

last night. The Sandinistas presented themselves round the
 old campfire & in a "mitin" of solidarity. They marched
 in very proudly, shouting slogans & smiling. These
~~slogans~~ were @ 25 here, some reservists in their
 brown shirts. They seemed really high, partly because
 they'd just come through battle, partly because the visit
 & the music came as such a welcome relief. They
 averaged 17 or 18 years old, but at least one I spoke to
 was no more than 15, and an old man in uniform said he was
 42. They shouted, "Patria Libre — o Muerte!"

Sandinista vive — La Lucha Sigue. Un solo ejercito!
 Then they raised their arms over their heads and shouted,
 "Poder popular. Poder popular." The sloganearing, they
 are really into. They yell from the gut, and smile when
 they do it, and they ~~break~~ break out into slogans the way
 workers break into song during making seasons.
 Fallios is supposed to have said, "Slogans don't make a
 revolution." But the energy & enthusiasm the young
 Sandinistas show is impressive. They use the words
 "desfiling" and "history" a lot, and "revolution" &
 "socialism", too. It's interesting, the relationship
 between indoctrination & morale. What does one
 have to do w/ another? Perhaps, they have the same
 relationship as ~~strategy~~ tactics h. 2. strategy.

A revolutionary guerrilla army, ~~must~~ an army lacking
 arms & logistical support, must ~~develop~~ ~~maintain~~ & rely
 upon morale. If they are going to win, they must win
 on courage & bravery, on tenacity & confidence. That's
 all part of morale ~~building~~. But factually, there are
 specific messages. These seem to be: 1) Honduras
 is the enemy, and 2) FSLN is the leadership.

The soldiers sat in a big circle and we mingled,
 giving them cigarettes & coffee. I sat w/ two, ~~one~~
~~an artisan from Esteli~~ & asked the usual, where are
 you from?
 "We're all from various places in Nicaragua,"
 he said the first.
 "No, you, personally, your home town."

We hear them
 from their
 barracks,
 shouting
 chanting
 during the day.

"I've been fighting so long it seems (in so many places)
 that all of Nicaragua is home now, but I'm from Esteli.
 Before the revolution I was working as an artisan."

I was reminded of how the Sandinista army went so
 quickly ~~is~~ has seen almost continuous combat. They went
~~from the~~ hardy had they rolled into Managua, shooting
 off their guns & reveling in their victory, then they had
 to start defending their revolution. Within a few months,
 they'd gone from the offense to the defense — oddly enough,
 fighting the very same National Guardsmen they had
 only just ~~defeating~~ defeated. History will probably show
 that they should have completely eliminated all elements of
 the Guardia at once, and let it go at that. Who wd. have
 screamed? The Guardia, infamous for raping & mutilating
 their victims, wd. have deserved what they got. In an
 idealism, the Sandinistas tossed the lot when they let the wolf
 up, & now they're paying for it. It's like the jefe of the
 camp at the Miskito show trial the other day said:
 "We released them, and some went right over the border
 to join the contras." Perhaps a small bloodbath was simply unavoidable.

Note: All talk now is of the "contras" and the "compas".
 The compas are compañeros, comrades. They used to be
 the muchachos. The contras are counterrevolutionaries.

In any case, for an army that has fought so long, so hard,
 nearly w/out respite, the soldiers seemed singularly high spirited
 & content. They are young & very proud of their achievements.
 They sing their songs w/ patriotic fervor. "Things are much
 better now," said my friend from Esteli. "We have more
 schools, more hospitals. Things are good even though they're
 bad. We're content."

Content — and well-armed, though not overarmed.
 Ak 47's, Kalashnikov's, many more M-16's
 (captured). They are well informed, and well spaced. One
 of the soldiers on patrol w/ us yesterday carried a grenade
 launcher.

Note: Surveying the border territory this A.M., I