

Responding to a question in the Commons November 29 from Jean Chrétien (Lib., Saint-Maurice) as to the advisability of a ministerial visit to Nicaragua, the External Affairs Minister stated that after "frank" talks with NGO representatives returning from Nicaragua, he believed that "there is an excellent degree of cooperation between the government and private Canadian citizens" concerned with the situation in Nicaragua. Mr. Clark added that the government was considering how it might "have a positive impact, even though it would probably be a minor one," in bringing about stability and peace in Latin America.

### **Call for Diplomatic Representation**

A report released November 28 by a coalition of church and human rights groups which monitored the November 4 elections was strongly condemnatory of the lack of a Canadian diplomatic presence in Nicaragua. The group, having met with External Affairs Minister Joe Clark the day before to voice their concerns, stated in their report that lack of an embassy in Managua (and the information that such a post would provide), severely limited the Canadian government's ability to make "informed policy decisions" on the region (*Globe and Mail*, November 29). Group spokesperson Francine Fournier said that the monitored elections had been "profoundly democratic." The coalition report, strongly critical of continued US pressure on the Sandinista regime, stressed that Canadian policy should be more independent. It also noted that public comments made by Canadian Ambassador Filleul prior to the voting had "effectively condemned it as useless." Contrasting this with the "scrupulously limited . . . observations" made during the Salvadoran elections, the report criticized the approach to the region as "unbalanced," and "particularly disturbing since the prior denial of the legitimacy of Nicaragua's elections is used to vindicate US policy of continued and indeed escalating intervention, both overt and covert."

The group's report calling for a Canadian presence in Nicaragua was echoed in a statement made by Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) in the Commons November 30. Commending the External Affairs Minister's inquiry into the need for "direct representation" in that country, Mr. Heap affirmed that from his observations, the Nicaraguan government was "controlled by nobody but the people of Nicaragua." With diplomatic representation in Canada, Nicaragua "deserves to receive an ambassador from Canada," he added.

## **NORWAY**

### **Norwegian Fugitive**

A Norwegian fugitive, Nils Somby, faced deportation from Canada in November when attempts failed to have his status as a member of a Canadian indigenous group recognized by immigration authorities at a closed-door hearing (*The Citizen*, October 5). Mr. Somby, charged in Norway in connection with a protest bombing, had earlier been accepted by a British Columbian Indian band, the Nuxalks,

as a native person. (As a Lapp, Mr. Somby is a member of a Scandinavian indigenous race.) While held in custody, Mr. Somby maintained that his family's adoption by the Nuxalks provided them with immunity from the Immigration Act, and gave them status as members of the Nuxalk nation. Their defence was based on the premise that they were no longer to be considered either illegal immigrants or refugees. With the deportation hearing a result of his Norwegian fugitive status, Immigration officials refused to accept his claim to Indian status as legitimate, despite an appeal on his behalf from the World Council of Indigenous People to Immigration Minister Flora MacDonald.

On November 27, Mr. Somby (along with his family) was ordered deported from Canada following the inquiry. Adjudicator Gary Braunschworth based his decision on the fact that Mr. Somby had violated two provisions of the Immigration Act, according to a *Globe and Mail* report November 28. He was in Canada on an expired visitor's permit and without a passport. While alleged subversive activity in Norway was dismissed as grounds for his expulsion, his status as a native Indian was also rejected as providing exemption from Immigration Act provisions. Counsel for Mr. Somby indicated that the possibility of an appeal would be examined.

## **POLAND**

### **Assassination of Priest**

Upon notification of the assassination of a Polish priest, Father Popieluszko, a militant supporter of the banned Solidarity movement, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark expressed the Canadian "outrage" at the news. "I share in the shock and grief felt by the Polish people . . . I trust that the Polish authorities will do their utmost to bring to light all the circumstances surrounding this tragedy" (External Affairs communiqué, October 31). Kidnapped on October 18, Father Popieluszko's body was discovered October 31.

In Canada, the Canadian Polish Congress organized protests November 3 in reaction to the slaying (in connection with which several Polish officers had already been arrested). The Ottawa demonstration, before both the Polish and Soviet Embassies, was not a call for "vengeance," said Congress spokesperson Stefan Bandrowski. Rather, it was a request that "this vile conspiracy [be] exposed and that the assassins [be] brought to justice," he added (*The Citizen*, November 5).

Following the assassination, Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski assumed direct control over Poland's internal security, and stated his firm resolution to "clarify any doubts" (*The Citizen*, November 30). Determining the circumstances surrounding the death was "in accordance with the interests and needs of our state, to which this action has done horrible harm." Jaruzelski, while criticizing those priests who "collide" with the state (by not respecting the provisions of the constitution), stated that his government intended to "do everything according to the norms of morality and the interest of the state."