

3 JANUARY 1985

BISHOP J. ANTONIO RAMOS  
National Council of Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America  
Church World Service  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York  
10115-0050

Dear Bishop Ramos:

I want to thank you and the Church World Service for sending the \$1,250.00 Grant from Civil Strife to the Center for World Indigenous Studies so that we could support the positive efforts to resolve the war between Miskito, Sumo and Rama Indians and the Republic of Nicaragua. Your quick response is very much appreciated.

As you know, the first round of MISURASATA/Nicaragua Peace Treaty Negotiations were conducted in Bogota, Columbia in December. Initial proposals were placed on the table by MISURASATA and general definitional discussions were conducted.

A major hurdle was overcome during these first, formal discussions when the Nicaraguan Delegation, led by Luis Carrion, agreed to accept MISURASATA's proposal that Nicaragua recognize the Miskito, Sumo and Rama as "indigenous peoples" and not merely as an "ethnic group" or minority population. The first talks also produced an opportunity for MISURASATA to discuss inclusion of Indian Rights in the Contadora Process with representatives of the Republic of Colombia. Colombia has indicated its willingness to discuss the issue with other Contadora countries.

For your information, I have enclosed copies of MISURASATA's initial peace proposals, "Behind Bogota", a paper written by a CWIS Founding Board Member who participated in the talks and a recent memo prepared here at the Center to Brooklyn Rivera, MISURASATA General Coordinator and principle negotiator for MISURASATA entitled "MISURASATA-NICARAGUA PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS"

In a conversation I had with your secretary several weeks ago, I gained the impression that your board is currently considering our proposal for grant support in the amount of \$15,000 to continue our efforts and MISURASATA's efforts in the peace process. Is the board considering our proposal? Will it be possible, if the board is considering the proposal and agrees, that this support can reach us before January 17, 1985. We are making preparations, as you can see by the enclosed memorandum, for the second round of peace talks which are scheduled to begin on January 19, 1985. Please advise me. Again, thank you for your help!

Sincere regards,

RUDOLPH C. RYSER  
Chairman and Senior Fellow