

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS  
10 January 1985

BOETTCHER: Five years after Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista guerrillas fought their way into Managua, Ortega was sworn in as Nicaragua's president. Before today, Daniel Ortega was Nicaragua's revolutionary leader who had directed Nicaragua on a Marxist course. Indeed, the leaders of much of the communist world, including Fidel Castro, came to watch his inauguration. If Daniel Ortega keeps his communist friends like Fidel Castro, Ronald Reagan has promised to keep opposing him with a policy that will make Ortega spend most of his time as president fighting a war, a war that is bankrupting his country. This is Ortega's army. Its jubilant new soldiers fired their Soviet-made rifles in the air. Their hometown, \*Leon, was seeing them off to their first battles against the U.S.-backed rebels called contras. They said their last goodbyes to their families. Their enemy, the contras, have received no money from the CIA in recent months, but they continue to fight a tough hit-and-run guerrilla war, and many of these men probably will not return home. Along Nicaragua's northern frontier, there is hardly a town that has not felt the war. In \*Huehueli, a woman cried over the wedding dress of her daughter who was killed in a contra ambush two days after her wedding. Down the road, a contra commander insisted his men do not kill innocent civilians. He said he was fighting Nicaraguan communists and atheists. He wore a crucifix on his hat and was watched over by a squad of contras equipped with U.S.-supplied weapons. At an army training camp, instructors for the Cuban-backed Sandinista army are teaching boys and their grandfathers how to shoot. Nicaraguans are being told on this inauguration day to prepare for more war against the contras and perhaps against the American Army itself. Nicaraguans believe the inauguration day warning of more war, and they are certain of the hardships that it will bring, continued shortages of everything needed to live and little money to buy what is available. The inauguration of Ortega marks new tough times for him and the Nicaraguan people. Mike Boettcher, NBC News, Managua.