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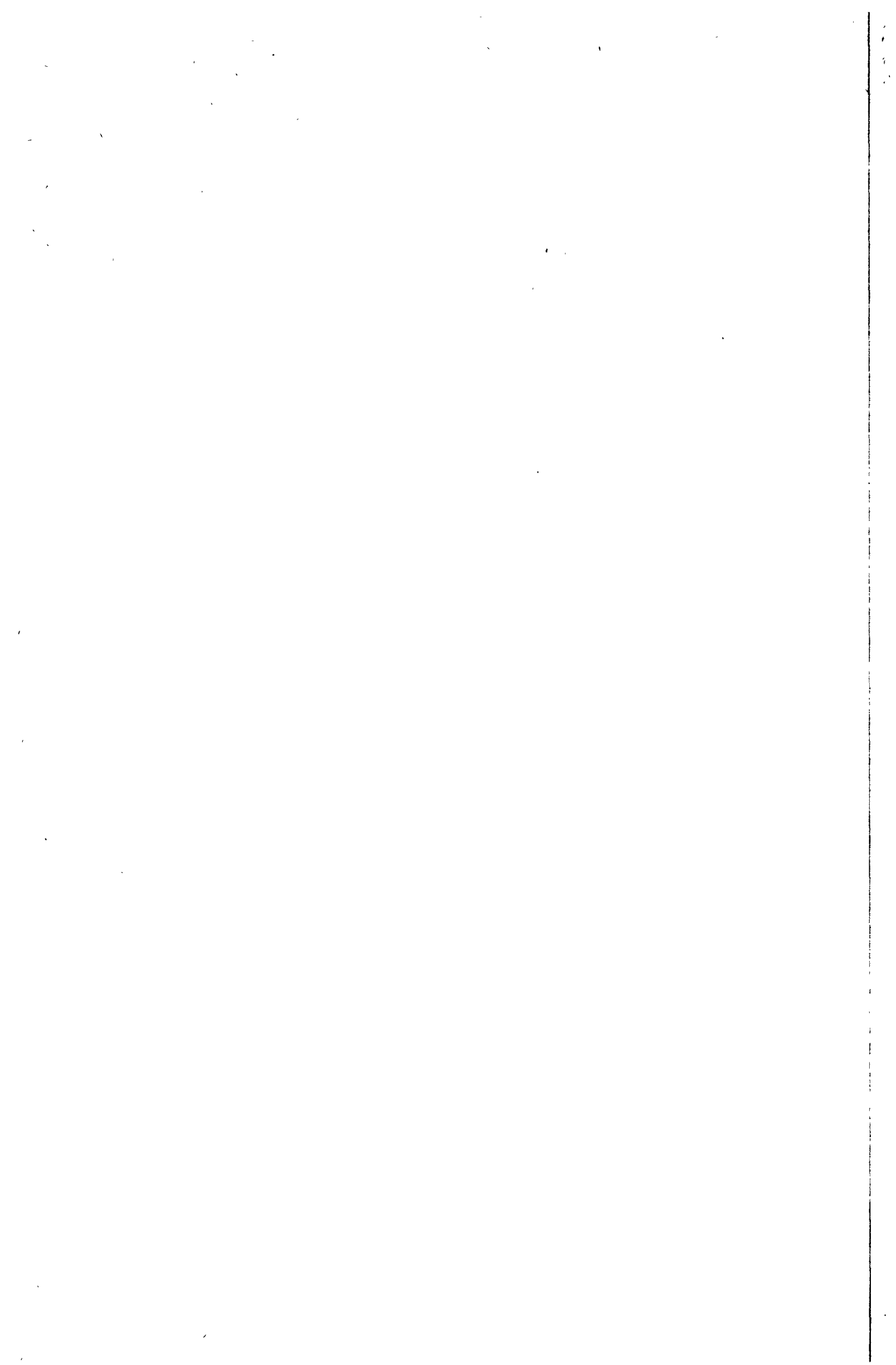
Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the political situation in Nicaragua

Rapporteur: Mr D. ANTONIOZZI

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On 19 July 1979 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Glinne, Mr Van Miert, Mr van Minnen and Mr Sarre on behalf of the Socialist Group, on the situation in Nicaragua (Doc. 1-229/79), and the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Ansart, Mr Baillot, Mr Chambeiron, Mr Damette, Mrs Demarch, Mr Denis, Mrs Hoffmann, Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mrs Poirier and Mr Wurtz, on the political situation in Nicaragua (Doc. 1-236/79), to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Development and Cooperation for its opinion.

