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# LETTERS

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**Magna Memoria**

Perhaps there is no more tragic symbol of Nicaragua's agony than the young, upper-middle-class mother who hopes that President Reagan will send U.S. troops to oust the Sandinistas. In 1981, probably before she herself fully felt it, Reagan shared her fury. He gathered together and trained the remnants of Somoza's Guard, who schemed and dreamed in Honduras of someday returning to power. Then, on her behalf, Reagan unleashed them against peasants and *campesinos* who, through the "betrayal of the revolution" by the Sandinistas, had finally achieved some small measure of education, land reform and health care, and a much larger measure of hope.

Some 10,000 Nicaraguans have died so

far in the President's campaign to eradicate the Sandinistas, but that seems not to be enough. The people are resisting too effectively; the *contras* cannot win. Send in the Marines again, and let's get the blood bath over with. Then there will be no more shortages for the young mother and her children. And the poor? Well, didn't they support the Sandinistas?

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Comments should be addressed to Letters, Los Angeles Times Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles 90053, and should include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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