

Defendant's Statement of the Offense

BLANDON was interviewed, in the presence of his defense attorney, regarding his participatory actions in the offense. He recalled that all of his problems stemmed from the Nicaraguan Contra Revolution in 1980. He said that his family had always occupied positions of prestige and power in Nicaragua; however, when the Ortega Regime seized control of the country, he was forced to flee, thereby "losing everything." He said that he was successful in leaving the country with his wife and children; however, the remainder of his family did not leave and the Ortega Government took the family's wealth and property.

The defendant went on to state that when he entered the United States he only had \$100, but he was immediately able to obtain a job in the car rental business. Through hard work and a diligent savings plan, he was able to open his own car rental business in Miami, Florida. He experienced success in this business; however, when a large corporation failed to honor a contract, he "lost everything."

Although BLANDON was able to reestablish himself as a businessman in Miami, he said that he was never able to recuperate the wealth and the success that he had experienced when he initially came into the United States.

The defendant added that while he was working to establish himself in the United States, all of his family members were still suffering under the tyranny of the Ortega Regime in Nicaragua. In 1984, he was successful in "ransoming" his father and brother from the Ortega Government. Because of the horror stories and persecution suffered by his family and countrymen, BLANDON said that he decided to assist his countrymen in

"fighting the tyranny of the Ortega Regime." He added that he believed that the only method of reestablishing a democracy in Nicaragua was through resistance, money, and political intervention. He decided that because he was an adept businessman, he could assist his countrymen through monetary means. Unfortunately, he discovered that the amount of money that was necessary to "make a difference" far surpassed the amount of money that he could raise through legitimate endeavors.

At this point, he became committed to raising money for humanitarian and political reasons via illegal activity (cocaine trafficking for profit).

BLANDON advised that he is very sorry for what he has done, and he is ashamed of the dishonor that he has brought to his family, his country, and the United States. He urges the Court to exercise leniency at the time of sentencing.