

THE CLASH'S new album, set for release by CBS on December 12, will be a triple set titled 'Sandanista!'. It consists of 36 new tracks, mostly recorded in New York, though finishing touches were applied in London. The three records are packed in a single sleeve, and the set — produced by Bill Price and the band themselves — retails for £5.99.

The title is a reference to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters who successfully toppled the dictatorial Somoza regime. "Hopefully", says Clash spokesperson Kosmo Vinyl, "it's a title that for once will prove to be of genuine use to somebody."

Seemingly, the Sandanista (named after their founder Sandino) have encountered innumerable problems since their takeover, and it's the intention of The Clash that the title of this album will make the public aware of what is

Clash triple album set due

PUNKING FOR NICARAGUA

happening. A track on the LP, 'Washington Bullets', supposedly explains the situation as it exists more explicitly.

"I suppose," commented Kosmo, "that there will be some people who will say that it's just typical of The Clash to jump on some bandwagon. Who cares about them? The album isn't out yet, but already people are becoming interested in the Sandanista, and that's the intention — to generate interest in what's happening in Nicaragua, and let people decide for themselves whether or not they support their aims."

Why a triple album?

"Why not? Everyone wonders why records don't sell

as they used to — well, apart from companies putting out expensive records that nobody wants, there isn't anyone in the record industry who'll come out and admit that sales are down because prices are too high. People love to buy records, but if you just can't afford them . . ."

Now that the album is finally under their belts, The Clash are anxious to get back on the road as quickly as possible. Pre-Christmas dates are virtually out of the question, though there are whispers of a surprise London gig in mid-December. But it's understood that plans are being laid for an extensive British tour fairly early in 1981.