At its meeting of 2 and 3 October 1979 the Political Affairs Committee decided to submit a report on the matter and appointed Mr ANTONIOZZI rapporteur.

It considered the matter at its meetings of 18 and 19 December 1979 and 22 and 23 January 1980 and, on the latter date, unanimously adopted this report.

Present: Mr Rey, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Antoniozzi, rapporteur; Mrs Baduel-Glorioso (deputizing for Mr Amendola), Lord Douro (deputizing for Mr Møller), Lady Elles, Mr Fergusson, Mr Fischbach (deputizing for Mr Seitlinger), Mr Goppel (deputizing for Mr von Hassel), Mr Habsburg, Mr Hänsch, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mr Jackson, Mr Lomas, Mr Pelikan (deputizing for Mr Cariglia), Mr Penders, Mr Seefeld (deputizing for Mr Brandt) and Mr Segré (deputizing for Mr Berlinguer)

The explanatory statement will be given orally by the rapporteur.

The opinion of the Committee on Development and Cooperation is attached.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the political situation in Nicaragua

The European Parliament,

- recalling its resolution of 28 September 1979¹,
 - having regard to the motions for resolutions in Docs.1-229/79 and 1-236/79,
 - welcoming the cessation of hostilities in Nicaragua and the culmination of the efforts of the Nicaraguan people in the restoration of democratic freedoms after a long period of dictatorship,
 - hoping that this new situation will rapidly be consolidated by the establishment of a stable political system with the consent of the people,
 - fully aware of Nicaragua's present grave economic difficulties which might - in the absence of remedial action - plunge that country back into political difficulties or into the hands of interests which hold liberty and the people's right to self-determination in low esteem,
 - having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee and to the opinion of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-723/79),
1. Hopes that the Member States of the Community will continue their policy of strict neutrality towards Nicaragua and will invite their partners to take the same attitude and to encourage its observance by Nicaragua's neighbours as well;
 2. Calls for the rapid implementation of aid programmes to Nicaragua, and for their coordination to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the various operations undertaken;
 3. Calls on the Commission to keep it regularly informed on developments in Nicaragua and of the nature, volume and effectiveness of Community aid;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation.

¹ OJ C 266, 22.10.1979, p. 62

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-229/79)

tabled by

Mr GLINNE, Mr VAN MIERT, Mr VAN MINNEN and Mr SARRE
on behalf of the Socialist Group
pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the situation in Nicaragua

The European Parliament,

- deeply disturbed by the political situation in Nicaragua where a civil war is raging,
1. Condemns the dictatorial regime of President Somoza;
 2. Calls for the establishment of a democratic system in which respect for fundamental liberties and the rights of man will be ensured;
 3. Gives its resolute support to the Sandinist Front as the authentic representative of the forces of democracy;
 4. Accordingly, calls upon all the governments
 - to freeze their diplomatic relations with the present regime.
 - to recognize the provisional Sandinist Government,
 - to suspend all economic, financial and military aid to the present regime;
 5. Calls upon the Commission and the Member States to take a decision to grant food, medical and more generally humanitarian aid to the provisional government and to the refugees;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council and to the governments of the Member States.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. 1-236/79)

tabled by

Mr ANSART, Mr BAILLOT, Mr CHAMBEIRON,

Mr DAMETTE, Mrs DEMARCH, Mr DENIS, Mrs HOFFMANN,

Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE, Mrs POIRIER and Mr WURTZ

with request for urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the political situation in Nicaragua

The European Parliament,

- considering that the Nicaraguan people have lived under a ruthless dictatorship for more than twenty-five years,
 - considering that this dictatorship was able to remain in power so long only with the support of the United States,
1. Considers the departure of the dictator SOMOZA to be a major success for democracy, but is concerned about the continued external interference that is still a threat to the liberation movement and the people of Nicaragua;
 2. Expresses the fervent hope that the people of Nicaragua may henceforth appoint the democratic government of their choice independently and in accordance with their own aspirations;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.

