will (a) promote and reinforce community participation, self-reliance and development; and (b) link key international people and institutions that will collaborate with Miskito communities and Mikupia.

1. Technical and Organizational Training. No training or adequate education facilities exist on the east coast of Nicaragua. The Project Team conduct detailed Project Planning in the first month then Mikupia will select teams of people and they will receive training in the communities by the Project Team and invited specialists. The Technical teams will form the nucleus of a **Juventud Mikupia** (Mikupia Youth Corps) which will then spread out to work and teach in the communities and be supported by the communities. Technical and organizational training will be given in a series of workshops to groups of 10-20 people in various communities:

- a. Environmental Team (environmental conservation, education, and management; surveys on the status of resources, wildlife, environments, and their use and misuse; sustainability; mapping of environments and the collective community land and sea territory; resource pirate occurrence and problems; solutions to current and foreseen environmental problems).
- b. Community Team (surveys on population totals, profiles and projected growth rates by community, areas and the region; survey of the domesticated and natural resources and varieties used; estimates of present and future resource exploitation levels; solutions to current and future problems).
- c. Women's Team (women in government and exercising political skills as a major force in the transition to democratic systems; as key participants in regulating human use of ecosystems; women as educators in early childhood -- shapers of future social norms; conceptualizers of renewed human society; starters and sustainers of economic viability).
- d. Management and Policy-making Team (protected area planning; economic alternatives; international relations; transition to democracy; evaluation of alternative decision-making models at the community level; identification of current and possible future problems stemming from sustainable use strategies; strategies for mitigation of problems; coordination with regional and national authorities).
- e. Health Team (drug abuse and its prevention; diver's health; local natural medicines; survey of major health

problems; improvement of water quality and safety; funding possibilities).

- f. **Communications Team** (development, coordination and dissemination of information produced by the other five teams and by the international support network; collection of oral histories and community documentation; information to be distributed locally and internationally in a MCPA newsletter [Miskito, Spanish and English]; fund raising).

2. **International Support Network.** Key to the success of local community efforts to create a viable protected area for both conservation and development will be the creation of an international support network. One purpose of the network is to supply specialists to help train the ***Juventud Mikupia Teams***; link Mikupia with other indigenous groups and organizations, and environmental protection organizations; to coordinate with Nicaraguan government offices -- especially IRENA; and to assist in securing national and international recognition of the protected area and Mikupia.

- a. **International Specialists.** The Project Team has identified several individuals who are experts in fields needed for ***Juventud Mikupia*** training. Other specialists will participate in support activities outside of the Miskito Coast.
- b. **International Coordination.** Members of the Project Team contacts with many individuals, institutions and organizations internationally will assist Mikupia and the MCPA in obtaining international recognition and in joining various international environmental, indigenous and economic agreements and accords; help coordinate exchanges with indigenous nations and groups (especially the autonomous Kuna people in Panama and the Honduran Miskito organization ***Mopawi***); identify funding opportunities; provide guidance on legislation, regulation, resource assessment, environmental education, cooperative international initiatives; help identify and repatriate professional *costeños* exiled during the war.
- c. **National Coordination.** The east and west coasts have had an acrimonious relationship since the 16th century. Considerable misunderstanding and mistrust exists. The MCPA project is the first initiative that will test the willingness of the new Managua government and Miskito communities to work together on what is a local-national and international protected area. Members of the Project Team will work with Nicaraguan government offices and Mikupia to build confidence and understanding to facilitate the creation of a large protected area that is within both an autonomous indigenous region (Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte -- RAAN) and Nicaragua.

IV. The Collaborative Process

This collaborative assistance project will bring together Miskito community people and leaders, Mikupia, policy-makers from Nicaragua and elsewhere, technical experts from several North American Indian nations, and scientists and institutions from several countries. Project Team members will coordinate intergroup communications, and jointly evaluate the effectiveness of communications, assistance and cooperation on a periodic basis. Project Team members will design and conduct all workshops and jointly prepare at least three papers for publication. While CWIS will administer the project, the Project Team will formulate overall program policy.

Collaborative Organizations

AC-IRENA (Acesores Científicos-Instituto Nicaragüense de Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente)

AC-IRENA is a scientific advisory group formed in August 1990 at the request of Dr. Jaime Incer, Minister of the Instituto Nicaragüense de Recursos Naturales y del Ambiente (IRENA). The group is made up of a wide range of scientists from various disciplines in several countries. These scientists are consulted by IRENA for advice, suggestions and research on natural resource and environment problems and topics in Nicaragua. The advisory group's work and services are non-profit. AC-IRENA is headed and coordinated by Dr. Bernard Nietschmann.

Bernard Nietschmann (Department of Geography, University of California and AC-IRENA) will work with international scientists and organizations, the Nicaraguan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mikupia and the Miskito communities to coordinate technical and scientific assistance.

CWIS (Center for World Indigenous Studies)

The Center for World Indigenous Studies is an international interdisciplinary network of indigenous people who contribute their time and efforts to developing appropriate ideas for problem-solving in Fourth World Nations and between Fourth World Nations and neighboring states. In addition, CWIS works to facilitate cooperation between indigenous nations to advance self-help initiatives. CWIS has published many manuscripts in its Fourth World Journal (Quarterly) and Occasional Papers written by indigenous authors advancing historical, political, social, cultural and economic analysis based on original research.

Rudolph C. Rýser will coordinate the participation of indigenous community organizers and environmental strategists, formulate approaches to adapting workshop models to Miskito community requirements and develop the communications methods and techniques for the project.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies will provide Project Administration, Budget Management, financial audit and reports to

the funding agency. CWIS is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as an exempt non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and a non-profit organization in Canada.

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Rony Pont is Vice President of Mikupia and one of its founders. He is a Miskito from Puerto Cabezas who has worked on community development and community organization projects for 10 years. He participated in the original community workshops that were the catalyst for the creation of Mikupia. He also serves as the Mikupia representative for international relations. During the summer of 1991 he participated in the Caribbean Conservation Corporation training course on sea turtle ecology at Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Mr. Pont will develop and head the Miskito Youth Corps, *Juventud Mikupia*.

