

The Peace of Death

By Manuel Gomez

ONE of the great, moving, episodes of history is contained in the story of General A. C. Sandino, who, with a comparative handful of ragged Nicaraguan patriots, is holding the mountain fastness of El Chipote against the mightiest imperialist power in the world.

For five months and more Sandino has been fighting against the United States marines.

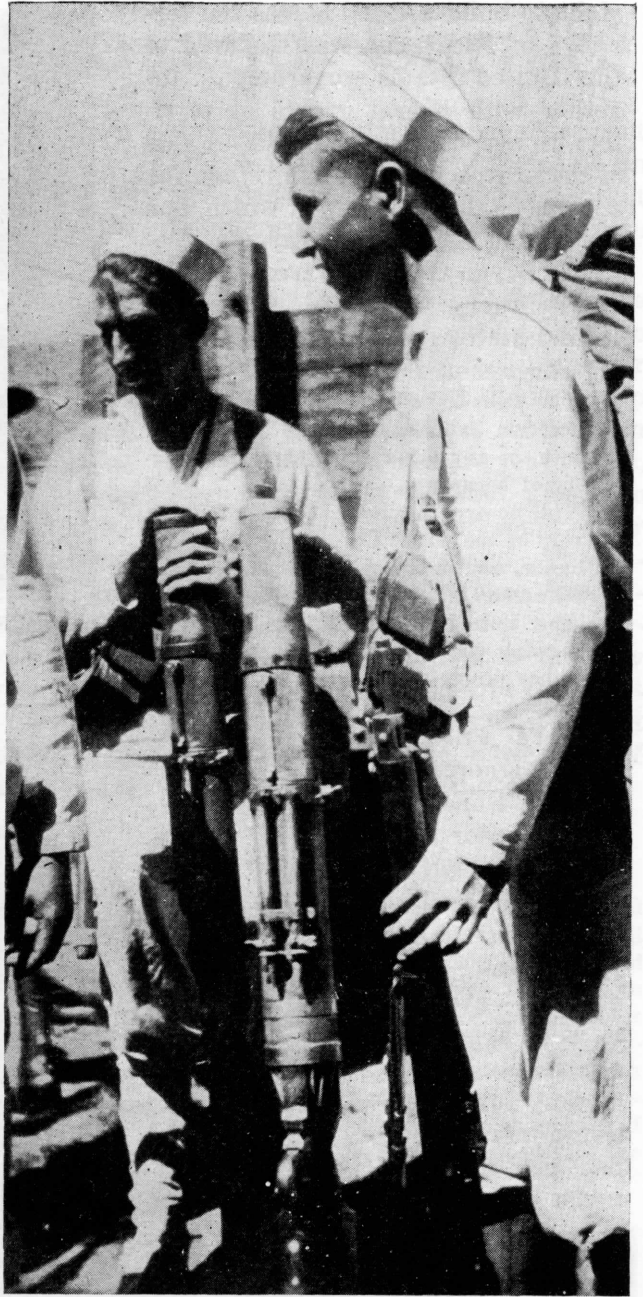
The marines have inflicted severe losses upon Sandino and upon the Nicaraguan people. In the single bombing raid upon the undefended town of Ocotal last July they wiped out from 300 to 500 men, women, and children! Now 1,000 more marines are being shipped to Nicaragua, bringing the total up to more than 2500, in addition to airplanes, warships, and all the other accoutrements of war.

Sandino's heroic resistance is an earnest of the tremendous vitality of the national liberation struggle. His stand has won for him the support of all Latin-America, and of many thousands of workers and poor farmers in the United States itself.

United States marines have occupied the territory of Nicaragua since December 24, 1926. They went there at the behest of Wall Street, to prevent the puppet dictator, Adolfo Diaz,

from being overthrown by the constitutional president, Dr. Juan Sacasa who was supported by the overwhelming majority of the people. Diaz has been president of Nicaragua once before—then, as now, behind the protecting lines of United States bayonets—and during his administration he turned over to American bankers control of the Nicaraguan railways and of the National Bank of Nicaragua. Previous to his meteoric rise to the presidency he had been an employee of an American mining corporation in Nicaragua, receiving a salary of \$1,000 a year.

