

# Socialist Workers Party: 'Send an Agent to Nicaragua'

The revisionist Socialist Workers Party has launched in the latest issue of its weekly paper, the *Militant*, a curious appeal for funds. The object of the appeal is to send one Fred Murphy, a staff member of the *Intercontinental Press* to Nicaragua.

The SWP says that Murphy will "help counter the lies of the big business press," but that "it will cost money for everything, from air fare to phone bills."

The revisionist appeal raises a number of questions — first and foremost: Why are they sending Fred Murphy? While Murphy is known to have a certain degree of proficiency in the Spanish language, it is only a little more than a month since he has been manning the Nicaraguan desk at *Intercontinental Press*. The fact is that the revisionists have a man associated with the magazine for over two years who is a native of Nicaragua and is a figure of some notoriety in his own country.

His name is Fausto Amador.

A little over one month ago, Amador was filling the pages of *Intercontinental Press* with his writings on Nicaragua and was being hailed by the magazine's editors as 'a leading Latin American Trotskyist'.

Now, the name Amador has disappeared from the magazine, and his whereabouts are unknown. The reason for this is clear — the SWP's man from Managua is a CIA agent and a collaborator with the bloody dictatorship of General Anastasio Somoza. The victory of the Nicaraguan revolution has sent him running for cover.

Amador's record is well known to the SWP leadership since he was denounced by the Sandinista Liberation fighters themselves.

He embarked on the road which led him to the SWP and *Intercontinental Press* as a deserter from the Sandinistas. He left the country, return-



Fred Murphy

ing to Managua in 1973 where he held a public press conference denouncing the Sandinistas and calling on them to "return to legal life by turning themselves in to the police" — this at a time when the liberation fighters were being tortured and murdered by the dictatorship.

Amador left the country a second time for Belgium where he took a post in Somoza's embassy.

He betrayed countless Sandinista fighters to the dictatorship, including his own brother Carlos Fonseca Amador. When over one quarter of a million Nicaraguans celebrated the victory of the revolution, a giant portrait of Carlos Fonseca Amador decorated the speakers' platform, side by side with those of Augusto Sandino and Pedro Chamorro. Before his death at the hands of Somoza's National Guard, Carlos denounced his brother as a traitor.

Fausto Amador's record was so putrid that even some of the SWP's

international collaborators were forced to protest. But the CIA station chiefs at the *Intercontinental Press* headquarters in New York would not hear a word of it. Amador was their kind of man.

By the time Amador joined the staff of *Intercontinental Press* he was well prepared for the work he was to carry out. Less than one month before Somoza was forced to flee the country, by the victorious march of the Sandinista-led revolution, Amador was the principal spokesman for the SWP's Nicaraguan policy. He was calling on the Sandinistas to lay down their arms and surrender to the Somoza dictatorship.

He denounced the liberation front's final offensive as an "irresponsible military campaign" which would inevitably lead to "disastrous defeats for the Nicaraguan masses."

He viciously slandered the Sandinistas by saying that it was their actions which were responsible for the genocidal terror which Somoza unleashed on the masses.

As it became clear that the Sandinistas were in fact going to win, and that US plans to substitute a pro-imperialist government based on the National Guard for the hated dictator would not succeed, Fred Murphy was brought in to substitute for Amador.

Murphy began writing glowing accounts of the Nicaraguan revolution, never once referring to



Sandinistas during the civil war

the despicable record of the SWP and its notorious spokesman Fausto Amador.

The change in line in the *Intercontinental Press*, personified in the switch from Amador to Murphy, corresponded directly to a shift in tactics by the State Department and the CIA.

Following the humiliating defeat of Cyrus Vance's proposal to the Organization of American States for a joint counter-revolutionary US-trained National Guard, the imperialists were forced to enter into negotiations with the liberation fighters whose extermination they had directed for over 50 years.

The parallel twists and turns of *Intercontinental Press* and the CIA are no coincidence. The *Intercontinental Press* was set up by Joseph Hansen, long time leader of the SWP, who was proven by the International Committee of the Fourth In-

ternational Committee of the Fourth International agent and a number of its Iranian collaborators have been arrested on the same charges.

We issue a word of warning to the Frente Sandinista and the revolutionary masses of Nicaragua. If Fred Murphy is being sent to Nicaragua, he is only going as a proxy for the Somoza collaborator and imperialist agent Fausto Amador.

Murphy's and the SWP's recently professed 'support' for the Nicaraguan revolution is no more genuine than the 'noninterventionism' and 'friendship' of the Yankee imperialists and the CIA.

Neither Murphy nor the SWP have anything to do with Trotskyism or revolution, but are their bitterest enemies.

The SWP's fund appeal should fool no one. While insiders at the Langley, Virginia headquarters of the CIA have recently reported a major shakeup and the firing of hundreds of operatives, the Agency is still able to pay for 'air fare' and 'phone bills' incurred in sending an agent to Nicaragua. The 'fund appeal' is nothing more than an announcement directed to the rest of the *Intercontinental Press* spy network of the appointment of a stand-in for Fausto Amador, who has in the words of his trade, 'blown his cover.'

Also, even in Langley, the performance of departments and individual agents is subject to review. The agency is held accountable for putting the 'people's tax dollars' to good use.

Before laying out money for Fred Murphy, aren't the readers of the *Militant* similarly entitled to an accounting on the whereabouts and activities of his predecessor, Fausto Amador?