V. METHODOLOGY

The MCPA Project Team will apply community organization methods and techniques which emphasize personal community communications, building leadership based on existing social, economic and political infrastructures, self-reliance, and sustained low-intensity community empowerment. Reinforcing community values through the introduction of reliable and accepted visitors from non-Miskito, indigenous nations who focus on those values and compare them to similar values in other indigenous communities is a technique used by indigenous community organizers around the world. Rosalee Tizya, a community organizer, educator and self-government strategist from the Vantuk Gwichin Nation, will serve as a consultant to the project and contributor in the Health, Women's and Community Team workshops. Russell Jim, Manager of the Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Program of the Yakima Indian Nation, will consult with the Project and contribute to the Environmental Team workshop. John Mohawk of the Seneca Nation will be invited to consult with the Project and contribute to the Communications Team Workshop. Lars Anders-Baer of the Sammi will be invited to consult with the project and contribute to the Management and Policy-making Team workshop. Armstrong Wiggins, of the Miskito Nation, and a specialist on indigenous rights, self-determination and resource issues at the Indian Law Resource Center, also will be a project consultant and workshop leader.

In addition, Miskito community decision-making capabilities will be strengthened through the introduction of trained local

youth (*Juventud Mikupia*) who are supportive of traditional community values and are themselves reliant on community goodwill. This has succeeded in building community systems of self-help among Aborigines in northern Australia, Indians in Canada, Sammis in Norway and Sweden, and Inuit in Greenland.

International cooperation in "local community development initiatives" has long been recognized as important to successful indigenous peoples. The difficulty has always been establishing sustained and working linkages between the local and the international groups. The method we will employ relies on long-term developed contacts established by members of the Project Team and their organizations which will be used to provide briefings and to establish direct contact between key international people and key Miskito community people.

A time series of satellite images (French Spot) and airphotos will be used to assess dry-wet season ecological changes, upriver watershed deforestation and downriver-lagoon sedimentation, and changes during the 1992 and 1993 research years. The Environmental Team will make maps of the environments, and areas needing special attention. The Community Team will make maps of the communities and their lands and land use. The production of the maps will provide a needed tool for analysis and research and map-making experience.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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VII. PLANS FOR DISSEMINATION

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The Communications Team will write, edit and the Center for World Indigenous Studies will publish a trilingual, bi-monthly report for distribution in the Miskito Coast, in Managua and internationally. The 11x17, three-column, four-page project report will describe ideas, opinions, and status information concerning the MCPA project.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies will periodically publish papers prepared by Communications and Project Team members presenting findings and analysis concerning economic, environmental, political and legal aspects of the project. In addition, articles will be offered to the National Geographic Society, *Natural History*, *Environmental Conservation*, scientific journals and news services. Emphasis in these publications will be placed on the collaborative approach to establishing environmentally and socially sustainable development in indigenous areas.

Publication of findings and analysis will augment community policy-making efforts by providing concrete analysis of specific issues confronting affected communities. Publications will be used as one tool to help formulate community policy on environmental management.

Radio and Video

Most people in the Miskito Coast communities have radios. The Project and Communication teams will use the east coast radio stations in Puerto Cabezas to broadcast information about the project and the MCPA. Also, videotapes will be made of the workshops, community meetings, and Juventud Mikupia surveys and research as a community record and to circulate to key people and organizations in Managua and internationally. [Videotapes were made of the first World Wildlife Fund seminars in February, 1991 and edited versions were very well received in the communities when they were shown on AC-IRENA's video monitors.] The Swedish Broadcasting Company will be invited to produce a project about the MCPA .

Public Forum

The Project Team and Mikupia leaders will host a public forum near the end of the first project year to present information for public discussion on the MCPA project. This Public Forum will be taped for later broadcast on radio stations on both the East and West Coasts of Nicaragua. A videotaped version of the Public Forum will be edited and circulated nationally and internationally, including the British

Broadcasting Company.

Speeches and Presentations

Each of the Project Team members will offer to present talks on the project to international environmental organizations and to non-governmental organizations such as the World Affairs Council, Foreign Affairs Council and the United Nations Association in the Western Hemisphere. Similar presentations will be given at the World Parks Congress, in Caracas, Feb., 1992.

VIII. BUDGET

MISKITO COAST PROTECTION AREA PROJECT - CWIS, ILRC, MIKUPIA

DRAFT Budget January 1, 1992 - December 31, 1993

	Rate	Term	Annual Unit	CalYear 1992	CalYear 1993	OVERALL TOTAL
** PERSONNEL **						
Pont, Rony	\$1,000/mo	12 Months		\$12,000	\$12,000	
Nietschmann, B.	\$3,500/mo	½time/8 mos		\$28,000	\$28,000	
Ryser, R.	\$3,333/mo	½time/12 mo		\$20,000	\$20,000	
TOTAL PERSONNEL				\$60,000	\$60,000	
Fringe	at 14% of S & W			\$8,400	\$8,400	
TOTAL PERSONNEL & FRINGE...				\$68,400	\$68,400	\$136,800
** PROGRAM **						
PER DIEM	\$75/day	200 days/yr		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
TRAVEL				\$19,300	\$19,300	\$38,600
International	\$700	19 trps/yr		\$13,300	\$13,300	
Nicaragua	\$100	20 trps/yr		\$2,000	\$2,000	
Miskito Coast	\$400	10 trps/yr		\$4,000	\$4,000	
CONSULTANTS	\$3,000	6 wrksp/yr.		\$18,000	\$18,000	\$36,000
RESEARCH/TECHNICAL ASSIST				\$27,000	\$27,000	\$54,000
Per Diem	\$40	600 days/yr		\$24,000	\$24,000	
Gasoline/Oil	\$300	10 trips/yr		\$3,000	\$3,000	
COMMUNICATIONS				\$9,000	\$9,000	\$18,000
(fax, tel, postg)	\$750/mo	24 months				
RESEARCH SUPPLIES				\$15,358	\$13,218	\$28,576
Airphotos	\$8	80 photos		\$640	\$0	
Supplies	\$15	100 people		\$1,500	\$1,500	
Satellite Image	\$1,036	6/yr/2 yrs		\$6,218	\$6,218	
Maps	\$10	150 maps		\$1,500	\$0	
Workshop suppli	25	100/yr/2 yrs		\$2,500	\$2,500	
Publication MCPA Rpt.						
publications/Postg.	500	6 times/yr		\$3,000	\$3,000	
COMM WORKSHOP/TGN.....	\$1,000	6 WrkShp/yr		\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$50	6 months		\$300	\$300	\$600
SUBTOTAL PROGRAM				\$109,958	\$107,818	\$217,776
ADMINISTRATION	15.0% Personnel/Progm.			\$26,754	\$26,433	\$53,186
SUBTOTAL PROGRAM/ADMIN.....				\$136,712	\$134,251	\$270,963
GRAND TOTAL				\$205,112	\$202,651	\$407,763

