

To the editor:
January 27, 1987

~~Once again~~ I am compelled to respond to Marlene Campbell's most recent attack on the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council. Ms. Campbell has made it clear over the years that she is in direct opposition to any of our projects, and Tools for Peace is no exception. As usual, she resorted to her own particular brand of tiresome political innuendo. Perhaps its time to look at her point of view more closely.

As I understand it, Ms. Campbell would like to see the Nicaraguan people abandon their efforts to defend their country. She would prefer to see things the way they were before, with Nicaragua under the Somoza regime.

It doesn't matter what misery the people suffered, nor what atrocities Somoza's national guardsmen performed daily on the Nicaraguan people. Nor, by her logic, does it matter that the Sandinista government was chosen by popular vote (Democracy, remember?). By the same token, Ms. Campbell does not accept any of the advances in human rights and quality of life made since that time. The simple fact that the Sandinistas are Marxists has made them her enemies.

Ms. Campbell would have us support the so-called "freedom fighters", the Contras. These are people fighting to free Nicaragua from their (need I say it again?) democratically-elected government. Partially funded through clandestine arms deals, these Contras brutally destroy villages, farms, schools and hospitals, and kill people- but that's all right, because they're killing Marxists. (Sometimes little baby Marxists, but that's the way it goes.) While they're at it, they'll probably run some drugs too, to pay for the trip.

Surely that is enough. I cannot hope to induce Ms. Campbell to think about this subject more objectively. There are no blacks or whites in this situation. The Sandinista government is not perfect, but nevertheless has the right, and the mandate, to administer the affairs of Nicaragua, without interference.

All I know is that when I send a blanket to Nicaragua, I'm doing it to keep a human being warm, and that human being is a victim of a war that is wrong.

The Kamloops-Shuswap Peace council is a diverse group of individuals, politically, religiously, and philosophically. We all have one commitment in common: to work towards global peace through disarmament. The Tools for Peace Committee, which is composed of K.S.P.C. members, is committed to seeing that this war ends, and that Nicaragua survives.

We will do it in spite of you, Ms. Campbell, not to spite you. I assure you my glasses have clear lenses, but I'm afraid yours must be scarlet- why else would you see red in everything?

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Sent in Jan 28/87