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January 10, 1987

Governor Richard Bryan
Capitol Building
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Bryan,

In respect to your proposed trip to Central America, announced yesterday, Phyllis Kaiser of Reno and I have some suggestions for your scheduling.

Recognizing that your trip is prompted by the chance to accompany the 52 Guard members drawn from Nevada, who are part of the 4500 National Guard contingent engaged in war games in Honduras, I imagine you will be going primarily to one of the army-air force base areas created by the covert as well as overt moneys the CIA has directed to the contras over the past six years. There you will be able to see the equipment and some of the demands made on our Guardsmen.

We suggest that you owe it to your constituents to give equal time to explore one or two, at least, of the areas in Nicaragua where women and children are bearing the brunt of contra attack.

In 1985 and 1986 alone, the contras have destroyed 550 Nicaraguan schools, 55 health care centers, and seven day-care centers. More than 8,000 children have been left orphaned as a result of contra attacks into Nicaraguan countryside.

If you ^{trip will help you} ~~are going~~ to better understand the valor and ~~the~~ sacrifices of our fighting forces, then you surely must give yourself (and us) a chance to understand the valor and the sacrifice of the women who are left to pick up the pieces and carry on life. ^{ordinary} ~~You can't opt to glorify~~ the arts of death-dealing, and ignore the daily work of preserving life. ^{we too give}

I spent the holidays this year with a good number of these ^{Nicaraguan} women, Mestizos and Creoles and Miskitu and Sumu Indians, who live on the remote Atlantic Coast in Puerto Cabezas. And both Phyllis and I - and many others here in Nevada- are engaged with groups of women and men in the United States who work to bring medical help, clothes for kids, school supplies, seeds for crops, tools for re-building, in an effort to let them know that not all North Americans are war-mongers and arms-peddlers. We would hope you would want to see our work as well as that of the Nevada Guard.

^{Phyllis + I will} ~~We would~~ be happy to seek an invitation for you - and any other Governors - from our friends down there. It is just across the river. Please let us know.

Sincerely, *Maya Miller*