Résumé: Rony Pont

Name: Rony Uriah PONT

Occupation: Vice President
Mikupia (Miskito Environmental
Protection NGO)

**Mailing
Address:** Barrio Santa Rosa
de las 3Fs
2 1/2 al sur, casa #25
Managua, Nicaragua

& c/o IRENA
Apartado 5123
Managua, Nicaragua

tel: (505) 2-40474
fax: (505) 2-31274

Birthdate: July 16, 1965

Nationality: Miskito/Nicaraguan

Languages: Miskito, English, Spanish (trilingual
in speaking, reading and writing)

Education: Instituto Nacional Bartolomé Colón,
Puerto Cabezas

Experience: An Organizer of Juventud Misurasata, 1980

Special Forestry Team member, 1990
Nicaraguan Institute of Natural Resources
and Environment (IRENA)

International Relations, Mikupia, 1991

Founding member of Mikupia Directorate, 1991

Training Seminar and Workshops, Caribbean
Conservation Corporation, Tortuguero,
Costa Rica, summer, 1991 (sea turtle biology
and ecology; research methods)

Bernard Nietschmann is Professor of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin in 1970. He has taught and done research at the University of Michigan (1970-1975), Australian National University (1976-1977), and has been a visiting professor at the University of Queensland (1980) and the University of Hawaii (1985). He has been at Berkeley since 1977. He served as acting chairman of the departments of geography at the University of Michigan and the University of California, and was director of the University of California Education Abroad Program in Costa Rica for two years, 1988-1989.

Professor Nietschmann is a specialist on tropical resources, especially forest and coastal environments. He has done research on these topics in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the western Caribbean, Peru, the Pacific, Torres Strait (northern Australia), the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Indonesia, and the Philippines. His research has focused on tropical forest resource use (Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines), coastal and coral reef fisheries (Nicaragua, the Pacific, Torres Strait), sea turtle ecology (green and hawksbill), traditional peoples' sustainable use of resources (eastern Nicaragua, the Pacific, Torres Strait), and protected area planning (eastern Nicaragua, Torres Strait, the western Caribbean, the Pacific).

He is currently doing research on environmental security in the transborder area of Costa Rica and Nicaragua (MacArthur Foundation) which includes the proposed bi-national SIAPAZ protected area. At the same time he is working to create the Miskito Coast Protected Area which at 5,000 sq mi will be the largest protected coastal region in Latin America. Books on environmental security and another on global resource conflicts are being written.

At UC Berkeley he teaches classes on coasts and islands, endangered species and environments, and seminars on field research, maritime geography and Latin America.

Professor Nietschmann has been awarded research grants by many foundations and organizations including the National Geographic Society (three times), the MacArthur Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the World Wildlife Fund. He has received the Henry Russell Award from the University of Michigan for the most outstanding research by a younger faculty member (1974), and a Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (1975-1976). In 1991 he was named Conservation Fellow by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation.

He has participated in inter-disciplinary and international research projects in the western Caribbean, the Pacific, and Torres Strait, Australia (with marine biologists), and in his current research project on environmental security in the Río San Juan border region between Nicaragua and Costa Rica (with

hydrologists, ecologists, anthropologists and others).

Professor Nietschmann heads the scientific advisors to Nicaragua's Institute of Natural Resources and Environment. He is also the environmental advisor to MIKUPIA, the Miskito environmental protection NGO.

Bernard Nietschmann has written six books (two in press) and over 100 articles and editorials. His writings have appeared in leading academic journals and in National Geographic Society books, Natural History (he had the Naturalist at Large column for two years), Readers Digest, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. His photographs have been published in National Geographic, Natural History, Stern, Orion and Time-Life Books, and have been exhibited at the Lowie Museum, UC Berkeley, in the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building and Rotunda of Cannon House Office Building (1987-1988), at the University of the District of Columbia (1987), and on a tour of western Europe (1986). He pioneered the field research use of portable video in 1972, laptop computers in 1983, and video mapping in 1991.

Resumé

July 29, 1991

Rudolph C. Rýser

Rudolph Rýser is a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies in the United States. He has for more than twenty years worked in the field of Indian Affairs as a writer/researcher and Indian rights advocate in the United States. Since 1977, Mr. Rýser has expanded his work in Indian Affairs to encompass indigenous peoples throughout the world. After three years of undergraduate studies in philosophy at Washington State University, undertaking a series of graduate level studies in international affairs and war/peace studies with the Center for War/Peace Studies and Indian Education Administration (UCLA) in the 1960s, Mr. Rýser became a contributor to policy development activities of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Conference of Tribal Governments and the National Congress of American Indians.

In 1975 Mr. Rýser was selected by tribal leaders in the Northwest U.S. states to serve as a Specialist on U.S. government federal administration of Indian Affairs on the American Indian Policy Review Commission. (A joint U.S. Senate/House of Representatives Commission established to study U.S. and tribal policies and recommend alternative policies to the Congress.) Mr. Rýser authored the Federal Administration Task Force Report issued to the Commission in 1976. He later served as the Executive Director of the Small Tribe Organization of Western Washington - an organization established by twenty-three Indian tribes to support community development and community organization activities at each tribe. In 1979, Mr. Rýser served as the Special Assistant to the World Council of Indigenous Peoples President George Manuel (Canada) and served as the Acting Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians in 1983.

Over the years, Mr. Rýser has engaged in systematic research in tribal law enforcement and Indian education (Social Research Center - Washington State University), tribal economic development (Battelle Memorial Institute - Richland, Washington), Tribal/State relations, tribal development and appropriate technology, north/south economic relations and tribal development, tribal health systems and South American tribal political development, tribal self-government, tribal/Canadian political relations (COSAMCO, Ltd.), war/peace tribal/state resolution in Melanesia, Central America, South Asia (World Council of Indigenous Peoples), tribal land annexation in Canada, U.S., Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and anti-Indian movement in the U.S. and tribal self-government (Center for World Indigenous Studies).

Mr. Rýser has developed and conducted tribal and intertribal workshops and seminars on health, community organization, self-government, law enforcement, and natural resource management. He has presented these programs in the United States, Canada, Australia, Mexico and in Peru in Indian communities. In several

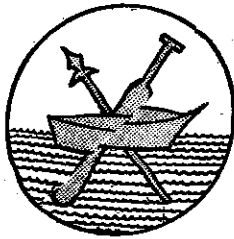
capacities, Mr. Rýser has also functioned as a liaison and facilitator for diplomatic linkages between indigenous spokespersons and representatives of state governments and international organizations. The subjects of these diplomatic communications have ranged from developing cooperative efforts in cultural exchanges, environmental impact cooperation, political support and diplomatic cooperation in international organizations.

