



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Maya Miller 6185 Franktown Rd. Carson City Nevada 89701

February 25, 1986

To: All members of the January Funding Exchange Trip to Mexico/Guatemala
Nicaragua, and
June Makela, Funding Exchange

From: Maya

This is a follow-up to my letter of January 25. I hope you still have it because it gave a quite good range of follow-up possibilities and plans. Let me know if you can't find it; I'll send you a copy.

Lisa has been diligent in her follow-up, and I hope we all have responded to her questionnaire. The Nicaragua-Honduras Education Project needs ongoing input for their important work. And you've received Brinton's of Feb. 15.

I talked with John this past week-end, and he promises to let us hear what he's doing, - something with Michael in the realm of union work in Guatemala, I believe.

Just yesterday I received from Cora an inquiry about how we should and could react to the news that's being churned out from Russell Means' foray. I do think we need to think about that. Not many people have spent time on the Puerto Cabezas part of the Atlantic Coast. Because we did manage to get there, and were given the opportunity of visiting with KISAN and the other returned contras, as well as with Sandinistas and others non-aligned, it seems to me we have an obligation to try to figure out how we can help counter, as Cora says, "this barrage of propaganda."

I have taken on myself an effort with the American Friends Service Committee, who took a delegation down there to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, specifically from the perspective of North American native activists looking at the Miskitu troubles. This was last spring, I have urged them ^{now} to say something for public consumption if they can be helpful in supporting the peace efforts that R. Means & ILRC seem to be rapidly turning away. Warriors do love to keep fighting, I guess.

I'm also keeping in touch with Chocki and Roxanne, urging them to communicate regularly with Cora.

The Boston Globe clippings Brinton enclosed on the subject of Guatemala remind us that the relationship between indigenous and national liberation struggles is an issue critical for us to hang in on. It's not going away. The Miskitu-Sandinista problems, with their echoes in the US, give us practice. Any ideas? (Evidently, Brooklyn Rivera has been lobbying in Congress these last couple of days before being sent over to Geneva to the Human Rights meetings there. Russell's down with the Navajos right now, but is expected to be on the lecture circuit soon.)

Phyllis + I have seen some of the docs - + - from my show all over Reno-town -
Tues.

Chocki also has voiced an interest to take down a small group of other North American Indian leaders to talk in greater depth with all parties about the indigenous part of the sandinista revolution. That will take money.

Gorostiago has a variety of INIES/CRIES publications that need funds. \$2,000. will often do a whole issue on a subject like Autonomy or the Militarization of Central America.

Then there's Borge's suggestion of help for work opportunities for prisoners. The new open prison for women, Hilltop House, an idea Phyllis and I want to explore.

Mary Bushey, of CIDCA, brought to our attention a coming together of indigenous women sometime in May, somewhere on the Atlantic Coast. Brinton is keeping in touch with that, hoping, if possible, to connect the Mexico City Guatemala women as well.

People from down there coming up here to talk need personal and fund-raising help:

- Helen is going to help fund-raise around Gorostiago's spring trip to talk at Stanford. That'll be San Francisco.
- I want to help Mary Ellsberg and especially Julio Martinez, her husband, with their late-April early-May trip to California. He needs help connecting with agrarian and conservation groups to talk about agrarian reform and development in Zelaya Sur. CRICHA is sponsoring Mary in Calif & around Boston.
- Cora and others were interested to think about helping Nineth of GAM on her way to Europe.

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I know there are other personal projects individuals are moving on, Brinton's with psychologists, Robin's center for traumatized children, others. It would be interesting - and perhaps financially enlarging - for us to hear about these.

In Guatemala I agreed to be coordinating center for this follow-up, so please let me hear what you're up to, thinking about doing, or trying to figure out. Someone at the Funding Exchange or among us must be able to help. The trip was a fine spur, the people an inspiration. I want to do what I can to move our help along to the brave people down there.

*Warmly, & grateful for your
traveling good spirits*

* MADRE is planning a speaking tour for Myrna Cunningham sometime this year that we should keep in touch with.

Maya

I realize that I haven't even started to list the Nicaragua support groups up here. The next letter...