

**June 02, 1981**  
**Letter by the President of the Socialist International,  
Brandt, to the Chairman of the Committee of the SI for  
Defence of the Revolution in Nicaragua, González**

**Citation:**

“Letter by the President of the Socialist International, Brandt, to the Chairman of the Committee of the SI for Defence of the Revolution in Nicaragua, González,” June 02, 1981, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Archives of Social Democracy, Willy Brandt Archive, A 11.15, 21. Published in: Berliner Ausgabe, vol. 8. English translation: Dwight E. Langston. Included in CWIHP e-Dossier #22.

<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/112717>

**Summary:**

Willy Brandt's letter is about the establishment of the Nicaragua solidarity committee, which took place in Madrid in 1981. Brandt states the importance of the new rule of law in Nicaragua and concerns on Socialist International's involvement in the country.

**Original Language:**

German

**Contents:**

- English Translation
- Scan of Original Document

No. 8

**Letter by the President of the SI, Brandt, to the Chairman of the  
“Committee of the SI for Defence of the Revolution in  
Nicaragua”, González**

**2 June 1981**

*AdsD, WBA, A 11.15, 21.*

*Published in: Berliner Ausgabe, vol. 8*

*English translation: Dwight E. Langston*

Dear Felipe,

With the establishment of the Nicaragua solidarity committee, which took place in Madrid, the Socialist International has obligated itself, within the scope of the capabilities of our association, to defend developments in Nicaragua from external infringements and influences.<sup>1</sup>

We have tried to express clearly our hopes, but also some misgivings, on the occasion of the first meeting of this committee in early December 1980 in Washington.<sup>2</sup>

Today we are faced with the question of whether much of what we wanted in Madrid, and reaffirmed in Washington, is still shared to the same degree by our friends in Nicaragua. Certainly you, more so than the rest of us, can best evaluate developments in Nicaragua.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, I assume it will not have escaped your attention that, in the meanwhile, many of our friends are communicating anxious thoughts about the latest developments there.

I have gained the impression that the Socialist International, through one of its leading personalities, should make clear what it does and does not commit itself to in Nicaragua.

I believe it cannot be acceptable for our friends from Nicaragua to claim sanction by way of our association for everything which they deem to be appropriate in their country.

Similarly, I think that the SI, for its part, can in no way sanction everything in Nicaragua that is being justified or declared to the world in its name.

If you can personally chair the meeting on 25 June [1981] in Managua<sup>4</sup>, you should not leave our friends in the dark about these concerns: dismantling pluralism and the rule of law would necessarily pose a serious threat to the commitment of the Socialist International. Or, put another way: good relations with the Socialist International and support by Western European countries essentially depend on how the leadership of the FSLN in Nicaragua defines its continuing political direction.

Yours truly and best wishes,

<signed: Willy Brandt><sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Establishment took place at the annual SI Congress in Madrid which was held from 13 – 16 November 1980. González was the chairman.

<sup>2</sup> Brandt stated in Washington that support for Nicaragua would be simpler if the Sandinistas would remain true to the original goals of the revolution. See Socialdemokraterna [Sweden], Partistyrelsen, Pierre Schori, to the members of the International Committee for the Defence of the Nicaraguan Revolution, Confidential, 18 December 1980, in: AdsD, WBA, A 13, 53.

<sup>3</sup> On 9 November 1980, a meeting of the middle-class opposition was banned, which thereupon pulled out of the Council of State. Subsequently, fears increased that the Sandinistas intended to establish a Cuban-style one-party rule.

<sup>4</sup> The Nicaragua solidarity committee of the SI met there.

<sup>5</sup> Signature by rubber stamp.

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