Rudolph C. Rýser has contributed to two anthologies on Indian Rights published by the University of Toronto Press and one anthology on Indian Self-Government by the Center for World Indigenous Studies in the United States and in Canada. In addition, he has written more than two hundred position papers, analysis and essays on subjects ranging from water rights, and land rights to international political relations and self-government for inter-tribal organizations and tribal governments in North America, Central America, the South Pacific and Northern Europe. Many of Mr. Rýser's articles and essays have appeared in North American Indian newspapers and journals. The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (Copenhagen, DK), the Anthropology Resource Center (Mass. US), World Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Center for World Indigenous Studies have published many of Mr. Rýser's writings. He has become a well known essayist among indigenous peoples throughout the world, and he is among the leading spokespersons for Fourth World political development, tribal/state conflict resolution and international cooperation between indigenous nations.

IX. PREVIOUS OR CURRENT SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED WORK

The principal investigators have no current support for the proposed work. AC-IRENA and IRENA received \$25,000 from the World Wildlife Fund for a December 1990-March 1991 workshop project to access community consensus for a Miskito Coast Protected Area.

Distinct from this proposal but related to research and planning in the area, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation has received \$150,000 from AID for biological research, Mikupia/IRENA have been awarded \$50,000 from the MacArthur Foundation for radio and boat equipment and NGO support, and Mikupia is receiving \$50,000 from the World Wildlife Fund and Cultural Survival for general operating costs. The Indian Law Resource Center and the Caribbean Conservation Corporation have submitted proposals to the MacArthur Foundation for research and assistance in the MCPA region on distinct projects.



MISURASATA
REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA

200. *[Handwritten signature]*
Miskito, Sumo, Rama, Sandinista Asla Takanka Wayah,
Mayangna, Rama Sandino Balma Karak Asláh Kalahna
Pacpa Sumukitna Rama Sandino Umusík

18 de Febrero de 1981

Mr. Rudy Reiser
The world of indigenous people
202 East Street NE
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Reiser:

Reciba un saludo fraternal y revolucionario de nuestra organización indígena MISURASATA.

La presente es para presentar ante ustedes nuestro proyecto - PRO-BECAS DE MISURASATA que hasta la fecha no hemos podido hallar una institución que nos done el dinero; y nos está atrasando el proyecto educativo que habíamos planteado desde el año pasado para la juventud de MISURASATA. Para llegar a su pleno solidificación es necesario preparar los cuadros en diferentes campos para que el proceso revolucionario e indígena pueda ser realidad en las comunidades.

Cualquier aclaración referente al proyecto puede llamar a los teléfonos 22172 o al 74171 Managua, Nicaragua. Télex 1400 - San Martín.

Agradeciendo de antemano por cualquier gestión favorable que beneficiará aproximadamente a 250 comunidades indígenas.

Fraternalmente,

[Handwritten signature]
~~Norma Campbell Smith~~
Relacionista Internacional

cc: Cro. Brookling Rivera
Archivo
NCS/bcpa



POR LA UNIDAD INDIGENA

"PROYECTO PRO-BEGAS DE MISURASATA"



El actual departamento de Zelaya de la República de Nicaragua Libre, comprende una vasta extensión territorial - más de 2/3 parte del país - y con una población étnicamente heterogénea de más de doscientos mil (200.000) habitantes. Este departamento ubicado en la región del Mar Caribe del país, comúnmente se le conoce con el nombre de "La Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua". Antiguamente esta parte del territorio más las otras ubicadas en las actuales Repúblicas de Honduras y Costa Rica se le conocían con el nombre de "El Territorio de la Reserva Mosquitia" por la causa del dominio de los indios "MISKITUS" sobre el territorio, que a partir de 1687 se gobernó mediante una monarquía bajo el protectorado de Inglaterra, hasta que - en 1894 mediante una intervención armada Nicaragua obtiene el dominio absoluto sobre la "Reserva". A partir de esa fecha - (1894) que en la historia nacional se le conoce con el nombre de la "Reincorporación de la Mosquitia" todos los gobiernos - que han desgobernado el país han sometido a los nativos de la región - Miskitus, Sumos y Ramas - a una marginación inhumana. A todos ellos nunca se les trató como auténticos hijos de Nicaragua sino como ciudadanos de segunda categoría - discriminación racial y aún más como ciudadanos de otro país.

En la actualidad, ésta región geográfica étnicamente está distribuida así: Miskitus 60%, Criollos (negros afro-antillanos) 20%, Mestizos 15%, Sumos 5% y Ramas 0.5% de la población.

Con el triunfo de la Revolución Popular Sandinista vislumbra un nuevo amanecer para estos olvidados pueblos de nuestra Costa - Atlántica. Este nuevo amanecer que cada día se hace más real integra todos los aspectos de la vida integral de los hermanos de la región, con el fin de realizar la gran tarea revolucionaria de incorporar genuinamente a la vida nacional del país.

....



Las tres etnias de la región (Departamento de Zelaya) se ha conformado en una unidad monolítica de la hermandad indígena - llamada MISURASATA (Miskitus, Sumus, Ramas, Sandinista Asla - Takanka) que significa la Unidad Sandinista de Miskitus, Su - mas y Ramas como una respuesta en la lucha por la reivindicación de sus derechos dentro del proceso de la Revolución San - dinista.

MISURASATA es pues, la organización de masa indígena de estos pueblos nativos, con dimensión en toda la región, y estructura da el área geográfica en cinco (5) regiones para fines de trabajo: (a) Región Noreste, con sede en Puerto Cabezas, (b) Región Río Coco, con sede en Waspán (c) Región de los Minerales, con sede en Rosita, (d) Región Sur con sede en Bluefields, y (e) Región Raudales con sede en Raití, que en la totalidad - integra 250 comunidades indígenas, con una población aproximadamente de 176.000 habitantes.

JUSTIFICACION

Debido a los largos años de marginación y de incultura que se han sometido a la región comprendida en este Proyecto, actualmente encuentra con una población de analfabetismo de 87%. Este porcentaje real indica claramente el olvido total en la educación de los nativos de la región de parte de los gobiernos oligarcas del país.

