

BOOK REVIEW

NICARAGUA: THE SANDINISTA PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION

Speeches by Sandinista Leaders

BY DANIEL ORTEGA, TOMÁS BORGE

Reviewed by: R.H.C.D.

Book Notes

This third volume of Nicaraguan documents from Pathfinder relates to the years 1982-84, a period of growing problems for the revolution. In more than 40 speeches and interviews, leading Sandinistas expound their policies and the reactions to them of friend and foe. Although many of the items have appeared already in *Intercontinental Press* and other periodicals, it is useful to have them collected in a book that is well edited, with glossary and index provided. Of particular interest are the Sandinista election programme of 1984, various items concerned with the isolated Atlantic Coast region, and Sandino's first political manifesto, dated July 1927, though the latter is an exception to the collection's generally excellent standard of translation.

The volume also clarifies Sandinista attitudes to Sandino, Christianity and Marxism, but serves as a reminder that several matters remain to be defined in Nicaragua: the organizational model of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN); the party-state relationship; and the precise role of the FSLN as vanguard ('the spinal column of the revolution, the sentinel of revolutionary purity' – p.329) within a pluralist frame in which seven political parties and diverse social forces continue to operate and maintain their independence.