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SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM,
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October 30, 2006

His Excellency Salvador E. Stadthagen Icaza
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
The Republic of Nicaragua
1627 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ambassador Stadthagen Icaza,

I write to you today to express concern with the resurgence of the Leninist-Marxist Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua. The FSLN is a pro-terrorist party with longstanding ties to designated terrorist groups that today is strongly backed by the anti-American regimes of Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro. Terror acts backed by the FSLN have targeted and killed American citizens, including four United States Marines.

Should the FSLN come to power in the upcoming elections, good bilateral relations between our two countries could be jeopardized. Nicaragua's current government provides military and intelligence cooperation, and is part of the coalition in the war on terror.

To date, the United States Government has granted Temporary Protective Status to nearly 4,000 Nicaraguans who are now living and working in the United States. Workers send home some \$850 million annually in remittances, which makes up about 18% of the Nicaragua GDP. If the FSLN controls the government of Nicaragua following the presidential elections scheduled for November 2006, it could mean a radical change in United States policy as it pertains to the essentially free-flow of remittances from Nicaraguans living in the United States to Nicaragua.

Under an FSLN Presidency, the United States government would have no reliable counterpart to satisfy legitimate national security concerns, especially those regarding the threat posed by terrorist organizations that are beginning to establish strong holds in Latin America. In fact, our national security would be severely damaged as the FSLN has already announced that they plan to actively participate in international gatherings with radical anti-U.S. organizations should they reclaim power.

Therefore, if the FSLN takes control of the government in Nicaragua, it may be necessary for the United States authorities to examine closely and possibly apply special controls to the flow of \$850 million in remittances from the United States to Nicaragua -- unfortunately to the detriment of many people living in Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Tancredo".

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress