

[from IP/I office]

FIM

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From Informations Ouvrières, December 22, 1979--January 5, 1980

An article on page 3 reports on the arrival of the new Nicaraguan ambassador to France, dwelling in great detail on the diplomatic and academic posts he held under Somoza.

The article then reports on the question posed by the IO reporter at a news conference held by the ambassador December 13. The following is a translation of that section of the article:

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The representative from Informations Ouvrières present at the news conference asked the ambassador the following question:

"How does the government that you represent explain the ~~long~~ prolonged detention of anti-imperialist, Trotskyist, and trade-union militants whose participation in the front ranks of the struggle to overthrow the tyrant Somoza and his murderous regime is questioned by no one?

"I have here a lengthy list of militants at present behind bars, some of whom have been tortured--a list drawn up by the Trotskyist militant Carlos Petroni, who himself was imprisoned and tortured for 33 days prior to his release November 9. This list has been made public through the press and through a public meeting held in Paris November 13. It has not been denied.

"I ask the government of Nicaragua, which you represent: What does it have to say in response to the protests of all those who, because they support workers and democratic rights, view such violations of liberties as intolerable and incompatible with defense of the Nicaraguan revolution?"

The ambassador gave an evasive response, denying ~~that~~ that anyone at all was at present imprisoned in Nicaragua for his opinions or organizational affiliations.

Informations Ouvrières:

"This response is of satisfaction to no one. I think that, under these circumstances, you should agree to receive a delegation of personalities representing the workers movement and democratic opinion of this country, which is planning to ~~come~~ to ask you to deliver to your government a demand for the immediate freedom of anti-imperialist, socialist, Trotskyist, and trade-union militants at present detained under inadmissible conditions."

The ambassador:

"I will meet with such a delegation."

To be noted is ~~that~~ that the Rouge reporter present did not raise the question of the prisoners, despite the fact that this is one of the most elementary duties of solidarity among militants who claim adherence to Trotskyism. Instead, he remained content with a bland question on the cabinet shuffle currently underway in Nicaragua.

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