

Jan. 27, 1980

Los Angeles, CA

To our brothers and sisters, to organizations which identify with our struggle for true liberation, we wish to communicate the following:

The Salvadorean People's Solidarity Front (FSPS) believes that at this time, when the international system of oppression and exploitation is beginning to crumble, El Salvador represents one of the weakest links in the imperialist chain. Inside the country, the national bourgeoisie is no longer able to maintain its oppressive power over the people.

Knowing that each time the people of a country triumph in their struggle for liberation this represents the advancement of the international liberation movement, we call on all of our comrades to support us in our just struggle against imperialism and our own national bourgeoisie. As an organization in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, we see our role as follows:

- To denounce all repressive actions taken by the government of El Salvador against her people.
- To make the people of this country aware of the poverty and misery in which the people of El Salvador are forced to live.
- To denounce any imperialist intervention or interference in the liberation struggle of our people.
- To lend material assistance to the liberation movement.

One of the fundamental principals upon which our organization is based is internationalism, and we try constantly to maintain an internationalist perspective. We consider that at this time in history, El Salvador represents one of capitalism's weakest footholds, and we are thus concentrating our efforts on solidarity with the people of El Salvador, as we did with Nicaragua during the struggle against Somoza.

We count on your solidarity and support in our struggle, and we believe that the establishment of communications between us will allow for the exchange of information and also the possible coordination of activities.

United in struggle,
Frente Solidario con el
Pueblo Salvadoreño

PO. BOX 15213
LA., CA. 90015

27 de enero, 1980

Los Angeles, CA

A las organizaciones hermanas que se identifican con la lucha que desarrollan los pueblos por lograr su definitiva liberación les comunicamos lo siguiente:

El Frente Solidario con el Pueblo Salvadoreño (FSPS) considera que, en estos momentos en que se tambalean los sistemas opresores de explotación de los pueblos, El Salvador es uno de los eslabones más débiles de la cadena imperialista, así como en su aspecto interno las clases dominantes ya no pueden sostener su sistema de explotación. Teniendo en cuenta que cada pueblo que se libera marca un fuerte avance en el proceso de liberación de los pueblos hermanos, hacemos un llamado a todas las organizaciones o personas a que nos brinden la solidaridad que nuestro pueblo necesita en estos momentos en que se encuentra luchando por hacer valer los derechos que le han quitado las clases dominantes criollas así como el imperialismo.

Como organización de solidaridad con nuestro pueblo, la labor que desarrollamos en el exterior consiste en:

- Denunciar todo tipo de represión que el gobierno asota contra nuestro pueblo.
- Llevar nuestra voz al pueblo Norteamericano así como a las otras colonias que existen aquí, dando a conocer las condiciones de miseria y subdesarrollo en que nos tienen sumidos.
- Denunciar todo tipo de intervención imperialista que trate de ahogar los deseos de liberación de nuestro pueblo.
- Ayudar materialmente a nuestro pueblo.

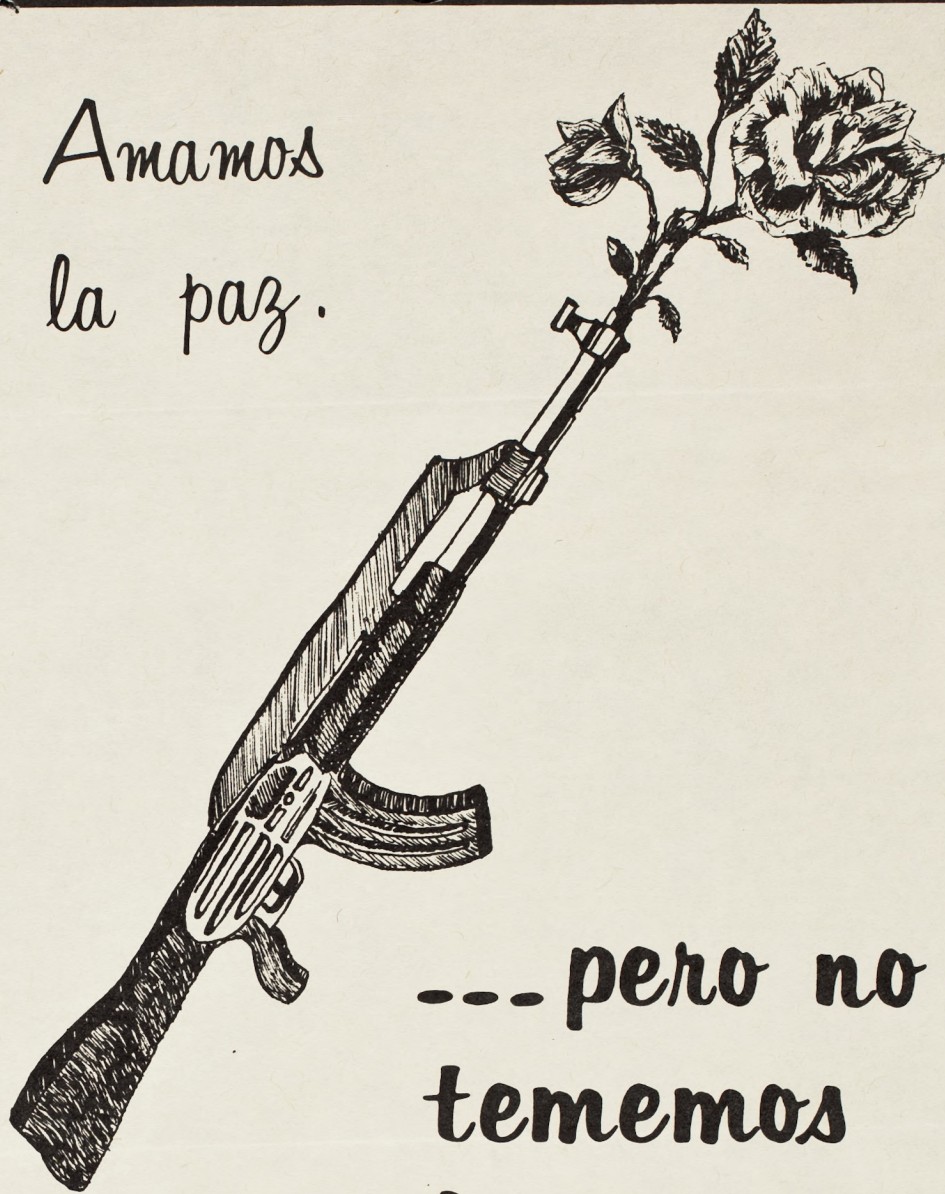
Uno de los principios fundamentales de nuestra organización es el internacionalismo. Consideramos en estos momentos a El Salvador como uno de los puntos más débiles del capitalismo, así que concentramos nuestra solidaridad dirigida a él, como antes lo hicimos con Nicaragua durante la lucha en contra de Somoza.

