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## BIKES NOT BOMBS: FOUR YEARS AND GROWING

*Dear Friend,*

In four short years, Bikes Not Bombs has grown from a small effort by a handful of activists who wanted to send a few bicycles to aid health and education efforts in Nicaragua, to an effective global network of individuals and organizations taking major concrete steps to promote sensible transportation, social justice, and a better environment.

By the end of this summer Bikes Not Bombs will have sent 2,000 bicycles and thousands of spare parts and tools – valued at close to a quarter of a million dollars – to help Nicaraguans rebuild their crippled communities. Over the next year, Bikes Not Bombs hopes to send another 2,000 critically needed used and new bicycles through new, more economical shipping channels developed to handle a larger quantity of bicycle donations from across the continent. But to meet this goal, we need your help.

Our Managua workshop has trained several dozen mechanics and now employs nine Central Americans. The need for bicycles in Nicaragua is so great that Bikes Not Bombs will open two new bicycle assembly and training workshops, in Leon and Esteli, later this year. With technical assistance from North American volunteer trainers, who receive at most Peace Corps salaries, these shops are a highly effective form of people-to-people development aid.

Bikes Not Bombs recently ordered its first container of new completely knocked-down (CKD) bicycles from India and plans to begin assembling these in the three Bikes Not Bombs workshops early in 1989. Financing for the \$30,000 order came from the Wild Geese Foundation in Holland, Bike Aid '86, and individual contributors. These efforts are helping Nicaragua establish its own bicycle industry.

The Nicaraguan economic crisis makes this aid more important than ever. Indeed, Nicaragua may become the most bicycle-friendly country in Latin America. The Nicaraguan Minister of Transportation announced last year at the Bikes Not Bombs Managua shop that the government will import 50,000 new bicycles over the next five years to help the transport situation. After four years of work, the wheels of Bikes Not Bombs are now really rolling!

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### BIKES NOT BOMBS Advisory Committee

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Douglas LaFollette Wisconsin Secretary of State • Dave Mozer President, Bicycle Africa •

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**A Project of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy**

Bikes Not Bombs is as committed as ever to the task of providing people-to-people aid to Nicaraguans rebuilding their country, but the scope and vision of our work has grown to include a number of other important efforts around the world.

A key vehicle set in motion by Bikes Not Bombs has been the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), a non profit group set up in 1985 to sponsor Bikes Not Bombs and related projects. Since that time, ITDP efforts have delivered bicycles to health, education, and development projects in some of the world's poorest countries, such as Bolivia, Haiti, and Mozambique.

Mozambique presents new opportunities for action to promote the Bikes Not Bombs message of sustainable transportation development and solidarity. There, our Bikes for Africa Campaign is working to develop a bicycle and cart assembly and training center to aid government and private voluntary development projects.

The ITDP's Haitian Development Fund's bikes support literacy and other development objectives of private voluntary agencies working to strengthen grass-roots skills and organizations. With financing from socially-conscious investors, ITDP intends to launch a human-powered vehicle assembly workshop in Haiti in the next year.

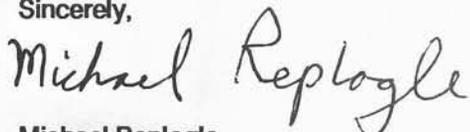
The ITDP's Transportation Alternatives Project is working in Washington, D.C., to change transportation policies and investment priorities across the world. We recently led a successful effort to secure language in the Foreign Assistance Appropriation bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives to direct the World Bank and U.S. Agency for International Development to pay more attention to energy-efficient transportation, such as non- motorized modes. Further legislative and educational initiatives are underway.

Many wheels have been set in motion by the work begun four years ago to send a few bikes to Nicaragua. We are expanding on the parable of the loaves and fishes to create our own parable of spokes and rims as we multiply the scant resources each of us brings to share and, like spokes working together, make many frail rims strong by working with each other locally and globally, creating new worlds with imagination and joy. You too can join in the making of our parable and keep our multiplication going by sending a tax-deductible contribution.

We urgently need your support today to continue our vital work, especially our accelerated shipments of used bicycles to Nicaragua. Our whole container shipments are highly cost effective: less than \$10 will send a bike to Nicaragua.

But I must tell you our finances are precarious, and to continue these shipments, Bikes Not Bombs must raise \$5000 in the next 60 days to cover shipping costs. Your \$50 donation can help ensure that half a dozen more bicycles will be on their way to work for peace, justice, and sustainable development. Please give generously today.

Sincerely,



Michael Replogle  
Co-Founder, Bikes Not Bombs