

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-3

NEW YORK TIMES
13 AUGUST 1982

U.S. Criticized on Nicaragua

The executive director of the board that oversees the missionary work of the Moravian Church said yesterday that United States policy on Nicaragua had been counterproductive and called on Christians in the United States to lobby the Reagan Administration to reduce its military and economic pressure against the Sandinist Government.

In a letter sent last week to United States churches and legislators, Graham H. Rights, director of the North American Moravian Board of World Mission, said that American support for insurgents operating on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras had caused widespread suffering among the Miskito Indians in the area.

The Sandinists have charged that the

Central Intelligence Agency has financed the recruitment of Indians by a variety of hostile guerrilla groups.

The letter supports reports that Government-backed groups in Nicaragua have increased attacks on religious organizations that work with the Indians.

In his letter, Mr. Rights urged American churchgoers to support legislation that would cut off funds for covert action against the Sandinists. "Our primary objective is to make dialogue and reconciliation possible," he said.

Mr. Rights also called on American Christians to urge Mr. Reagan to restrict arms shipments to Honduras and to halt the training of Nicaraguan dissidents in the United States.