Contamos con su solidaridad y su apoyo en nuestra lucha, y consideramos que la relación constante entre nosotros es muy importante, ya que esto nos permitiría intercambiar experiencias y al mismo tiempo coordinar actividades.

Unidos en la lucha,
Frente Solidario con el
Pueblo Salvadoreño

PO. BOX 15213
L.A., CA. 90015

Amamos
la paz.



... pero no
tememos
la guerra.

El Salvador, C.A.

We love peace. ...but we don't fear war.

San Salvador, 17 de Febrero de 1980.

Excmo. Sr. Presidente de los
Estados Unidos de Norte América
Jimmy Carter
Pte.

Sr. Presidente:

En estos últimos días ha aparecido en la prensa nacional una noticia que me ha preocupado bastante: Según ella su gobierno está estudiando la posibilidad de apoyar y ayudar económica y militarmente a la actual Junta de Gobierno.

Por ser Ud. cristiano y por haber manifestado que quiere defender - los derechos humanos me atrevo a exponerle mi punto de vista pastoral sobre esta noticia y hacerle una petición concreta.

Me preocupa bastante la noticia de que el Gobierno de E.U. está estudiando la forma de favorecer la carrera armamentista de El Salvador enviando equipos militares y asesores para "entrenar a tres batallones salvadoreños en logística, comunicaciones e inteligencia". En caso de ser cierta esta información periodística, la contribución de su Gobierno en lugar de favorecer una mayor justicia y paz en El Salvador agudizará sin duda la - injusticia y la represión en contra del pueblo organizado que muchas veces ha estado luchando porque se respeten sus derechos humanos más fundamentales.

La actual Junta de Gobierno y sobre todo las Fuerzas Armadas y los cuerpos de seguridad desgraciadamente no han demostrado su capacidad de resolver, en la práctica política y estructuralmente, los graves problemas nacionales. En general sólo han recurrido a la violencia represiva produciendo un saldo de muertos y heridos mucho mayor que en los regímenes militares recién pasados cuya sistemática violación a los derechos humanos fue denunciada por la C I D H.

La brutal forma como los cuerpos de seguridad recientemente desalojaron y asesinaron a ocupantes de la sede de la Democracia Cristiana a pesar de que la Junta de Gobierno y el Partido ~~parece ser~~ no autoriza

na no gobiernan al País sino que el poder político está en manos de mili-
tares sin escrúpulos que lo único que saben hacer es reprimir el pueblo y
favorecer los intereses de la oligarquía salvadoreña.

Si es verdad que en noviembre pasado "un grupo de seis americanos se
tuvo en El Salvador (...) suministrando doscientos mil dólares en máscaras
de gases y chalecos protectores e instruyendo sobre su manejo contra
las manifestaciones" Ud. mismo debe estar informado que es evidente que
a partir de entonces los cuerpos de seguridad con mayor protección perso-
nal y eficacia han reprimido aún más violentamente al pueblo utilizando
armas mortales.

Por tanto dado que como salvadoreño y Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis
de San Salvador, tengo la obligación de velar porque reine la fe y la jus-
ticia en mi País, le pido que si en verdad quiere defender los derechos
humanos,

- Prohíba se dé esta ayuda militar al Gobierno salvadoreño.
- Garantice que su gobierno no intervenga directa o indirectamente
con presiones militares, económicas, diplomáticas etc. en deter-
minar el destino del pueblo salvadoreño.

En estos momentos estamos viviendo una grave crisis económico-políti-
ca en nuestro País, pero es indudable que cada vez más el pueblo es el que
se ha ido concientizando y organizando y con ello ha empezado a capacitar-
se para ser el gestor y responsable del futuro de El Salvador y el único
capaz de superar la crisis.

Sería injusto y deplorable que por la intromisión de potencias extran-
jeras se frustrara al pueblo salvadoreño, se le reprimiera e impidiera de-
velopar con autonomía sobre la trayectoria económica y política que debe se-
guir nuestra Patria.

Supondría violar un derecho que los Obispos latinoamericanos reunidos
en Puebla reconocimos públicamente "La legítima autodeterminación de nues-
tros pueblos que les permita organizarse según su propio genio y la marcha
de su historia y cooperar en un nuevo orden internacional" (Puebla, 505).

