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According to the New York Times (Mark Uhlig, 06/21/89), Nicaraguan opposition parties are against US covert measures to influence the February 1990 elections. A recent issue of La Prensa said, "What more could Daniel Ortega want than to cry out to the world that the CIA is helping the opposition and that the democratic opposition is a kind of civilian contra that has sold itself to imperialism?"

Some of the reactions by the government and the opposition were triggered by an article on June 11 appearing in The New York Times describing efforts by the Bush administration to reserve the right to conduct clandestine operations in Nicaragua despite congressional opposition. Recently, the official press has described the opposition as "a fraud" financed by millions of dollars in covert aid from the CIA. In late September 1988, then House Speaker Jim Wright said the CIA had promoted opposition demonstrations in an effort to provoke the government. In the past, US money was sent openly to La Prensa and to a variety of other anti-Sandinista groups. Late last year, the National Assembly banned all foreign financing of political parties and campaigns in Nicaragua, and made it a treasonous offense for members of the domestic opposition to accept donations from US-government financed institutions, such as the National Endowment for Democracy. The ban was lifted under new election laws approved by the National Assembly in April as part of Nicaragua’s obligations under a regional peace accord. Under the new laws, half of all money received must be donated to finance the Supreme Electoral Council, an official panel responsible for managing the voting process. (Basic data from New York Times, 06/21/89)

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