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REASONS SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR URGENT DEBATE

The grave and urgent nature of the matter.

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OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Draftsman: Mrs Rabbethge

On 25 September 1979 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mrs RABBETHGE draftsman of an opinion.

On 21 November 1979 the Committee on Development and Cooperation considered Mrs RABBETHGE's draft opinion and adopted it with one contrary vote and two abstentions.

Present: Mr Poniatowski, chairman; Mr Bersani, vice-chairman; Mrs Rabbethge, draftsman; Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Lücker), Mrs Castellina, Mr Cohen, Mr Enright, Mrs Focke, Mr Glinne, Mr Habsburg (deputizing for Mr Lecanuet), Mr Jaquet, Mr Lezzi, Mr Marshall, Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mr Sable, Mr Simmonds, Mr Verges, Mr Warner and Mr Wawrzik

The Motions for Resolutions presented by Mr ANSART and others and by Mr GLINNE and others were referred to the Political Affairs Committee by Parliament at its July sitting. The Committee on Development and Cooperation was asked for an opinion. Subsequently, a Motion for a Resolution (Doc. 1-335/79) was tabled by Mrs CARETTONI ROMAGNOLI and others on emergency aid to Nicaragua and briefly debated and approved by Parliament at its September sitting.

In this Resolution, it was pointed out that 300 tonnes of food supplies are needed every day to prevent people dying from hunger, and that this situation could seriously disrupt the climate of national unity.

Mr HAFERKAMP, for the Commission, pointed out in the debate that the Commission had taken action to provide emergency medical supplies as early as 16 July 1979, and that shortly afterwards help had been made available in the form of seedstuffs, as well as aid to refugees from Nicaragua who were living in Costa Rica. At the end of August, a decision was taken to provide 3 million EUA in aid of different types. This aid has already been despatched. (The aid covers 5,000 tonnes of cereals, 500 tonnes of skim milk powder, most of which has been purchased directly to save on transport delays, although some 70 tonnes of skim milk powder was flown out from the EEC. Of the total amount, about 2 million EUA is being made available for the purchase of beans from neighbouring countries like The Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico, for sale on local markets in Nicaragua).

Mr HAFERKAMP also stated that Commission experts are in Nicaragua to evaluate projects which are designed to help in the rebuilding of the country's economy, and that a further sum of 2 - 3 million EUA have been reserved for this purpose.

In dollars, the total aid from the Community now amounts to about 10 million dollars since the end of July.

This aid should, however, be seen in the context of Nicaragua's current needs: almost total devastation of the country; 70% of the population without employment or resources; a collapsed monetary system; the agricultural cycle so dislocated that at least three months will be necessary before the first harvest; food reserves virtually nil; the capital, Managua, in ruins.

The regime in Nicaragua has drawn up a plan for reconstruction of the country which deals with three phases: 1. immediate necessities, 2. rehabilitation of basic systems, and 3. reconstruction. The regime estimates that bilateral aid requirements will amount to 2,500 million dollars. Nicaragua's enormous debt burden, amounting to 1,500 million dollars, which is equal to the revenue from two years' exports, will have to be renegotiated. Thirdly, multilateral aid will also be essential, and to this end the regime has made direct approaches to each of the main developed regions of the world, i.e. the US, Western Europe, the USSR and Japan.

The political situation in Nicaragua remains delicate; the Junta which is in power clearly contains a number of different tendencies. Your Committee does not take the view that aid should be linked to political criteria, but nevertheless a failure of the international Community to come to the aid of Nicaragua in the enormous task of reconstruction will considerably hold up the establishment of democracy. The Committee hopes that the procedure used until now for delivery of Community aid should continue to be used in the future.

The chief reason for the Community and other developed nations to increase their help to this stricken country is humanitarian. Without this help, suffering, disease and death will increase and the already miserable situation in which the majority of the population now live will become even worse.