Espero que sus sentimientos religiosos y su sensibilidad por la defen-
sa de los derechos humanos lo moverán a aceptar mi petición evitando con
ello un mayor derramamiento de sangre en este sufrido país.

Atentamente,

Reproducido por Coordinadora
Local

C.S.C. P.O. Box 20352

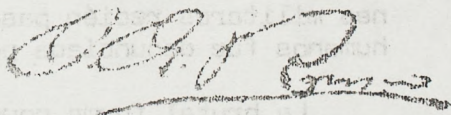
L.A., CA 90006

F.S.P.S. P.O. Box 15213

L.A., CA 90015

M.A.S.P.S. P.O. BOX 38735

L.A. CA 90038


Oscar A. Romero
Arzobispo.

Movimiento Amplio de Solidaridad con el Pueblo Salvadoreño (MASPS)

February 22, 1980

Compañeros:

As you are aware, by the news media, the Carter Administration has offered and intends to send "military advisors" and equipment to the government of El Salvador. They will also send "economic aid" in the amount of \$49,000,000.00 (forty nine million) dollars. Supposedly, this money will be used for "transportation and communications," which is merely an excuse to cover up the real intentions of the salvadorean government, since it will be used to continue oppressing the people, as this military dictatorship has been doing since 1932.

The current "junta," although it calls itself "revolutionary," serves the same dictatorship of forty-eight years and it lacks the salvadorean people's support. This was confirmed by the recent resignation of 23 ministers of the government and 3 civilians which were part of the previous junta (formed after the coup d 'etat of October 15, 1979). Any aid that the Carter Administration gives to said junta will be used for the sole purpose of halting the "inevitable revolution" of the salvadorean people, and it will only add to the bloodshed, since this purpose will not be attained. Therefore, the salvadorean community, many who have fled the repressive and bloody dictatorship of El Salvador, and the Broad Solidarity Movement in the U.S.A. ask for your cooperation and support in demanding of President Carter the following:

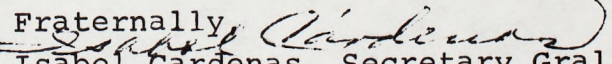
- 1) No intervention in the internal affairs of El Salvador
- 2) No military advisors, personnel or economic aid to the "junta."
- 3) Let the Salvadorean people determine their own affairs.

The above may be done by sending letters, telegrams, etc. to your Senators in Washington to the following address:

Senator (name) _____
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

and it would put more pressure if telephone calls were made (for those who live in California, Senators Cranston & Hayakawa) directly at the Senate's telephone Number (202) 224-3121.

Your cooperation is a most valuable contribution in avoiding "unnecessary bloodshed" for our people of El Salvador.

Fraternally

Isabel Cardenas, Secretary Gral.

P.O. Box 38735 Los Angeles Cal. 90038

Movimiento Amplio de Solidaridad con el Pueblo Salvadoreño (MASPS)

22 de Febrero de 1980

Compañeros:

Como ya sabrán, por medio de la televisión, radio y prensa, la administración de Carter ha ofrecido ayuda "consejera militar" y equipo al gobierno de El Salvador. También mandarán ayuda "económica" por la cantidad de \$49,000.000.00 (cuarenta-y-nueve millones) de dólares. Supuestamente, este dinero será usado para "transportación y comunicación," que es solamente una excusa para cubrir las verdaderas intenciones del gobierno salvadoreño, ya que será usado para continuar oprimiendo al pueblo, como lo viene haciendo esta "dictadura militar" desde 1932.

La Junta actual, aunque se llama "revolucionaria" es servidora de la misma dictadura de cuarenta-y-ocho años y carece del apoyo del pueblo. Esto fue confirmado por la renuncia de los 23 ministros del gobierno y 3 civiles que formaban parte de la "junta" anterior (después del golpe de estado del 15 de Octubre de 1979). Cualquier ayuda que la administración de Carter preste a dicha junta será con el propósito de interrumpir la "inevitable revolución" del pueblo salvadoreño, y solamente aumentará el derrame de sangre de nuestro pueblo, ya que no se logrará dicho propósito. Por lo tanto, la comunidad salvadoreña, muchos que están en este país exiliados y huyendo de la terrible represión de nuestro pueblo, así como el movimiento de solidaridad en Estados Unidos, pedimos su cooperación y apoyo en exigirle al Presidente Carter lo siguiente:

- 1) Que no intervenga en los asuntos internos de El Salvador
- 2) Que no mande consejeros o ayuda militar, o económica a la "junta salvadoreña."
- 3) Que deje que el pueblo salvadoreño determine sus propios asuntos.

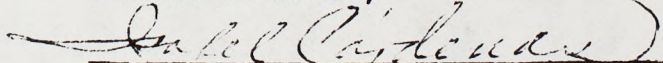
Esto puede ser hecho mandando cartas o telegramas a sus senadores en Washington a la siguiente dirección:

United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

y sería aun mas impresionante llamándoles por teléfono (de California a los Senadores Cranston y Hayakawa) también directamente al Senado al teléfono (202) 224-3121.

Su cooperación será una valiosa contribución para evitar el "innecesario" derrame de sangre de nuestro pueblo salvadoreño.

Fraternalmente,


Isabel Cárdenas, Secretaria Gral.

