Introduction

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In the first article of this forum, Ernie Vargas presents a behavior analysis of educational systems. His discussion places education — in both developing and developed countries — in a political context. The next two articles focus on a specific example of education within an overtly political agenda. Jerry Ulman first offers a broad perspective on, and background information germane to, the Nicaraguan Literacy Crusade. Then Carlos Tünnerman, the Nicaraguan Am-

bassador to the United States, discusses the Literacy Crusade in greater detail. The final article by Robert Sollod reminds us that adult illiteracy is not restricted to developing countries such as Nicaragua, but that it in fact constitutes a major behavioral deficit of many Americans as well. He then outlines ways in which behavioral scientists can contribute to the remediation of this pressing social problem.