

# World and Nation

## Ortega says he's trying for cease-fire President wants to end 'aggression' aimed at Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega said Thursday evening his government was trying to arrange a cease-fire with Contra rebels through an intermediary, but that other steps toward peace depend on "an end to aggression against Nicaragua."

Ortega, addressing thousands of cheering supporters on the day a Central American peace plan was to take effect, called on the Contras fighting his leftist Sandinista government to take advantage of an amnesty offer before Saturday's expiration of a one-month, limited unilateral cease-fire.

"After Nov. 7 we are going tooth-and-nail after those Contras, if they don't seek amnesty," Ortega told the rally packed into the lighted downtown plaza. Around Managua, banners of red and black, the colors of the ruling Sandinista

National Liberation Front, and the blue and white Nicaraguan flag were strung across wide avenues.

The Sandinistas refuse to negotiate directly or indirectly with the Contras on a cease-fire, one of the requirements in the peace plan signed Aug. 7 by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The Sandinistas argue that any cease-fire should be negotiated with the United States because the Reagan administration controls the rebels.

Ortega gave no details of the mediation, but he said it was undertaken "to strip all pretext from our enemies and unmask those who say they are for peace and don't really want it."

The Reagan administration, which is seeking new financing for the Contras, has said the Contras must be included in any negotiations.

In El Salvador, President Jose Napoleon Duarte announced a unilateral cease-fire Thursday despite a boycott of peace talks by leftist guerrillas to protest the slaying of a human rights activist.

He said all offensive air, sea and land operations by the Salvadoran armed forces were halting as of noon Thursday.

Guatemala is the other Central American country with an active rebel movement. Cease-fire negotiations were begun in Spain but collapsed.

In Costa Rica, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a director of the rebels' Nicaraguan Resistance umbrella group, called Ortega's announcement "a triumph for the resistance" but said the Contras want to know who will mediate.

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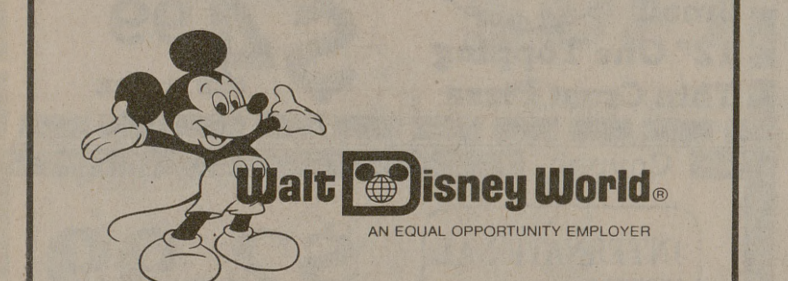
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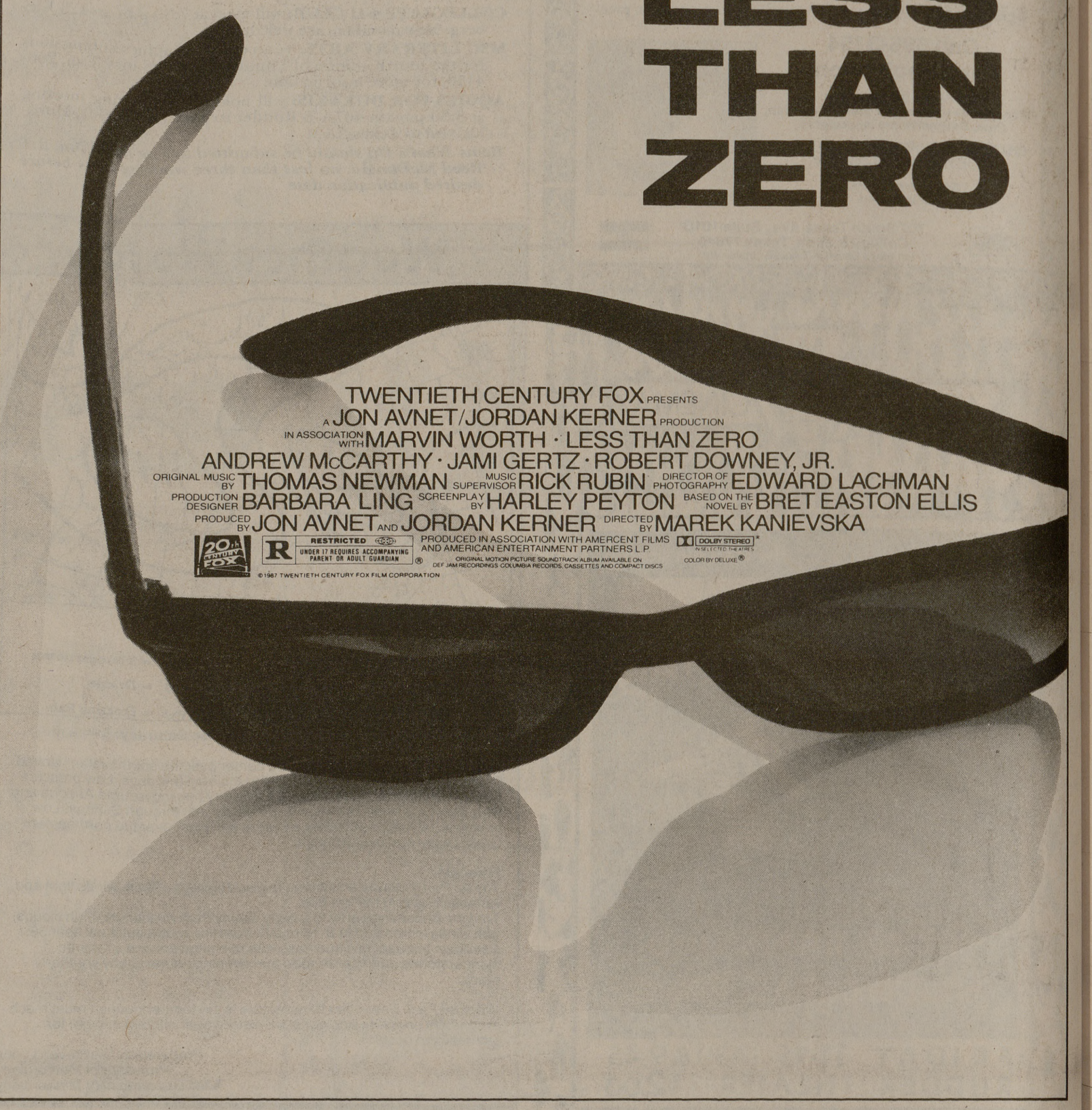


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