P.O. Box 38735 Los Angeles Cal. 90038

Dear Friends;

April 10, 1980

The Central American Solidarity Committee (CSC) and the Solidarity Front with the Salvadorean People (FSPS) formed as a consequence of the crisis in Central America, and especially as a response to the offensive taken by the dominant sectors in El Salvador against the working masses of that country. We have seen the obligation of doubling our efforts toward developing and reinforcing a firm and effective solidarity movement.

Consequently, we are addressing you with three basic objectives:

- a) To keep you informed about the present situation in Central America, and especially in El Salvador.
- b) To inform you about the solidarity movement here in the U.S. and internationally.
- c) To ask for your support of the heroic struggle of the Salvadorean people to regain their national sovereignty, their right to life, their freedom of expression, and a peaceful democratic society.

We consider this time as crucial for revolutionaries and democrats in America. The struggles of the oppressed people of this continent are in immediate need of strong international solidarity, and we are inviting you to join us in our efforts to support the heroic people of El Salvador and other countries.

We underline the importance of the fight against the misinformation transmitted by the multi-national corporations through their control of the mass media, and the necessity of opposition to those sectors in the U.S. that want to intervene in the internal affairs of El Salvador.

Enclosed is an information packet which we hope will serve to open a more fraternal and effective relationship with your organization. Hoping to have a prompt response as to your receipt of this letter, we remain-

In solidarity,

F.S.P.S. and C.S.C.

Dear Friends;

April 10, 1980

El Salvador is at this moment in the midst of a deep political economic, and social crisis, and has thus reached the international press and stimulated interest around the world.

One of the most recent events which has made headlines was the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who shortly before his death had sent a letter to President Carter (which is enclosed). In this letter we see exposed the ideals of a valiant man, one who was conscious of the necessity of avoiding more suffering, terror, and oppression in El Salvador. The Salvadorean people, at the hands of the civilian military junta and its repressive military apparatus, have been the victims of such oppressive domination for over half a century.

The letter which Monsignor Romero sent to president Carter is evidence of the clear intent of the church to avoid the further spilling of blood in our country. As a reply to this letter, written on February 17th, Monsignor Romero was assassinated on the 24th of March, one consequence of which has been the revolutionary process has reached the level that it has today.

The F.S.P.S. and the C.S.C., conscious of their duty to promote solidarity with the oppressed Salvadorean people, have dedicated themselves to the task of denouncing the assassination of Monsignor Romero, who did no more than comply with his christian duty. At the same time, we cannot remain indifferent to the statements and the example of Monsignor Romero, and the letter sent to president Carter is a faithful example of his vocation and his dedication to the poor.

Because of this, we sincerely request of you the following:

- a) Endorsement of the Archbishop's letter by your organization.
- b) Your authorization that this letter, endorsed by supporting organizations both religious and lay, be published by the media.
- c) We ask for your economic assistance in order to publish the letter.

Awaiting a response to our requests, we thank you beforehand for your invaluable cooperation.

COMUNICADO DE ULTIMA HORA:
MANIFESTACION DISUELTA POR LA POLICIA NACIONAL

Este dia 18 de septiembre a las 8:25 de la manana fue disuelta por la Policia Nacional y el Ejercito de El Salvador, una manifestacion que estaba organizada por el FRENTE DEMOCRATICO REVOLUCIONARIO (F.D.R.) y los familiares de los presos politicos, que se encuentran en huelga de hambre en los centros penales de El Salvador desde el dia 15 de septiembre.

La manifestacion saldria de la Iglesia el Calvario, donde permanecen familiares de los presos politicos que fueron despersos en la manifestacion, que hasta las 8 horas de este dia se encontraba siendo motivo de un ataque de represion, por parte del ejercito y la Policia Nacional con armamento pesado y fuego de arma larga, y no se tenian datos sobre el numero de victimas.

Ante la conciencia del mundo, ante los organismos oficiales ante todas los organismos que defienden los derechos de los pueblos manifestamos que este hecho evidencia una vez mas el sistema corrupto que la actual junta de gobierno mantiene a fuerza de represion constante. Es al mismo tiempo cada represion un grito de dolor que debe ser escuchado para poner un cese efectivo.

Por otra parte el Socorro Juridico del Arzobispado de San Salvador, visito este dia al centro penal de Santa Tecla, donde se encuentran en huelga de hambre 31 presos politicos. Los presos politicos en huelga de hambre manifestaron a miembros del Socorro Juridico, que durante la noche del 17 de septiembre varios agentes de la Guardia Nacional Salvadorena, penetraron al penal para secuestrar a cuatro reos politicos que estan en huelga de hambre , entre ellos:

- Antonio Morales Carbonell, miembro de las Fuerzas Populares de Liberacion - FARABUNDO MARTI.
- Julio Monroy del Frente de Accion Popular Unificada (FAPU)
- Rogel Blandino Nerio de las Ligas Populares 28 de Febrero (LP-28)
- Raul Escamilla Umana del Bloque Popular Revolucionario (BPR)

Por lo menos 50 presos politicos de los diferentes penales del pais se encuentran en huelga de hambre para exigir su libertad. Los familiares de estas se tomaron el 17 de septiembre, varias iglesias para pedir el cese de la represion, libertad a los presos politicos, y el inmediato levantamiento del estado de sitio que impera en El Salvador desde Marzo de 1980.

!!!!!!VIVA LA LUCHA DEL PUEBLO SALVADORENO!!!!!!

