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Q. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUR TRIP SO FAR?

DPM/SSEA: I WOULD REGARD THE RESULT OF MY TRIP, IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH COMANDANTE ORTEGA AND OTHER REPS OF THE GOVT THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, THE POSSIBILITY OF DEEPENING MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION. TO TEST CDN POLICY AGAINST REALITY. I DID NOT COME HERE TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT. BUT I EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON THE PART OF CDA IN THE SITUATION IN CENTAM.

Q. IN YOUR OPINION, DOES IT APPEAR THAT NICARAGUA REALLY IS INTERESTED IN PEACE OR DO YOU SEE NICARAGUA AS BEING A DESTABILIZING FACTOR IN THE REGION?

DPM/SSEA: I BELIEVE THAT THE FIVE CENTAM COUNTRIES HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE THROUGH THE CONTADORA INITIATIVE, ALONG WITH THE FOUR CONTADORA COUNTRIES. FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD THE NICARAGUAN GOVT IS INTERESTED IN SEEKING PEACE, AND IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TROUBLED SITUATION IN THE REGION. AND I MUST SAY I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ANYONE WHO WOULD NOT SEEK PEACE. BECAUSE AS IT'S QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO BE HELD BACK, IF THIS PRESENT SITUATION IS MAINTAINED. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD UP ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, TO OVERCOME THE POVERTY, TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS WHILE THEY ARE ENGAGED IN THIS KIND OF WARFARE OR FIGHTING. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. SO I TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEACE. THE CONTRARY BELIEF WOULD BE PREPOSTEROUS. UNQUOTE

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