Basta hacer un recorrido por las comunidades donde viven estos hermanos para convencerse de la cruda realidad de ignorancia y atraso educacional existente. En toda las comunidades existen una marcada deficiencia educativa, que se observan desde la falta de local (escuelas) hasta la escasez y la buena preparación de educadores (maestros). La escuela rural - de las -



comunidades - son en su mayoría hasta tercer grado de primaria y otros hasta sexto grado. Los centros de enseñanza media - (bachillerato) únicamente se encuentran ubicados en los núcleos urbanos de la región como en Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas, y Waspán, que en total suman siete (7) tanto nacionales - (públicas) como privados (religiosos). Pero la mayoría de los niños que aprueben su primaria (6to. grado) no tienen posibilidad de continuar su estudio de secundaria, ya que para - ello eso implicaría trasladar de sus comunidades a los anteriores Centros Urbanos y eso significa una inversión de cinco (5) años de parte de sus padres cubriendo sus gastos de vivienda, alimentación, vestuario, útiles escolares, etc. que realmente ninguno de nuestros padres indígenas están en capacidad de hacerla. Ellos poseen una economía de subsistencia basada en una actividad agrícola y de pesca doméstica. Debido a esa razón - todos nuestros estudiantes al concluir su primaria están obligados a quedar estancado educativamente y buscar otro rumbo - (trabajo del campo o del mar) para hacer su vida.

Asimismo, los estudiantes que milagrosamente - con mucho sacrificio y esfuerzo - logran concluir su secundaria (bachillerato), se ven truncados sus aspiraciones de seguir una carrera universitaria. Las cuatro (4) universidades del país, tanto las nacionales como las privadas y sus respectivos núcleos regionales se encuentran ubicados en la región del Pacífico, luego para que un estudiante nuestro (costeño) emprenda su estudio - universitario se necesita trasladarse a esa región - Managua, León - y eso tampoco es posible para los padres de nuestros jóvenes bachilleres. Por lo tanto estos jóvenes deben contentarse con su nivel académico logrado - Bachiller y buscar una plaza de

....



-4-

maestro a nivel primario, que efectivamente la mayoría de ellos están desempeñándose dicho cargo en la actualidad, en nuestro medio social.

Por otro lado, nuestra organización (MISURASATA) planea la impulsión de los trabajos de cooperativismo, sindicalismo etc. en la región, ya que eso es la exigencia de nuestro medio social.

NECESIDADES:

Este pequeño proyecto denominado "PROYECTO PRO-BECAS DE MISURASATA" se basa en las necesidades reales siguientes:

- a) Apoyar el sostenimiento educativo de Cincuenta (50) estudiantes indígenas - Miskitus, Sumus y Ramas a nivel de Secundaria (bachillerato), en los distintos Centros Educativos Medios de la Región Atlántica.
- b) Apoyar el sostenimiento de la capacitación profesional de Veinte (20) jóvenes indígenas, en las diversas carreras universitarias de los Centros Superiores del país.
- c) Financiar el entrenamiento a nivel técnico de Veinticinco (25) cuadros de la organización de MISURASATA en el exterior del país - México, Guatemala y Panamá en los diferentes campos de desarrollo organizacional y comunal.

OBJETIVOS:

- a) Permitir a un grupo de estudiantes indígenas que han concluido su primaria o que están cursando cualquier de los años de secundaria continuar o emprender su estudio de bachillerato.
- b) Permitir a un grupo de estudiantes indígenas que han concluido su secundaria (bachillerato), emprender una carrera profesional en las universidades del país.

....



- c) Preparar técnicamente a un grupo de cuadros de MISURASATA en los diferentes campos de trabajo de desarrollo organizacional y comunal.

METAS:

- a) Proveer el sostenimiento económico del estudio de Cincuenta (50) estudiantes de secundaria.
- b) Facilitar el sostenimiento económico del estudio de Veinte (20) jóvenes indígenas en su preparación universitaria.
- c) Financiar el entrenamiento técnico de Veinticinco (25) líderes de MISURASATA en cooperativismo, sindicalismo, pesca, artesanía, periodismo y desarrollo comunal.

DESCRIPCION:

Este proyecto consiste en ayudar en el sostenimiento económico (BECAS) de estudiantes de nivel medio (Bachillerato) de las comunidades indígenas Miskitas, Sumus, y Ramas, quienes que por falta de recursos económico de sus padres no pueden continuar su estudio. Así mismo de los jóvenes que han aprobado su secundaria (Bachillerato) facilitar su estudio profesional en las universidades del país ubicadas en el Pacífico. También en entrenar técnicamente a Veinticinco (25) cuadros de la organización en Panamá, México y Guatemala.

Este proyecto será administrado en su totalidad por la organización MISURASATA y para su implementación seguirán los procedimientos siguientes:

....



- a) Seleccionar Cincuenta (50) estudiantes con sexto grado aprobado o de cualquier grado de secundaria de las doscientas cincuenta (250) comunidades indígenas miembros de MISURASATA, trasladándolos a Puerto Cabezas, Waspán y Bluefields y proveer a cada uno de ellos una ayuda económica (BECAS) mensual de US\$40.00 por diez meses (años escolar-), cantidad que incluye los gastos de alimentación y hospedaje de estos jóvenes. Los demás gastos de vestuarios, útiles escolares, lavada de ropa, etc. cada padre de familia se responsabilizarán de proveerlas.
- b) Seleccionar Veinte (20) estudiantes más aventajados entre los Bachilleres de las comunidades indígenas de MISURASATA trasladándolos a Managua y León y facilitar a cada uno de ellos una BECA mensual de Ochenta Dólares (US\$80.00) por diez meses (dos semestros) cantidad que incluye alimentación y hospedaje. Los demás gastos de vestuarios, libros transportes, lavada de ropa, etc., los padres de familia y la organización se responsabilizarán de su provisión.
- c) Escoger Veinticinco (25) cuadros de los más destacados de la organización, enviándolos a México, Panamá y Guatemala por cuatro (4) meses continuos para su entrenamiento técnico: diez (10) en cooperativismo, cinco (5) en sindicalismo, tres (3) en desarrollo comunal, tres en pesca (3), tres (3) en artesanía y uno (1) en periodismo, con financiamiento de Dos Mil Dólares netos (US\$2.000.00) por cada uno de ellos. Estos cuadros ya capacitados técnicamente vendrán a organizar e impulsar los trabajos de base de la organización indígena.

.....



RESPONSABLE:

La Junta Directiva de MISURASATA presidida por el Coordinador General el compañero Brookling Rivera Bryan será el cuerpo responsable directo de la Administración, ejecución y evaluación de este proyecto.

Esta Junta se encargará de la selección de los jóvenes que se beneficiarían con el Proyecto. Además orientarán a los candidatos a estudios Superiores a seleccionar carreras prioritarias a la necesidad real e inmediata de la región. A través del Coordinador General informará de los avances y logros del Proyecto a la Agencia donante cada tres meses.

