

ice
of the
Mayor



BURLINGTON
VERMONT 05401
658-9300 Ext. 101

Bernard Sanders
Mayor

November 8, 1985

Edward M. Pike
25 Elmwood Avenue
Apartment 18
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mr. Pike:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 18, 1985. I apologize for the delay in responding.

It's my view that the point you make regarding Nicaragua and the temporary suspension of certain civil liberties is considerably more complex than your letter indicates. Nicaragua, a tiny and impoverished nation of three million, is today fighting a brutal war - with their enemy being totally financed by the most powerful nation on earth. The democratically-elected government of Nicaragua has made the decision that, like many other countries engaged in war, they will not allow their enemy the total freedom to defeat them and destroy their government. President Ortega recently used as an example the situation in Chile in 1973 when President Allende's democratically-elected government was overthrown by the CIA and the military. Allende was murdered, tens of thousands of Chileans were killed and tortured and that nation today, twelve years later, continues to live under a brutal military dictatorship with no democratic rights. President Ortega and the Nicaraguan government have chosen not to follow that example.

Further, within the context of our own history, one recalls that during World War II, American Nazi's were not given the freedom to publish newspapers or appear on radio in order to advocate the murder of American soldiers. In fact, as you'll recall in a totally unconstitutional manner, thousands of Japanese Americans on the west coast were herded into concentration camps as a war time protection measure - and the war was being fought thousands of miles from California. During the Civil War, you will recall that in order to preserve the Union, President Lincoln developed a number of actions which limited civil liberties.