18 de Septiembre de 1980

COMUNICADO DE ULTIMA HORA DEL COMITE DE PRESOS POLITICOS DE EL SALVADOR

Considerando que:

- 1) Somos presos politicos que nos encontramos injustamente encarcelados.
- 2) Nuestro delitoees desear una vida mejor para el pueblo en donde desaparesca el estado actual de represion y miseria.
- 3) En nuestro pais se implementa la violacion de los mas elementales derechos del pueblo por el actual gobierno de turno.
- 4) La aplicacion de la jurisdiccion militar en casos esencialmente civiles, atenta contra la legalidad. Retardando ilegando y paralizando este proceso.

Por lo que comunicamos al pueblo y demas pueblos del mundo que el dia 15 de septiembre hemos iniciado una huelga de hambre, con la participacion activa de todos los presos politicaos del pais, con el objetivo de exigir una solucion a las siguientes demandas:

- 1) La inmediata libertad de todos los presos politicos.
- 2) La aclaracion sobre el paradero de todos los desaparecidos politicos.
- 3) Cese inmediatamente el estado de sitio.
- 4) Cese a la represion contra nuestro pueblo.

Mientras la junta militar-democrstiana no de la respuesta positiva a nuestras exigencias, no levantaremos la huelga que hemos iniciado y nos mantendremos firmes dentro de nuestra consigna en la lucha por nuestra liberacion.

!!!!UNIDOS HASTA LA VICTORIA FINAL!!!!!!

COMITE DE PRESOS POLITICOS DE EL SALVADOR, SANTA TECLA
18 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1980

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THE SALVADORAN

vol. 1 no. 1 1980

VOICE OF THE U.S. SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR
JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR



EL SALVADOR

El Salvador; a land bordered by Guatemala, Honduras and the Pacific Ocean. A land where each day the reality of civil war looms closer. "The most densely populated, most undernourished country in Central America, with nearly 5 million people in an area the size of Massachusetts, El Salvador is a microcosm of Latin America's social and political ills. Ninety percent of the peasants have no land and they comprise two thirds of the population. Two percent of the people own 58 percent of the arable land. The average monthly income of the peasant families, 50 percent of them illiterate, is twelve dollars. Four fifths of the children are illnourished. Unemployment and underemployment total 45 percent."¹

Cotton, sugar and coffee oligarchies are squeezing the life out of the peasants in El Salvador. The small middle class of shopkeepers and merchants is all but starving along with the landless peasants. The country's only wealth is concentrated in the hands of two percent of the population, the Fourteen Families. These Fourteen Families make up the oligarchy which has a stranglehold on the economy of El Salvador. Their interests are in export crops while the people of El Salvador are desperately in need of national harvests they can eat. "Coffee eats men!"² has become the anguished cry of the starving peasantry.

Undersupplied guerillas and the church are the voice of the overwhelming majority of the people in El Salvador while the government represents and protects the interests of the Fourteen Families. Terrorism against religious leaders, union leaders, students, peasants, professionals, and intellectuals is sanctioned by the government and is carried out not only by the police and National Guard, but also by the clandestine 'death squads', the Falange, the 'White Warrior's Union', the 'Conservative Religious Front', and ORDEN, "An extralegal instrument of repression."³

And yet, "The Carter Administration's decision to provide military assistance to El Salvador's army despite continuing repression of opposition groups here appears aimed at preventing, at all costs, another Nicaragua."⁴



Notes: 1 Penny Lernoux from
Cry of the People.

2 " "

3 " "

4 New York Times, Feb.
23, 1980; p3.

U.S. Committee for Justice
in El Salvador
CTR Box 2447
U.S.F.
Tampa, Florida 33620

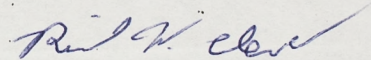
Dear friend,

This letter is to announce the formation of the U.S. Support Committee for Justice in El Salvador. We have formed the committee for the purpose of informing the American people of the grave situation in El Salvador which is deteriorating daily. We feel that it is of utmost importance that the U.S.'s involvement in the repression of the people's opposition forces in El Salvador be exposed.

We are eager to establish correspondence with any interested persons. If you are interested or concerned please write the U.S. Support Committee for Justice in El Salvador,

CTR Box 2447
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33620

Thanks, and with best wishes,



Richard W. Cleveland
(P.S.U.)

THE SALVADORAN

vol. 1 no. 3 1980

VOICE OF THE U.S. SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR
JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR



On October 15, 1979, the U.S. Government authorized the sale of over 200,000 dollars worth of 'non-lethal' military goods to the security forces of El Salvador. On February 17, 1980, the popular Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Anulfo Romero, in a letter to President Carter, wrote "...the security forces, with better personal protection and effectiveness, have repressed the people even more violently, using deadly weapons."

On March 24, Archbishop Romero was murdered.

Consider: 1) On April 1, 1980, The House Foreign Operations Subcommittee approved a request of the Carter administration to reprogram 5.7 million dollars of the Fiscal Year 1980 funds to El Salvador in the form of military aid.

2) On June 24, 1980, The House Foreign Operations Subcommittee approved Fiscal Year 1981 military aid to El Salvador; appropriations including 5 million dollars in military sales credits and 498,000 dollars in training credits.

3) On July 24, 1980, Amnesty International wrote to Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, "...it is indeed reasonable to expect that assistance intended to improve the operational capabilities of the Salvadorean security system, including training and material assistance will contribute to worsen the human rights situation in that country" which is already typified by "torture, arbitrary imprisonment and summary execution on a massive scale."

4) The Salvadoran Commission of Human Rights reports that 3,000 people have been murdered by government security forces during the first six months of 1980.

5) According to Latin American Report, 100 U.S. 'advisors are currently involved in the establishing of counter-insurgency centers and helicopter bases in El Salvador.

