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LECTURES

Cruz in the Cross Hairs

Arturo Cruz Jr. ("Notes of a Counterrevolutionary," April 19) sheds no new light on the Nicaraguan situation, but we know more about a wealthy young Nicaraguan who seems to have overrated his place on the "train of history." Cruz says nothing positive about the Sandinistas who, when he left, were making outstanding progress in literacy, health care, education and land reform for Nicaragua's poor. It also appears that thousands of well-documented atrocities by the *contras* against civilian noncombatants have made no impression on him (or is that the "excellent product" of the *contras* he refers to?).

Since 1981, some 10,000 Nicaraguans have died in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the Nicaraguan people, and many thousands more will die if President Reagan gets his way. Just whom *does* Arturo Cruz Jr. care about?

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Letters

Los Angeles Times Magazine
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053

as submitted

April 21, 1987

Dear Editor,

Arturo Cruz Jr. ("Notes of a Counterrevolutionary," April 19) sheds no new light on the Nicaraguan situation, but we now know more about a wealthy young Nicaraguan who seems to have overrated his place on the "train of history."

Cruz Jr. says nothing positive about the Sandinistas, who, when he left, were making outstanding progress in literacy, health care, education, and land reform for Nicaragua's poor. Nicaragua was the only country in Latin America to eliminate polio in the early 80s. But, Cruz Jr. has no patience with this "preferential option for the poor."

It also appears that thousands of well-documented atrocities by the contras against civilian non-combatants have made no impression on Cruz Jr. (or, is that the "excellent product" of the contras he refers to?) His ingenuousness, after serving with the civilian leadership of President Reagan's "freedom fighters," invites skepticism. Are we really to believe that the contras, led by ex-Somoza Guardsman Enrique Bermudez, "unknowingly ... aligned with ... the (U.S.) Far Right?" Or that the "charismatic" contras have failed in Nicaragua and with the U.S. public only because of bad PR?

Since 1981, some 10,000 Nicaraguans have died in the struggle for the hearts and minds of the Nicaraguan people, and many thousands more will die if the President gets his way. Just who does Arturo Cruz Jr. care about?

Sincerely,