For thirteen years (1912-1925) United States military forces maintained unpopular native dictatorships in power in Nicaragua. As soon as the forces were withdrawn the contemporary dictatorship fell. A new lummy government is now set up to reclaim the conquests of Wall Street and



U. S. FORCES READY TO SHOOT DOWN NICARAGUANS WITH PORTABLE MACHINE GUNS.



OFFICERS OF A MARINE DETACHMENT LEAVING NEW YORK FOR NICARAGUA.

Washington in the earlier period, and to complete the looting of Nicaragua, then only timidly begun. An American, Dr. William P. Cumberland, has been made financial dictator. Negotiations are under way which will result in new loans totalling \$20,000,000 being saddled upon the backs of the Nicaraguan people, with the military and naval forces of the United States serving to guard the imperial investments.

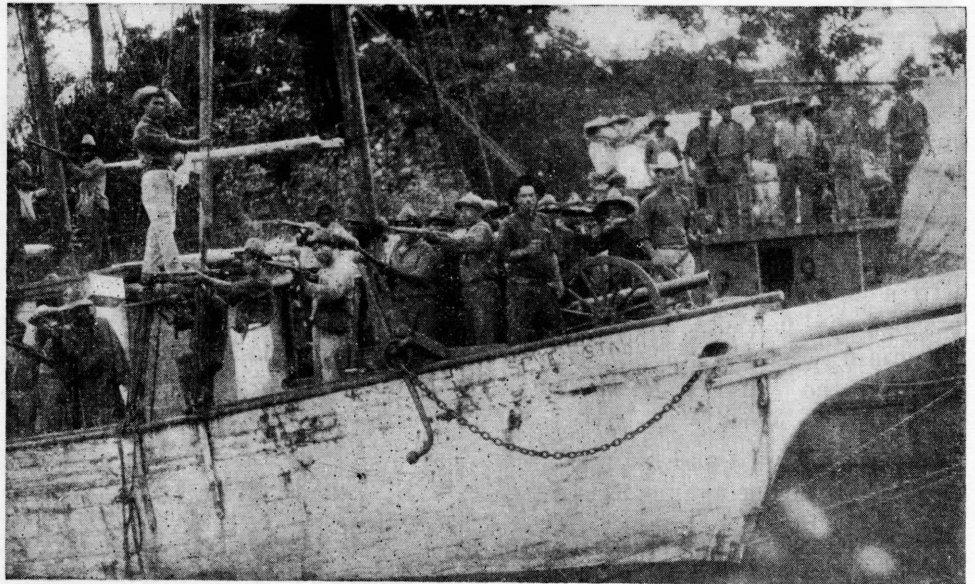
But the chief objective in the invasion of Nicaragua is the Nicaraguan canal zone across which is to be built a new Atlantic-Pacific gateway of American imperialism, a new radiating center for the ever-widening profit-empire of Wall Street. The

right to build a canal across the territory of Nicaragua was bartered to the United States government, together with liberal grants of territory in perpetual lease on either side of the prospective canal, in return for \$3,000,000, little, if any of which, has ever found its way to Nicaragua.

The Bryan-Chamorro treaty signed on February 18, 1916, gives the United States government the following concessions:

1. The right to construct a trans-isthmian canal via San Juan and the Great Lake route, or any other route thru the territory of Nicaragua.
2. The control by lease for ninety-nine years of the Great Corn and Little Corn Islands, and of a naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca.
3. The United States has the option of renewing the lease on a naval base for another ninety-nine years.

This treaty blithely ignores the fact that Honduras and Salvador border on the Gulf of Fonseca as well as Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan government—even if it were a legitimate one and not a dummy for American imperialism—has no right to make agreements affecting the Gulf of Fonseca without consulting Honduras and Salvador.



REBEL SOLDIERS ON A SHIP CAPTURED FROM THE REACTIONARIES.