Because the FY80 decision was on the reprogramming of funds already approved by the Congress, it needed only to be voted on by the Subcommittee. The FY81 Security Assistance Bill, which includes military aid to El Salvador, having been approved by the Subcommittee must still go through these steps to pass:

- 1) Approval of the House Subcommittee version of FY81 by the House Appropriations Committee
- 2) Vote by the full House of Representatives
- 3) Approval by the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Appropriations Committee
- 4) Approval by the full Senate

IF YOU want to see U.S. support for the Junta in El Salvador STOPPED: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE, THE SENATE AND THE WHITE HOUSE AND TELL THEM: NO!! NO MORE MILITARY AID FOR AND NO U.S. INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR!

U.S. SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR
CTR Box 2447, U.S.F., Tampa, Florida 33620

THE SALVADORAN

vol. 1 no. 2 1980

VOICE OF THE U.S. SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR
JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR



A policy of savage repression is being waged by the government of El Salvador against its own people. The military dominated junta that rules the country has used systematic torture and murder to suppress the popular political movements for change that have grown in the country. While the Carter administration publicly condemns the policies of the junta, the reality of our involvement tells a different story.

The U.S. government is now supportive and helping to implement the planned extermination of political opposition to the El Salvadorian junta. The evidence of this is clear. El Salvador's military aid in 1980 from the U.S. (\$6.1 million) was higher than that received by all the other countries of Central America, while its economic assistance is not nearly as high as many of these countries. In November of 1979 we sent \$200,000 worth of tear gas, gas masks, and flak-jackets to El Salvador. In January we delivered military transportation and communication equipment that were followed in March by American advisors and military technicians in counter insurrection. American explosives experts are now working with the El Salvadorian National Guard and the National Police and uniformed Americans in the capacity of operation chiefs have participated in massacres that have occurred at demonstrations against the junta. While the many massacres of demonstrators have made it into the international press, the less dramatic but terrifying lists of missing persons later found dead has grown into the hundreds.

WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?

You, as an American who wants to know what your government is doing should know that the people of El Salvador who are being murdered are from every segment of the society—peasants, students, businessmen, workers, clergy; anyone who opposes the junta. What they want is a democratic government; what they receive is midnight kidnapping, torture and execution. The U.S. policy in El Salvador is one which has been used before, in Iran, Vietnam, Nicaragua. It seeks to protect profit and influence at the expense of the ordinary citizen's blood. In Iran, Vietnam and Nicaragua the results of such a policy were clear and yet it is now being tried again in El Salvador.

People have a right to determine the direction of their country and their lives, and we, as Americans who believe in that right, must speak out against our government's intervention in the lives of the El Salvadorian people.

DENOUNCE U. S. INTERVENTION IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE!!

SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR!!

Interested persons should contact:

U. S. SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR

CTR Box 2447

U. S. F.

Tampa, Florida 33620

PROGRESSIVE STUDENT UNION

CTR BOX 2447

University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33620

Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.
1837 Highland Avenue
National City, CA
92050



PROGRAMATIC PLATFORM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

The economic and social structures of our country, which have guaranteed the exaggerated enrichment of a ruling class minority and the exploitation of our people by Yankee Imperialism, are today in a profound and insoluble crisis.

Also in a state of crisis are the military dictatorship, the judicial system, and the ideology which the ruling class interests and the North American imperialisms have defended and continue to defend, oppressing and subjecting the Salvadorean people for half a century. The ranks of these dominant classes have begun to crack, and the fascist and reformist attempts to overcome the crisis have failed, victims of their own contradictions and bettered by the determined and heroic actions of the popular movement. Even the more and more shameless intervention of North America in support of these anti-popular projects has not prevented this failure.

This faithful attachment of the revolutionary organizations to the interests and aspirations of the Salvadorean People has permitted them to permanently strengthen and deepen their roots within the working class majorities. Because of its deep-rooted popular support, the revolutionary movement is now indestructible and constitutes the only alternative for the Salvadorean People, whose fight to gain a free country in which their dreams will be realized cannot be detained or diverted.

It is the economic and political crisis of the ruling class on the one hand, and on the other the struggle of the popular movement, constructing the decisive political force of our country, which has given birth to a revolutionary process and the conditions under which the People take power.

The revolutionary transformation of our society, which has up until this time been subjected to injustice, cooptation and plunder, is now a near and plausible reality. Only by means of this transformation will our people gain and secure the liberties and democratic rights which they have been denied. Only the revolution will solve the agrarian problem by generating, in the benefit of the peasant masses and salaried farm workers, material, and spiritual living conditions favorable to the vast majority of our people who are now plunged in misery, cultural backwardness, and alienation, It will be the revolution which wins the real political independence of our country, giving the Salvadorean People the right to freely determine their destiny and to gain true economic independence.

This revolution is a popular, democratic, anti-oligarchic revolution which seeks to win real and effective national independence. Only a revolutionary victory will stop the criminal repression and make it possible for our people to find the peace which they do not enjoy today, a permanent peace based on liberty, social justice, and national independence.

