

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Manila

May 19, 1980

MEC M E M O R A N D U M
No. 114, s. 1980

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL
LITERACY CAMPAIGN OF NICARAGUA

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges
and Universities

1. Inclosed is a copy of the message of Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, appealing for international assistance in support of the "National Literacy Campaign of Nicaragua".
2. Director-General M'Bow emphasizes the great poverty of most of the inhabitants aggravated by the damages caused by the earthquake in 1972 and the destruction suffered during their liberation. The treasures of the country were pillaged, its resources were destroyed, its towns and villages seriously damaged and its infrastructures dislocated.
3. It is urged that a lesson about Nicaragua be taken up in Social Studies/Social Science classes and other related courses so that the pupils and students and, through them, the community may know and understand the plight of the people of Nicaragua in fighting illiteracy, poverty and disease.
4. In view thereof, all schools, colleges and universities, particularly institutions affiliated with the Unesco Associated Schools Project in education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and Unesco Clubs as stipulated in DEC Memorandum No. 184, s. 1976, are strongly encouraged to take the leadership in campaigning for voluntary assistance in support of the movement. Voluntary assistance may be instituted in cash or in kind, however modest, to make this campaign a success.
5. Inclosure No. 2 specifies the items badly needed for the national literacy campaign of Nicaragua, as well as financial contributions which can be paid directly to Unesco, by means of a check or a bank transfer to any of the bank accounts mentioned in the inclosure stating the Special Account for World Literacy for Nicaragua.

6. It is desired that the contents of this Memorandum be given widest publicity and all school authorities are earnestly requested to extend full cooperation and support to this international appeal for assistance.

(SGD.) ONOFRE D. CORPUZ
Minister of Education and Culture

Incls.:
As stated

Reference:
Department Memorandum: (No. 184, s. 1976)

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CONTRIBUTIONS
Course of Study, ELEMENTARY
Course of Study, SECONDARY
OFFICIALS
PUPILS
SCHOOLS
STUDENTS
UNIVERSITIES and COLLEGES

NATIONAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN OF NICARAGUA "HEROES
AND MARTYRS OF THE LIBERATION OF NICARAGUA"

Appeal by

MR. AMADOU-MAHTAR M'BOW
Director-General of UNESCO

Few nations, in the course of their recent history, have endured so much physical and psychological suffering, or been so gravely afflicted materially, as the people of Nicaragua. Besides the great poverty of most of its inhabitants, there have been the disasters caused by the earthquake in 1972 and the destruction suffered during the liberation struggle. The treasures of the country have been pillaged; its resources destroyed, its towns and villages severely damaged and its infrastructures dislocated. But it is the toll taken among its people which is heaviest: 35,000 dead, 100,000 injured - most of them adolescents and 40,000 orphaned, out of a total population of 2,200,000.

At its 108th session, the Executive Board of Unesco expressed "its total solidarity with the people and Government of Nicaragua in their arduous task of national reconstruction, and its determination to co-operate in that task within the fields of competence of Unesco", and requested me to take the necessary steps to achieve those ends.

I visited Nicaragua from 16 to 19 December 1979, and was able to judge for myself the extent of the work that had to be done to rebuild the country.

What is required is to mobilize all the country's manpower, to reorganize and expand its educational, cultural and scientific institutions and to redeploy its means of production, in line with a coherent, overall programme. The country's new authorities have committed themselves to achieving these goals, and in order to do so have drawn up a national reconstruction plan which deserves both our sympathy and our support.

A key objective in this plan is the achievement of general literacy throughout the country, because illiteracy is a major obstacle to conscious participation by all citizens in the task of national revival and because such participation is the first prerequisite to enable the people of Nicaragua to follow their own path of development, with due regard for their cultural identity and in keeping with their own aspirations.

At the present time, 35.2 per cent of children between the ages of 7 and 12 have no opportunity of undergoing primary education and 50.2 per cent of the population aged 10 and over - some 850,000 people - are illiterate, the rural areas being the worst affected in this respect.

The campaign for the eradication of illiteracy has therefore been planned to serve as the lever for an education and social advancement movement which is to be extended to all categories of the population. Far from being confined to the younger generation, it is to cater for all illiterates, without any restriction or discrimination.

Beginning on 24 March 1980, the campaign will enlist the services of 200,000 literacy teachers who will devote themselves to teaching 850,000 illiterates. For six months, they will live together and share the same living conditions. This is a stirring experiment, the aims of which go beyond the sphere of education alone, seeking to bring about a profound change in the relations between the various social strata in the country.