METODOLOGIA DE SELECCION PARA OPTAR UNA BECA:

- 1) Evaluación Socio-Económica del estudiante, para dar preferencia a los estudiantes de menos recursos económicos, - siempre cuando llenen las otras cualidades indicadas.
- 2) El candidato debe poseer espíritu étnico comunitario y sin temas de líder en potencia.
- 3) La persona seleccionada será de conducta moral, religiosa y de vida comunitaria intachable.
- 4) Poseer una inteligencia normal y que su record estudiantil así lo demuestre.
- 5) Poseer cualidades de persona trabajadora, honrada y con - deseos de superación.
- 6) Los estudiantes seleccionados firmarán un compromiso moral ante su comunidad; que una vez finalizados sus estudios, - de regresar y trabajar conjuntamente con los elementos de la comunidad para su desarrollo total e integral conforme los lineamientos trazados de nuestra organización MISURASATA.



CONTROL Y AUDITORIA:

La organización donante tendrá facultad de evaluar cuantas veces estime necesario el correcto y el buen uso de la suma donada y el progreso de los estudiantes beneficiados y su forma de selección.

LOCALIDAD:

La Administración de este Proyecto se realizará en la oficina Central de MISURASATA ubicada en Puerto Cabezas, Zelaya, Nicaragua.

PRESUPUESTO:

	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>ANUAL EN US\$</u>
1) Becas p/estudiantes de secundaria, para CINCUENTA (50) estudiantes, US\$40.00 - mensuales c/a.	US\$ 20.000.00
2) Becas para estudiantes universitarios, para VEINTE (20) jóvenes bachilleres, US\$80.00 mensual cada uno.	16.000.00
3) Entrenamiento de técnicas para VEINTICINCO cuadros, US\$2.000.00	50.000.00
T O T A L	US\$ 86.000.00 *****



NICARAGUA.

The revolution was the easy part.



After a day in the fields, a Nicaraguan campesino learns to write.

If I were a Nicaraguan, I would be building my bomb shelter this very afternoon." That's what Rep. Michael Barnes said after listening to Secretary of State Haig threaten Nicaragua at a Congressional hearing.

The Nicaraguan people won their freedom in the summer of 1979. For them, it was just a beginning. The first step in a long struggle to overcome the hunger, disease and brutality experienced for 45 years under the Somoza dictatorship.

But for American officials, the Nicaraguan revolution is seen as a challenge to U.S. control in Central America. The CIA is financing a mercenary army to attack Nicaragua and funneling millions of dollars to anti-government forces within the country.¹ In defiance of U.S. law, the Reagan administration allows para-

military forces to train in Florida and California for an invasion of Nicaragua.²

Is this poor country of 2.5 million people really a threat to Americans? What provokes the Reagan administration's belligerence? If you live in the United States, it's hard to find out what's really happening in Nicaragua.

- Nicaragua is still poor, but gone are the torture and terror of the Somoza era, according to Amnesty International.³

- Unlike many third world countries, Nicaragua is producing more staple foods—up 15–25 percent over pre-revolution highs. Poor people are eating better.

- Since the victory over Somoza, over 12,000 formerly landless rural families have received land to grow food. Tens of thousands more are scheduled to get land titles under the 1981 agrarian reform law.

- Inflation was reduced from 84 to 27 percent in the first 18 months of the new government. Unemployment dropped from 40 to 16 percent.

- Thousands of Nicaraguans are receiving medical help for the first time. National mobilizations to combat polio, measles, TB and malaria have reached even the isolated poor. Nutrition programs for mothers and clinics for children are helping to cut the appalling infant mortality rate by one-third.

These gains have been made despite earthquake and war devastation, as well as grave economic problems for which even Nicaragua's harshest critics offer no solutions.

Prices for Nicaragua's basic exports have fallen while the price of energy which it must import has risen. In 1970, a 100-pound bag of Nicaraguan coffee bought 100 barrels of oil; today, only three. Huge interest payments on the \$2.6 billion foreign debt (\$1.6 billion inherited from Somoza) devour foreign exchange earnings needed for development. "No matter what ideology the post-Somoza government embraced," editorialized the *Miami Herald*, "Nicaragua would have been trapped in a grave economic emergency."⁴

Facing similar problems, the government of neighboring Costa Rica has drastically cut food subsidies and social services. By contrast, Nicaragua has levied higher duties on imported luxury goods while cushioning the poor through increased wages, rent reductions, food subsidies, loans for small farmers and free health care.

These changes mean better lives for most Nicaraguans. But, fearing these changes, the Reagan administration has launched a campaign to topple the Nicaraguan government.

- President Reagan has authorized the CIA to spend \$20 million to build a commando force to attack Nicaragua.⁵

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Nicaraguans' fears are justified: the U.S. occupied Nicaragua from 1912 to 1933, installed the Somoza dynasty, then supported it until the very last months.

- The U.S. has doubled aid to the Honduran military, which collaborates with thousands of ex-members of Somoza's National Guard encamped in Honduras. In terrorist raids into Nicaragua, these Guardsmen have assassinated more than 150 civilians.

- The U.S. blocked a \$30 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank that would have revitalized Nicaragua's fishing industry. It also voted against a World Bank loan for municipal development (but the loan was approved overwhelmingly by the other World Bank members).⁶

- After cutting off promised food aid and other loans, Reagan instructed the CIA to dole out over \$7 million to anti-government groups and individuals inside Nicaragua.⁷

Along with its successes, the new Nicaraguan government has made its share of mistakes. It has jailed some opponents. It has doubled public employment in two years without a corresponding increase in efficiency. Its administrative inexperience, coupled with scarcity of foreign exchange, has led to periodic shortages of some goods, especially spare parts. Other errors have also been costly. Yet a striking quality of Nicaraguan leaders is their willingness to publicly criticize their own mistakes.

While there are grounds for legitimate criticism, that is not what we hear from the Reagan administration. Instead, seeking some excuse for toppling the government, the administration fabricates charges. Let's examine them.

Has Nicaragua turned "totalitarian"? In Nicaragua, the mass media, mostly in private hands, features vigorous debates on national issues. Sixty percent of the economy is privately owned. Government leaders refuse to adopt any foreign model; instead they seek appropriate local solutions to Nicaragua's problems.

The Sandinistas, who led the fight against Somoza, hold ultimate policy-making authority, but operate in regular

consultation with the Council of State. Through the Council, the 10 political parties (half opposing the Sandinistas) and the churches, as well as groups representing women, youth, business, labor and farmers, exert substantial influence.