A FIGHTING GROUP OF NICARAGUAN REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

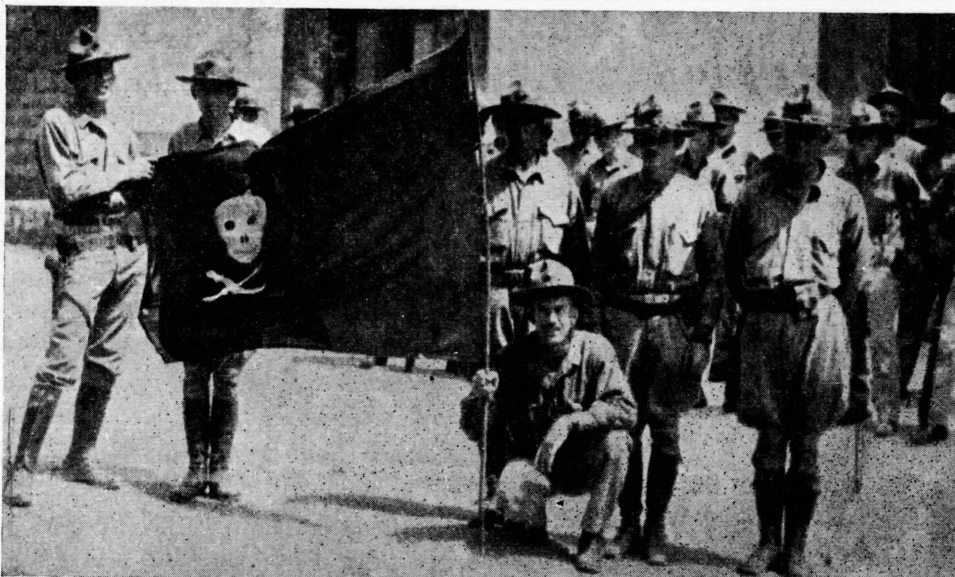
The Bryan-Chamorro treaty is manifestly illegal and protests against it have been put forward by various Central American nations.

Nevertheless, this canal project, which is based upon an illegal treaty, negotiated with an illegal puppet government, in return for \$3,000,000.00 which has never been paid, has become with President Coolidge "an inalienable American perquisite," a

national right which the United States forces are in Nicaragua to safeguard.

Despite the intervention of the United States in Nicaragua, Dr. Sacasa's liberal forces, led by General Jose Maria Moncada, continued to inflict defeats upon the usurping Pres-

(Continued on page 38.)



U. S. MARINES WITH A NICARAGUAN REVOLUTIONARY FLAG.

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ident Diaz. Therefore President Coolidge sent Col. Henry L. Stimson to Nicaragua as his personal emissary.

Stimson brought about "peace" in Nicaragua—that is, he negotiated a deal with Diaz and Moncada on the basis of which constitutional President Sacasa was obliged to go into exile. Other features of the deal—besides the secret features which have not been given out—were provisions for 'continued occupation of Nicaragua by United States marines ("to supervise the elections in August, 1928"), and of course a loan put thru by American—bankers.

But there was no peace. Stimson negotiated his agreement in May of last year, and in July the Ocotal massacre occurred

to mock the smug claims of peace. Additional murders of Nicaraguans have continued up to the present time. Everyone who resists American imperialist domination in Nicaragua is treated as an outlaw and attacked. The peace of the Stimson agreement is a peace of death. Nicaragua, Latin America as a whole, can never tolerate such a peace, which is already being shattered to smitherings by the army of General Sandino, who is now the idol of the Nicaraguan people. The widespread support for Sandino in Nicaragua is proven by the strike of stevedores in the port of Corinto, who refused to unload ammunitions for the American invaders. Sandino in resisting imperialist aggression in Nicaragua represents the struggle of all the op-

pressed peoples against imperialist domination. Nicaragua is an important test. It is a test for American workers and farmers no less than for the people of Latin America.

It is the test which will determine whether or not American imperialism can go forward to the rape of one Latin American country after another without any effective resistance from the masses of the Americans themselves. If the imperialists are allowed to go ahead in Nicaragua there is no crime, no outrage which they cannot perpetrate in Latin America under the bloody profit flag of the Monroe-Doctrine.

It is in Nicaragua and around the question raised by the invasion of Nicaragua, rather than at Pan-American conferences, that the real questions of Pan-Americanism will be fought out.

Sandino is fighting for all of us.