The scope of this campaign, and the spirit in forming it, both reflect the determination to reconcile all the country's citizens by bringing them together in a great effort of national solidarity. It should enable them all, individually, to develop their full potential while helping to improve the well-being of all and, in particular, should assist the young, who had to break off their studies in order to take part in the national struggle, in finding their place again, without delay, in working life.

Nicaragua will not, however, be able to achieve these objectives unless it receives moral and material support from the world community. At a time when the country is only just beginning to lift itself out of its ruins, this support should make it easier for it to rely on its own efforts in the future. The total financial contribution which it hopes, today, to receive from international solidarity amounts to 20 million dollars.

Contributions in kind will also be welcome, particularly school supplies and equipment - paper, pencils, exercise books, blackboards, audio-visual aids, radios - as well as motor vehicles, camping equipment, clothing, blankets, oil-lamps, powdered or tinned foodstuffs, etc.

Moreover, since illiteracy cannot be overcome unless it is, so to speak, cut off at the very source, a large number of new schools will have to be opened for children reaching school age. There will therefore be scope for international solidarity to be shown firstly, by providing Nicaragua with the means to build these schools and, secondly, by assisting in training and refresher programmes for those who are called upon to teach in them.

Nicaragua has made heavy sacrifices for its liberation - which is also, in some measure, the liberation of each one of us - and it is embarking on an experiment of the greatest interest from the ethical and educational points of view which may be useful to many other peoples besides its own. We are therefore in duty bound to meet its expectations.

On behalf of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and with the unanimous support of its Executive Board, I accordingly invite all governments, National Commissions for Unesco, public and private institutions in all Member States, and international foundations and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to give proof of their active solidarity with liberated Nicaragua.

I invite the Churches of various denominations, trade union organizations and professional associations, women's organizations and youth movements, to make available to the Nicaraguan authorities financial and material resources that will enable them to achieve the objectives they have in view.

I make this appeal to all those who have responsibilities in the field of education: to public services and private programmes concerned with education and literacy work, to universities, to teachers' associations, and the research centres, in the hope that they will offer the Nicaraguan Government all the technical assistance within their power in this undertaking.

Lastly, I appeal to all those who enjoy the benefits of education, to the adults, the children and the young people who are today receiving education and realize how much it is enriching them. I am confident that they will be able to organize themselves, to collect resources, on however modest a scale, and to arrange for them to be sent to those in Nicaragua who are endeavouring to take their future in hand.

Paris, 25 January 1980

A true copy

The National Literacy Campaign of Nicaragua begins on
24 March 1980

The campaign is badly in need of equipment such as :

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity required</u>	<u>Cost per unit</u>
Pencils	10,000,000	US\$ 4.68
Exercise books	2,000,000	US\$ 0.15
Blackboards	200,000	US\$ 1.75
Chalk	200,000 boxes	US\$ 0.82
Reading & writing & mathematics primers	2,000,000	US\$ 0.34
First-aid kits	10,000	US\$ 30.00
Spectacle frames	160,000	US\$ 10.00

The financial contributions can be paid directly to Unesco, by means of a cheque, or a bank transfer, mentioning the Special Account for World Literacy for Nicaragua, to one of the following bank accounts :

In United States dollars : (by bank transfer) Unesco Account (No. 949-1-191558) |
The Chase Manhattan Bank
International Division
1. New York Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10015

(by cheque) Unesco Account (No. 949-1-191558) |
The Chase Manhattan Bank
International Banking Office-
Midtown
410 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

In French Francs : Compte Unesco (No. 0330-1/5-
770.002-4)
Societe generale, Agence AG.
Bureau FB 45, Avenue Kleber-
75784 Paris Cedex 16

In pounds sterling : Unesco Account (No. 7286031) |
Lloyds Bank International Ltd.
P.O. Box 241
100 Pall Mall
London, SW1Y 5HP

Financial contributions can be paid also to: Campaña Nacional de Alfabetización
Cuenta No. 51-57 (in US dollars)
Banco Central de Nicaragua
Managua, Nicaragua Libre
America Central

(with mention: Donaciones Campaña Nacional de Alfabetización)

In relation to contributions of items listed above, it is recommended to consult beforehand: Fernando Cardenal, S.J., Campaña Nacional de Alfabetización Complejo Civico "Camilo Ortega Saavedra", Managua, Nicaragua Libre, Amrica Central, Telex No. 1427, TUNNERMANN, NICARAGUA LIBRE