Human rights. There is a world of difference for the better between Nicaragua today and Nicaragua under the Somoza dictatorship, as the Organization of American States, Amnesty International, and Pax Christi agree.⁸

Nicaragua has abolished the death penalty. Incidents of police harassment are investigated and guilty police are sternly disciplined—a phenomenon almost unheard of in Central America.

The death squads which terrorize Guatemala and El Salvador with impunity do not exist in Nicaragua.

Religious freedom. In Nicaragua today, religious freedom is guaranteed. Priests and nuns played a key role in the Nicaraguan revolution, and religious conviction is a prime motivation for many Sandinista leaders. Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto is a priest, as are three other top government officials. "The Church . . . should identify itself with the objectives of this . . . generous revolution," concluded Pax Christi, the Vatican human rights group.⁹

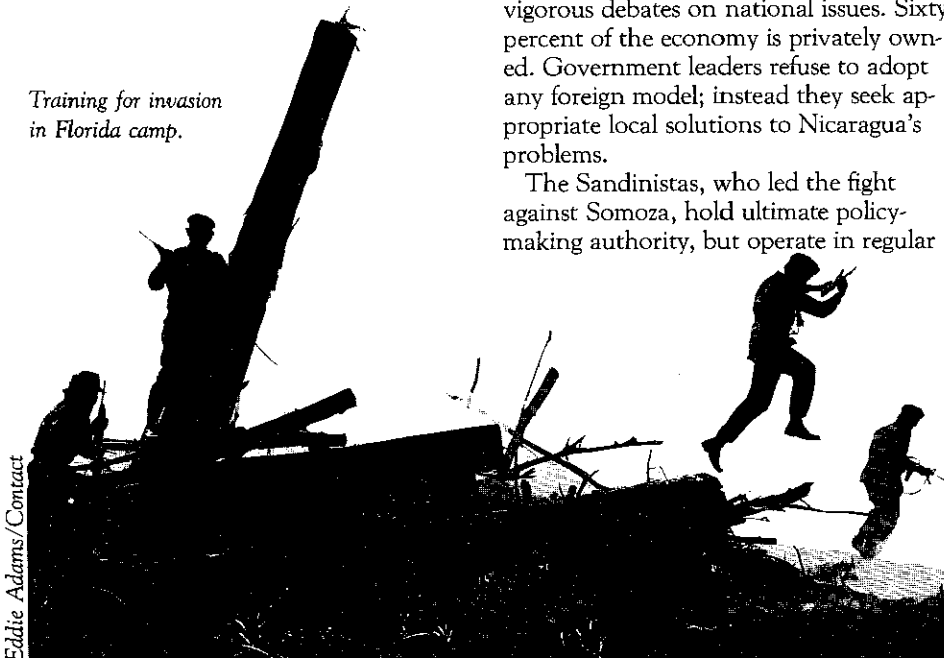
Political rights. Given the history of fraudulent elections under Somoza, elections have not been a demand of most Nicaraguans. Nevertheless, they are now set for 1985. Under the new electoral law, all parties will have access to the government-owned television channels (which once belonged to Somoza) and will be free to publish election materials. In the meantime, the government is preparing the people for the responsibility of voting through a literacy campaign and adult schools, and by encouraging civic involvement in neighborhoods and workplaces.

Freedom of expression. The end of Somoza's terror has allowed unprecedented freedom of expression for Nicaraguans; people in all walks of life now feel they can speak their minds. Journalists can go about the country as they please.

Of 51 radio stations, 34 are in private hands. Of the country's three dailies, the biggest, best-financed newspaper, *La Prensa*, speaks for a segment of the business and landowning class.

Although *La Prensa* was highly respected for its courageous opposition to Somoza, its editor and 80 percent of the staff resigned soon after his overthrow and started *Nuevo Diario* in protest

Training for invasion in Florida camp.



Eddie Adams/Contact



Kit Hedman

against the owners' dogmatic anti-government line.

Today the U.S. media portray *La Prensa* as the principled opposition, but most observers who actually read the paper conclude that it blends rumors, virulent attacks on the government, hysterical anti-communism, and biased treatment of news stories—all in a campaign to bring down the government.

When national survival itself is at stake, governments often feel forced to take severe measures. Many Americans deplored the Nicaraguan government's five temporary shutdowns of *La Prensa* last year, as well as its jailing of three business leaders (later released) and three communist trade union activists under the Economic Emergency Law.

After the bombing of two key bridges March 14—a few days after CIA terrorist plans against Nicaragua were revealed—the government suspended constitutional rights and declared a state of emergency.

We hope conditions will rapidly improve so that this suspension can be quickly lifted. But it is crucial that Americans understand how U.S. actions aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan government provoke such measures—perhaps deliberately.

The Reagan administration's war plans severely threaten the Nicaraguans, already hard pressed by the economic crisis crippling Central America as well as deliberate economic sabotage by some Nicaraguan businessmen.

Is the Nicaraguan army a threat to its neighbors? Nicaragua is strengthen-

ing its army, not to threaten other countries but in response to the real military threat from the United States and U.S.-armed regimes in Central America. These defensive preparations tragically divert human and financial resources from programs to meet the basic needs of the poor majority.

Nicaraguans' fears are justified: after all, the United States occupied Nicaragua from 1912 to 1933, installed the Somoza dynasty, then supported it until the very last months.

The Reagan administration has repeatedly claimed that Nicaragua is supplying Salvadoran rebels, yet despite the sophisticated surveillance at its command, it has been unable to produce a shred of credible evidence. The very day that the U.S. cut off aid to Nicaragua—ostensibly because of arms shipments—the State Department itself admitted that "Nicaragua had virtually halted all flow of arms."¹⁰ In any case, the struggle in El Salvador is not caused by Nicaragua or any other foreign power; its roots lie in brutal military repression—backed by the U.S.—and the concentration of wealth that has made Salvadorans the worst fed people in Latin America.

Isn't the Nicaraguan government out to eliminate private business?

Nicaragua has a mixed economy. The private sector accounts for 75 percent of industrial and agricultural production. Private businesses are receiving 70 percent of all government credit. And in many cases, profits are higher than ever, given the risk-free government loans and

the increased buying power of the poor.

A Question of Sovereignty

Whatever their politics, virtually all Nicaraguans want an end to a half-century of U.S. meddling in their affairs. "We Nicaraguans will solve the problems of Nicaraguans," says even the anti-government *La Prensa*.

