

NOTES

PLATFORM

Sue Bcardan writes: Platform, the new journal from the alternative theatre, is now 2 issues old, and a third is due out soon. Its appearance was long awaited, in that nowhere were the issues, problems and critiques arising from the so-called 'fringe' debated publicly.

The big problem which *l'latjorm* faces is that the very people from whom those debates should spring, the actors, performers and dramaturges of the fringe, are on the whole the very people who do *not* write. It is for this reason that the maga/ine tends to go for a large interview component, and also carries a MXII0II lui shun news and views.

Fortunately no editorial line impedes the development of the magazine, which hopes to be, as its name suggests, a platform for fringe and other theatre workers.

Of course, it is not just aimed at a readership of theatre workers. It is hoped that all who support the cultural developments on the Left will read, and perhaps contribute to the journal.

Plat/orm costs 70p and is available from: 18 Vauxhall Grove, London SW8.

NICARAGUA TODAY

Richard Fratado writes: What is really happening in Nicaragua today? What does it matter to us anyway? The mass media do not give us much help in answering these questions. For most of the last 10 months they have said scarcely a word on the subject. It is exactly to help towards breaking this blockade on information about Nicaragua that the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign has decided to launch *Nicaragua Today*. Without proper information it will be impossible to build the kind of support in the British labour movement that is needed right now.

It is true that at the time of last year's insurrection against the Somoza dictatorship our newspapers and television screens were full of it. Before then, Nicaragua had been just another small, far-off country in Central America, one of those 'banana republics' with unruly football crowds

Press coverage has followed the lines of US foreign policy towards the revolution in Nicaragua, the same policy that our own Tory government is mimicking so faithfully. At the time of the insurrection this meant looking for a 'moderate' alternative that could

replace the Somozas but not interfere with Western business interests. Once this had failed, the policy was to starve the Nicaraguans of economic and political support. The media fell silent. Now this policy is also failing.

A new US task force is staging large-scale military manoeuvres in different parts of the Caribbean. US military personnel are training counter-insurgency forces throughout Central America, building helicopter bases in El Salvador and preparing for a new Vietnam in the region if necessary.

The Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign therefore asks labour movement organisations not only to affiliate to the campaign, but also to organise meetings, invite speakers, show films and slide shows and to distribute *Nicaragua Today* as widely as possible.

Nicaragua Today costs 15p and is available from Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1.

Error: Alan McKinnon is a GP in Glasgow and not a lecturer as stated in the August issue.