

Editor
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Robert Berberich's obvious sincerity in his letter of 7/12/83 makes it even more pathetic ~~in~~ in his parroting of the propaganda of the preachers of the far-right who made themselves multi-millionaires by ripping off people's pocketbooks while they ripped off minds by corrupting fact and reality to inspire ~~this~~ fear and hatred. *That made them rich.*

He has no idea of what he writes about, including democracy and love, his concept ^{is} ~~is~~ as real as that word is in the mouths of those who follow the world's oldest profession.

Nicaragua held an election in 1984 under ~~the~~ international supervision and those observers, including our own, said the election was open and fair, much more so ~~than~~ ^{than} most in that part of the world. Until the next election, the people there have made their decision and it is they, not the extremists like Robert Berberich, who ^{sole legal} have the right to decide ^{do} how they want to live and what government they want. The *Ortega* government won by almost two-thirds. Whether or not we like their government, they voted for what they have and that is the real democracy, not the nutty stuff ~~that~~ ^{made up} *by those who hate it* ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~repeated~~ ^{repeated} for the haters and ignorant elsewhere.

His fabrication that they have "a 2 million man ^{militaries, fake and} ~~military~~ is sick. It multiplies by hundreds their force of about 50,000, ^{mostly} including popular militia who are not part ^{of} the army. *On all, Nicaragua's population is 3,000,000, girl infants and grandmas included.*

Ortega is not "an avowed communist dictator," he did stand for election, and the economy there is almost half private, the rest government. No matter what the Falwells say.

He says it is ^{simple} ~~only~~ "common sense" that "food, medicine and medical supplies" be denied the innocent victims of the war the United States started and ^{passed by proxy} ~~passed~~ through ~~proxies~~. Keeping legless children from having wheelchairs and wooden legs, medicines and food, to him, in his remarkable ^{understanding} representation of Christian belief, is "love and charity" and must be denied so that we "not confirm communist dictatorship." To call this ^{only} pernicious form of hatred ^{sick} is to praise it.

All the American veterans who organized this scanty relief ~~Mr. Berberich~~ describes as "massive" must by his concepts be dangerous reds, as must also those Catholic and Protestant preachers to whom this less than minimal assistance in food and medical supplies was consigned. ~~Doesn't "sick" praise this disgusting fabrication?~~

"What," he asks, "would result" if this meagre cargo of food, medicines and prosthetics to succor innocent children, "we followed by engineers, like Ben Linder?"

Linder was killed in cold blood by the Contras ~~Mr. Berberich~~ loves ~~and calls~~ while he was building a small water-powered electrical system for a small rural village whose people lacked any modern convenience or benefits. What "would result" is that ~~in that primitive society life would have been a little less vigorous~~ and the children would have had light to study and read by. It would have been of absolutely no consequence in the ~~war~~ war. Such is Mr. Berberich's concept of "love" and "charity."

Contrary to ~~xxxxxxx~~ his silly claim, no "foreign power" is, has, will or wants to "colonize" Nicaragua and the USSR, which he implies has colonized it, Nicaragua, isn't even supplying petroleum ^{or} necessary foods. It has no need of any hemisphere base and has more trouble than it can handle ^{without} looking for more. This is the utterly baseless ^{self-justification concocted by} connection of the ignorant, the stupid, and those who, while dominated by hatred, profess Christian love and dedication to freedom.

For all its sincerity and passion, there isn't a single correct statement of fact in this letter, ^{to} and the ugly, even, McCarthyite intent is disclosed by the really rotten epithet of "cell" applied to an open and public organization affiliated with Clergy and Laity Concerned.

If Mr. Berberich can find any justification for denying crutches, artificial limbs, medicines and food to innocent children victimized by the war he supports and still claim to be a Christian, he ought read the teachings of Jesus without making them up, too.

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

Freedom is road to peace

I had planned to ignore Harold Weisberg's July 9 letter of double-talk, wherein he decides that now I am not just stupid but also ignorant. He then twists the words he writes to claim that I believe "peace" is communistic, when the truth is the exact opposite of this. War, not peace, is synonymous with communism.

Dictatorial communism has been the direct cause of every war this world has known since World War II, with the possible exception of the Iraq-Iran conflict. And these Russian wars still rage on three continents: Africa, Asia and Latin America. All for the evil purpose of imposing a failed system of dictatorship upon those too weak to successfully resist, and furthering the imperialistic aims of a world-wide Russian empire.

Now that permission has been foolishly granted for the Veterans Peace Convoy to deliver their humanitarian goods to the people of Nicaragua, I do feel compelled to respond. Let's hope that the loving Mr. Weisberg will feel less frustrated now, over this "charitable" cause he supported. And maybe even hate me a little less.

In spite of his two lengthy letters condemning my opposition to the Frederick cell of the Western Maryland Peace Resource Center, Mr. Weisberg hasn't answered a simple question that I asked. And I guess he won't.

My opposition to permitting the Veterans Peace Convoy to proceed to Nicaragua is based on simple common sense. It is not a failure on my part to feel love for our Latin American neighbors.

If the American people listened to our "Peace Activists" and supplied massive humanitarian aid to the people of Nicaragua, so that food, medicine, medical supplies, as well as trucks, then building supplies, were then followed by engineers, such as Ben Linder, what do you think would result?

Would an avowed communist dictator, supported by a 2 million man military, who controls the banks, the press, the radio, telegraph and mail, as well as anything else he chooses to control, become weakened by such massive charity?

Of course not! His position of power would be strengthened. By our charity we would have relieved his people from the suffering he has caused, and the dictator's power, no longer threatened by public discontent, would be the more easily sustained.

Let's not confirm communistic dictatorship upon the Nicaraguan people by thoughtless foolish acts that we wrongly see as love and charity. That's not the road to peace. Freedom is the road, because without it there is no peace.

Let's work for the good of our Nicaraguan friends, not for their continued bondage.

If there is a peaceful way to depose their communist dictator and establish a true democracy in Nicaragua, then for God's sake be charitable enough to support such an effort.

If it cannot be done peacefully, we are morally obliged to accomplish this result in any way that we are able. And our supplying the goods their communist dictatorship has denied these poor people is not the answer.

Only when a true democracy has been installed there, should we open the spigots of love and charity, like we have done throughout the world ever since World War II — at least where we have been permitted to.

I personally fear that a peaceful solution is all but

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impossible. Such power is never relinquished willingly. Internal revolution, or international force, or both, will most likely be necessary to bring freedom to Nicaragua. And neither would be peaceful.

And please, Mr. Weisberg, don't charge me with wanting war instead of peace. The unacceptable condition of a foreign power colonizing the independent nations in this hemisphere is the cause of war, and this is the fault of international communism. Not my fault at all. My only fault is to resist it — and by war, if indeed we must.

Make freedom and we shall know peace.

Make peace with the acceptance of communism in this hemisphere and freedom will be forfeit.

Forfeit freedom and you have caused a war.

Freedom is the great gift of love and charity that we must provide for our Nicaraguan neighbors.

ROBERT W. BERBERICH

Frederick