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NEW UNITS EVALUATION, REVISION OF REVOLUTION

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[Text] The Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, conscious of and concerned about the dangers confronting the Nicaraguan Revolution, both because of the internal shortcomings and diversions of its usufructuaries and on account of their repercussions and consequences in other countries, mainly in neighboring nations and those without whose support and aid it would not have been able to achieve its triumph of 19 July 1979, echoes the timely call for national unity voiced by Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in her message of 7 November to the Government Junta and to all Nicaraguans. Moreover, in the wake of political development in recent days, the National Reconstruction Government Junta has come out insistently for national unity and political pluralism.

The Conservative Party feels that the current situation can and must urgently be assessed by the political forces in our country that made up the complex front of combat unity without which victory would not have come over the Somoza dictatorship, both in the armed struggle and in the no less difficult field of international politics.

Unfortunately, this national unity front, originally based on a clear-cut and open political pluralism, was not structured with the legal and political solidity that the historic juncture and democratic realities required. Thus, amid the interplay of partisan and personal ambitions and ideological preponderances, it has gradually deteriorated and has practically been displaced by mounting mistrust of government plans and by confrontations between ever broader segments of the Nicaraguan people with the single party system that they seek to establish in Nicaragua.

This trend, which runs counter to democratic pluralism, and the Marxist direction and orientation of the government party have to a degree placed the Nicaraguan Revolution outside our country's historical context and hemispheric realities in geographic and geopolitical terms. Recent political changes via elections in countries in the Americas have more sharply outlined this context, leaving little room for more or less confusing moves towards orbits and systems outside the continent. Under these circumstances, it is all the more obvious that our Nicaraguan Revolution will be able to develop as revolutionarily as it wants only in accordance with the democratic parameters of the West and, more specifically, of the American continent. In fact, it was based on such an agreement and under the auspices of the Organization of American States that the Nicaraguan people

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carried out their revolution. This ideological position was clearly embodied in the government program promulgated on 18 June 1979 by the National Reconstruction Government Junta.

In light of the dangers threatening our revolution and in light of the serious economic situation that in the months to come could reach catastrophic levels and cause painful developments for our long-suffering people, a supreme effort is required to consolidate a national unity capable of staving off these tremendous evils.

The revolutionary process must be immediately reassessed and made to square with original projects, with the government program of 18 June 1979, which contained the revolution's commitment to the Nicaraguan people and to the democratic governments of the continent that lent it their most resolute support.

The Democratic Conservative Party feels that the assessment we have called for must be begun as soon as possible. The following would be the main points to this end:

- I. Pluralist organization of the National Reconstruction Government Junta.
- II. Restructuring the Council of State with a balanced representation of political forces and eliminating the military presence on it.
- III. Establishment of authentically national Armed Forces and police, without the partisan designation and nature that they currently have, as set forth in Point 1.33 of the Political Area of the 18 June 1979 Government Program and Article 24 of the Fundamental Statute.
- IV. Full guarantees of freedom of the press and of information, as called for in Point 1.4 of the Political Area of the 18 June 1979 Government Program, and revoking Decrees 511 and 512, which encroach on this freedom.
- V. Compliance with Point 1.1 of the Political Area of the government program in connection with the legislation needed for the organization and unfettered operations of political parties without ideological discrimination and on an equal footing.
- VI. Establishment of a multiparty commission to draw up an electoral bill that the Government Junta would have to submit to the Council of State under Article 18 (as amended) of the Fundamental Statute, as well as a Law of Municipalities.
- VII. Setting specific dates for municipal elections and the election of members of the Constitutional Assembly, and specifying the nature of these elections according to the provisions of Article 28 of the Fundamental Statute.
- VIII. Setting a date for the restructured Council of State to draw up the draft political constitution called for in the Fundamental Statute.
- IX. Revision of the laws permitting unjust confiscations and attachments of private property; the elimination, in practice, of arbitrary and illegal measures against owners, and review of cases of obvious and proven injustice.

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X. Compliance with the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists and the DAS Human Rights Commission, mainly in connection with the autonomy of and respect for the judiciary and the improper functioning of the special tribunals.

XI. Publication of the general budget of the nation, and informing the public as to the use and handling of budget items, as well as of the confiscated assets that the state is administering.

XII. Revision of study programs and educational policy, based on the right of parents to choose what kind of education their children ought to receive, a right enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the Revolutionary Government promised to respect.

XIII. Based on the temporary nature of the current government, an agreement on the quickest and most appropriate process enabling our people to decide the definitive course of their revolution through free and honest elections.

Immediate consideration of these points and others that might emerge by all of the country's political forces would strengthen the revolution and avert the danger of confrontations and violence among Nicaraguans, because we would be resolving our problems and differences in the civilized and democratic way that befits a people who struggled for their self-determination and freedom in opposition to any sort of outside control and oppression.

Managua, 12 November 1980
Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua
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