

May 11, 1985

Mr. Joseph Schechla

The candor of your letter dated May 7, 1985 was appreciated although I was appalled by some of your views on subjects other than the Middle East, the area of your organization's central concern.

I shall not enter into a lengthy debate but will make only a few basic observations. Central America: Are you quite sure that the present Sandanista government represents true self-determination on the part of the Nicaraguan people? Many people in Nicaragua and elsewhere regard the original Sandanista revolution as being the voice of the Nicaraguan people, which was later stolen by the Marxist-Leninists who will, in Nicaragua as in Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Cuba and everywhere else communist dictatorships have been installed, erect a police state and never hold a free election again. By contrast, the US gave more aid in the first two years of the Sandanista revolution to Nicaragua than it had given Somoza in all the years of that regime. I think I believe in self-determination more sincerely than you do.

Afghanistan: The fact that ADC has taken no position on Afghanistan is quite simply obscene, and sadly revealing of the true political agenda of the organization. Such a position removes you ADC from the company and support of free men everywhere.

Vietnam: Amnesty International describes the present Socialist Republic of Vietnam as the most massive violator of human rights to be found on earth. More than a million refugees from Indochina are spread all over the world. A half million more have drowned at sea trying to escape. Your ignorant condemnation of so-called American "motives" for trying to help South Vietnam escape that fate reminds me only of "Hanoi Jane" Fonda and her ilk. I spent many years in Vietnam and know the sentiments of the people there. They are today living in hell in a gulag state. Would that people like yourself who are no doubt sincere and idealistic could simply experience first hand what life is like under communist dictatorships and you would need no further debate, including this letter.

I remain committed to the view that your organization is making an enormous tactical and ideological error in diluting the cause of justice in the Middle East with a ragtag of other causes whose content and whose origination may be much less pure. Since I am committed to true self-determination, true human freedom and true human dignity I have no choice but to disassociate myself categorically from any organization which embraces the views and causes described in your letter. I still wish to have my name entirely stricken from your mailing list.

sincerely,

OGDEN WILLIAMS

*Ogden Williams*