



# NEWS

**DATE:** March 7, 1988

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONCERN VOICED OVER LIMITING  
NICARAGUAN CHURCH PEACE ROLE**

**WASHINGTON--**Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed distress and concern that the role of the Church in peace negotiations in Nicaragua has been limited.

In a message to Miguel Cardinal Obando y Bravo of Managua, Archbishop May said "the pursuit of justice and peace requires the active support and involvement of the Church in Nicaragua and its chief shepherd."

Cardinal Obando had served as mediator in discussions between contending parties in Nicaragua but this week was dismissed.

In the March 4 message, Archbishop May cited the importance of "the call of the Church to pursue good faith negotiation, honest and sincere dialogue, an effective end to the violence,

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2/Peace Role

and true respect for the dignity and rights of all the Nicaraguan people as called for in the Central American peace process.

Text of the message:

I express the episcopal solidarity and support of our bishops' conference to you, your brother bishops and the Church in Nicaragua at this difficult time.

I am distressed and concerned by recent actions of the Nicaraguan government which limit the crucial contribution you are making to the peace process. I wish to express our profound disappointment that your service of mediation between contending parties in your country has apparently been terminated.

We believe the pursuit of justice and peace requires the active support and involvement of the Church in Nicaragua and its chief shepherd. We hope and pray that the contending parties will use every available opportunity to heed the call of the Church to pursue good faith negotiation, honest and sincere dialogue, an effective end to the violence and true respect for the dignity and rights of all the Nicaraguan people as called for in the Central American peace process.

Our prayers and pledge of continuing solidarity and support are with you and the Church of Nicaragua. We stand ready to be of assistance.

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