TASKS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REVOLUTION

The tasks and objectives of the revolution in El Salvador are the following:

- 1) To destroy the reactionary military dictatorship of the ruling class and yankee imperialism, imposed and sustained against the will of the Salvadorean People for more than 50 years. Destroy its criminal political-military machinery and establish the Democratic Revolutionary Government, based on the unity of the revolutionary and democratic forces, on the Popular Army, and on the Salvadorean People.
- 2) To put an end to the political, economic, and social domination by the big landlords and capitalists.
- 3) To completely liquidate the economic, political, and military dependence of our country with respect to yankee imperialism.
- 4) To secure the rights and democratic liberties of all our people, particularly for the working class masses, who have least enjoyed these rights.
- 5) To turn over to the people, by means of nationalization and the creation of collective and associated enterprises, the fundamental means of production and distribution presently monopolized by the ruling class and U. S. monopolies: the lands of the big landlords, the production and distribution of electricity, the petroleum refineries, the industrial, commercial, and monopolized service enterprises, foreign commerce, the banks, and the large transportation enterprises. All of this will be supported and stimulated within all branches of the national economy.
- 6) To raise the material and cultural levels of life of the population.
- 7) To create the new army in our country, which will emerge out of the Popular Army constructed in the course of the revolutionary process. Those elements of the present army which are honest, patriotic, and worthy will be able to incorporate themselves into the new army.

- 8) To impel the organization of the people at all levels, in all sectors and forms, to guarantee their active, creative, and democratic incorporation into the revolutionary process and to obtain the closest identification between the people and their government.
- 9) To orient the foreign policy and international relations of our country according to the principles of independence, self determination, international solidarity, peaceful coexistence, equal rights, and mutual respect between nations.
- 10) In addition, to guarantee in our country the peace, liberty, and well being of the People and a continuous social progress.

This revolution, which is already marching forward is not -nor can it be- the work of a group of conspirators; on the contrary, it is the fruit of the struggle of an entire People, in other words, of the workers, the farmworkers, the middle class in general and all the sectors and people honestly democratic and patriotic.

The most conscious and organized ranks of the Salvadorian people, which are already massive, struggle with more and more expansion and unity. Due to their combative disposition, their degree of conscience, concord and organization and their spirit of sacrifice at brink of popular triumph, the worker - farm-worker alliance has confirmed to be the most firm linch pin to guarantee the consequence in practice and the firmness of the movement toward liberation, which together-express the People's unity- the revolutionary forces and the democratic forces are the two great avalanches engendered through a lengthy struggle of liberation by the People of El Salvador.

The decisive task of the revolution of which depends the accomplishment of all its tasks and objectives is the conquest of power and the instauration of a DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT that will take forward, at the head of the People, the construction of a new society.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT ITS INTEGRATION AND PLATFORM OF POLITICAL, STRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will be integrated by representatives of the parties Popular and Revolutionary Movement, organizations, sectors and democratic personalities, ready to participate in the realization of a present Programmatic Platform.

This government will count on the support of an ample social base and politics formulated, in the first place, by the working class, the farm workers and the advanced middle class; closely tied to these, will be all social classes in disposition to carry out this Platform; small and medium industrial business, merchants, artisans, farm owners, (small and medium coffee dealers as well as other type of farming and cattle breeding). It will also include, honest professionals, progressive clergy, democratic parties such as the MNR, advanced sectors of Cristian Democracy; dignified and honest officials of the Military, who are in disposition to serve the interests of the People and all other sectors, groups, personalities, or segments advocating for an ample democracy for the popular masses, for an independent development, for popular liberation.

Presently, all the forces are willing to integrate in a democratic and revolutionary alliance in which the political and religious ideology of each is fully respected. The organic form of this voluntary alliance, serving the Salvadorian People will be the result of a consensus among all those who make it up.

I. IMMEDIATE POLITICAL MEASURES

- 1) Cease repression against the People in all forms and freedom for political prisoners.
- 2) Clarification of the status of prisoners and the disappeared since 1972, and due punishment to those responsible (military or civilians) for crimes against the People.
- 3) Effective disarmament and disolution of the repressive bodies ANSESAL, ORDEN, National Guard, Nacional Police, Rural Police, Customs Police and their respective "Special Seccions", of the "Counter-insurgency School" of Gotera and the so-called "Instructional Engineering Center of the Armed Forces, (CIIFA), of Zacatecoluca, of the regional and sub-urban military patrols, of the private paramilitary groups belonging to the oligarchy and other types of organizations, real or nominal, dedicated to the accion and criminal defamtion against the People and their organizations.
The now mistakingly called Security Forces will be substituted by a civil police force.
- 4) Disolution of the actual powers of the state, (Executive, Legislative and Judicial), derogatory to the Political Constintuion in all the degrees that have been modified or substituted.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will dictate a constitutional law and will organize the State and its activities with the purpose of guaranteeing rights and liberties to the People and the aims of the rest of the objectives and tasks of the Revolution, in this respect the DEMOCRATIC AND REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will adhere to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" of the United Nations.

Such a constitutional law will rule while the Salvadorean People adopt a new Political Constitution which reflect their interests.

- 5) Municipal power will be restructured in such a way that it would be an ample participatory Institution of the masses within the organization of the State, a real organ of the new popular power.
- 6) THE DEMOCRATIC, REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will realize an intense labor of liberating education, a cultural diffusion and organization among the ample masses, with the purpose of promoting a conscious incorporation to the development, strengthening and defense of the revolutionary process.
- 7) Fortify and development of a popular army, to which the components of troops will be incorporated, subofficials, and leaders of the actual Army to maintain a clean conduct, reject foreign interventionism against the revolutionary process and support the liberating struggle of our People.

The new Army will be the true Armed Forces will serve the needs of the People, will be absolutely loyal to its interests and Revolution; it will be and a truly patriotic defensor of our sovereignty and self determination, committed to peaceful existence between countries.