Nicaragua does not want to be dependent on any one country or power bloc. While seeking to reduce its overwhelming dependence on the United States, it has made numerous efforts to build a cordial relationship with the U.S. government and U.S. corporations. It successfully negotiated a new "Dole" banana contract and rescheduled with U.S. banks the repayment of Somoza's debts. It has increased its imports from the United States. And in the face of U.S. threats and false accusations, it has repeatedly requested a dialogue with the State Department.

Despite Nicaragua's good faith, the Reagan administration shows every sign of repeating the interventionist mistakes made in Guatemala in 1954, in Cuba and the Dominican Republic in the 1960s, and in Chile in the '70s.

What's Our Responsibility?

Clearly, in civil and human rights as well as programs benefitting the poor, Nicaraguans have achieved striking progress. But important questions remain: Will the government become even more accountable to the majority? Will it continue to encourage open debate on vital issues?

The answers to such questions hang in the balance. They do in every society.

As U.S. citizens, we cannot decide the answers in Nicaragua; that's the business of the Nicaraguan people. But our responsibility is clear: *stop our government's interference.*

Under the guise of "concern for democracy," doesn't U.S. hostility actually create the very insecurity that so often contributes to militaristic, anti-democratic policies?

By launching covert CIA operations, arming Nicaragua's hostile neighbors, and blocking loans, couldn't the Reagan administration actually force the Nicaraguan government into dependence on the Soviet bloc?

But U.S. relations with Nicaragua could be different. The Reagan administration could call off the CIA and close down the terrorist training camps on American soil. The administration could end military aid to the other Central American governments and resume reconstruction and humanitarian aid to Nicaragua.

Now is the time to ally ourselves with the Nicaraguan people:

- We can write our Congresspeople, asking them to support legislation to end U.S. covert action and establish positive relations with Nicaragua.

- We can learn more about the Nicaraguan experiment and organize educational forums in our schools, unions, churches and communities. (See the resource guide.)

- We can work with one of the hundreds of groups around the country opposing U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and the rest of Central America.

"Nicaragua es una escuela."

Nicaraguans often talk about their revolution as a school, an experiment. Is it possible to develop a democratic society, yet eliminate the daily hunger and needless suffering of the poor majority? From Poland to the Philippines, the answer is desperately awaited.

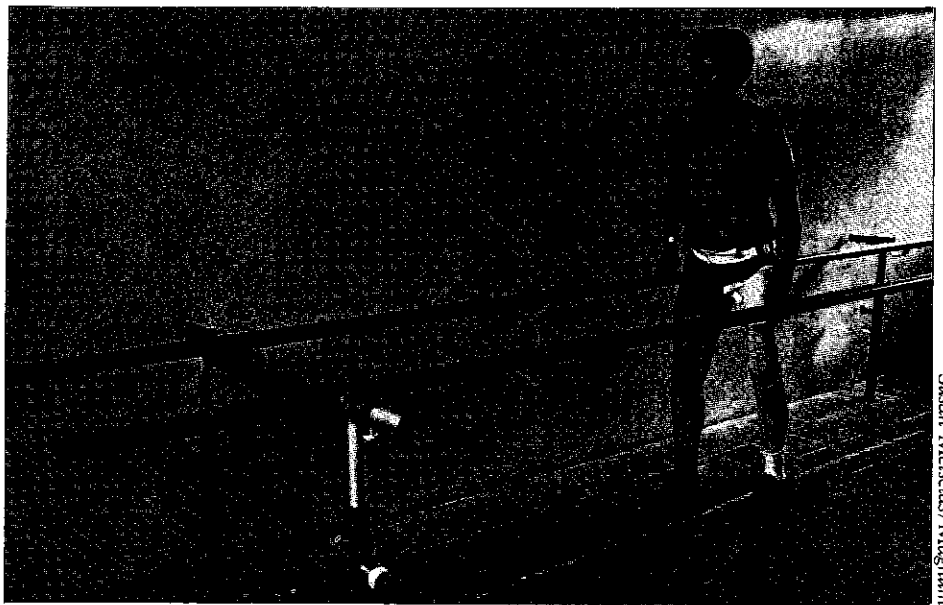
Americans, too, could learn from the Nicaraguan "school"—if we stop our leaders from destroying it.

Footnotes

1. *New York Times*, March 14, 1982.
2. *New York Times*, January 19, 1982.
3. *Amnesty International Report* 1981, p. 175.
4. September 15, 1981.
5. *Washington Post*, March 10, 1982.
6. *New York Times*, March 10, 1982.
7. *San Francisco Examiner (AP)*, March 12, 1982.
8. OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report, June 1981; *Amnesty International Report* 1981; *Pax Christi* report, October 1981.
9. *Pax Christi* report, October 1981.
10. *New York Times*, April 2, 1981.

**Written by Nick Allen and Joseph Collins, with Frances Moore Lappé
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Susan Meisels/Magnum

Disabled Nicaraguans, many victims of the war against Somoza, learn new skills.

Nicaragua Resource Guide

1. **To find the closest group working against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua**, contact: the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People, 1718 20th St. NW, Washington DC 20009, (202) 223-2328. (Free resource guide lists books and films, plus a bi-monthly newsletter.) Action packets and films also available from Oxfam America, 115 Broadway, Boston MA 02116 and American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102.
2. **To organize a film showing**, contact: National Network or Oxfam. Both rent *Thanks to God and the Revolution*. Icarus Films, (212) 674-3375, distributes *Thanks to God*, *Sandino Today and Forever* and *El Salvador: Another Vietnam*. *From the Ashes*, about the new Nicaragua, is available from Document Associates, (212) 682-0730; to order *Americas*

in *Transition*, about change in Latin America, call (212) 226-2465.
3. **To learn more**, read: *Triumph of the People: The Sandinista Revolution* by George Black, available from National Network and at bookstores.

Special Update on Nicaragua, from Washington Office on Latin America, 110 Maryland Av. NE, Washington DC 20002 (\$1).

Target: Nicaragua, from NACLA, 151 West 19th St., New York NY 10011 (\$3.75).

Legislative Update, every 10 days from Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, 120 Maryland Av. NE, Washington DC 20002 (\$10/year).

Nicaragua Update, bi-monthly newsletter from Nicaragua Interfaith Committee for Action (NICA), 942 Market St. #709, San Francisco CA 94102 (\$7/year).

4. **Coming in Fall 1982**, a major Food First book, *What Difference Could a Revolution Make? Food and Farming in the New Nicaragua*, by Joseph Collins. (Use coupon to reserve your copy.)

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