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their midst is unsubstantiated. The men who tossed the explosive wore hoods, and have never been identified. The Sandinistas have consistently denied that they were behind the attack, and it has never been demonstrated that the FSLN ordered, planned, or executed the action. The likely explanation for it, given the context in which it occurred, is that a tiny group of marauding zealots, caught up in the fury of the uprising and angry over Israel's support for Somoza, sought misplaced vengeance through this isolated attack.

#### NICARAGUA AND THE PLO: ANTI-SEMITISM OR ANTI-ZIONISM?

Another source of enmity on the part of a segment of the U.S. Jewish community and Israel towards the Sandinistas is the cordial relationship between the FSLN and the PLO. The PLO maintains a public office in Managua, and expressions of solidarity between the two organizations are frequent.

The Sandinistas' friendship with the controversial Palestinian insurrectionary group stems from the fact that PLO members helped train FSLN guerrillas back in the dark early days of their uprising against the Somoza dictatorship. The Sandinistas have professed the sort of sympathy with the Palestinian cause that is de rigueur among left-leaning Third World regimes. This sentiment, coupled with the role Israel has played in arming rightist regimes throughout Latin America, has prompted the Sandinistas to adopt an avowedly anti-Zionist foreign policy. In the recent past, statements by Nicaraguan authorities at international forums have included vigorous, if not shrill, denunciations of Israel's Middle Eastern policy.

But while anti-Zionism sometimes spills over into anti-Semitism there is little evidence that this has transpired in contemporary Nicaragua. Rabbi Tanenbaum notes that representatives of Central America's Jewish communities agree that "anti-Semitism, as opposed to anti-Israel foreign policy, was not Sandinista policy." Indeed, in 1984 the Nicaraguan government helped kill a Kuwaiti resolution at the International Parliamentary Conference that equated Zionism and racism.

Furthermore, several prominent members of the FSLN government are of Jewish descent. These include: Carlos Tunnerman, who as Minister of Education directed the highly-successful Literacy Campaign and is now ambassador to the United States; Reynaldo Antonio Tefel, Minister of Social Welfare; Enrique Schmidt, Minister of Telecommunications; and Hertel Lewites, the Minister of Tourism. One of the capital's five big markets is named "Israel Lewites" in honor of the tourism chief's brother, a Sandinista commander killed in the 1977 attack on the National Guard garrison at Masaya.