- 8) Our country will be removed from the CONDECA, from the TIAR, and whatever military or police organizations serving as instruments of interventionism.
- 9) THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will establish diplomatic and commercial relationship with all the countries without discrimination of different social systems with base on equality under the law, mutual existence and respecting self-determination.

Special attention will be taken on the development of friendly relationships with Central American countries, (including Panama and Belice), in order to promote peace and non intervention policy. Specifically, relationships with Nicaragua will be promoted as an expression of community, ideas and interest between our revolution and that of the the Sandinistas.

Our country will be incorporated to the Non-aligned countries movement and an invariable policy of world peace affiliation and in favor of distention.

II. STRUCTURAL CHANGES

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WILL PROCEED TO:

- 1) Nationalize all the bank and financial systems. The measure will not affect the deposits and other public interests.
- 2) Nationalize all Foreign Commerce.
- 3) Nationalize the Distribution System of Electricity and productive enterprises, which are owned by private parties.
- 4) Nationalize Oil refineries.
- 5) Expropriate according to national convenience, the monopolistic enterprises in the industry, commerce and services.
- 6) Implement an extensive Agrarian Reform putting the land which is now in the hands of major landholders to the disposition of the great masses working it.
In accordance with an effective plan benefiting the great majority of poor and and medium peasants as well as paid farmworkers, this will promote the development of the agriculture and cattle breeding production.
The Agrarian Reform will not affect small and medium landholders, who will be stimulated and supported so as to better use their land.
- 7) Implement an Urban reform benefiting the great majority without affecting the small and medium real property.
- 8) Fundamentally transform the tributary system, so as the payment of taxes does not only fall on worker's shoulders. Indirect taxes on articles and services of wide consumption. This will not be possible through reforms to the tributary system, but also because the state perceives strong income proceeding from the activity of the nationalized sector of the economy.
- 9) Establish effective mechanisms of credit aid, economic and technical fomentation form small and medium private enterprise in all branches of the country's economy.
- 10) Establish a system of effective planification of the national economy, which will permit the impulse of a balanced development.

III. SOCIAL MEASURES

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT will direct its work in the social terrain toward the following gains:

- 1) Create sufficient work sources so as to absorb unemployment in the least possible time.
- 2) Make an effective salarial policy based on:
 - a. Regulation of all salaries, taking into account the cost of living.
 - b. Energetic policy of control and reduction of prices of articles and services of first necessity.
 - c. Substantial increase of social services to the great popular masses, (Social Security, education, entertainment, health, etc.)
- 3) Put into action a massive construction of popular housing plan.
- 4) Create a Unique National Health System, to guarantee the entire population (urban and rural), an efficient medical service, principally preventive.
- 5) Implement a massive campaign of literacy which will end with the social vices of illiteracy in the shortest amount of time.
- 6) Develop an national educational system, so as to insure primary teaching to the entire population of school age, and the secondary and university education will be substantially amplified, raising the scientific, technical quality and diversify all levels as well as progressively incrementing its gratuity.
- 7) Promote extensive levels of activities and cultural diffusion, supporting and stimulating effectively, artists and national writers, thus reediming and developing the cultural patrimony of the nation, incorporating to the cultural tart of our people the best of universal culture and organizing the access to all manifestation of culture toward the ample popular masses.

It is a unanimous opinion of popular and democratic forces that only with the realizations of measures contained in this Platform, will the profound structural and political crisis of our country, for the benefit of the Salvadorean People.

Only the ogligachy, the North American imperialists and those who serve their anti-patriotic interests oppose and conspire against these changes. As of October 15, 1979, several parties and sectors have intented in vain, from the government, taking to practice a great part of the measures proposed, without first destroying the old reactionary and repressive power and without instituting a truly revolutionary and popular power. This experience has confirmed with all clarity that this transformation task can only be realized by the United Revolutionary Movement in alliance with all democratic forces. The time of this historic liberation victory, for which the Salvadorean People have struggled and heroically shed so much of their own blood, is soon. Nothing or nobody will impede it.

FOR THE UNITY OF REVOLUTIONARY AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES!!!

TOWARD THE CONQUEST OF A DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT!!!

REVOLUTIONARY COORDINATOR OF MASSES

National Political Committee of
February 28 Popular Legues, LP-28

National Executive Direction of
Revolutionary Popular Bloc, B.P.R.

National Party Executive Committee of
Nationalist Democratic Union, U.D.N.

National Coordinating Committe of
Popular Unified Action Front, F. A. P. U.

San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.
February 23, 1980

Dear Mr. President:

A recent news item in the press has concerned me very much. According to the article your administration is studying the possibility of backing the present government junta and giving it economic and military aid.

Because you are a Christian and have said that you want to defend human rights, I take the liberty of expressing my pastoral point of view on this matter and of making a specific request.

I am deeply disturbed over the news that the United States government is studying a way to accelerate El Salvador's arms race by sending military teams and advisors to "instruct three of El Salvador's battalions in logistics, communications and intelligence techniques." If this information is true, the contribution of your administration, instead of favoring greater justice and peace in El Salvador will almost surely intensify the injustice and repression of the common people who are organized to struggle for respect for their most basic human rights.

Unfortunately the present government junta, and especially the Armed Forces and security forces have not demonstrated any ability to solve structurally or in political practice our serious national problems. In general, they have only resorted to repressive violence and this has resulted in a much greater toll of dead and wounded than in previous military regimes whose systematic violation of human rights was

denounced by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The brutal way in which security forces recently evicted and assassinated persons who occupied the Christian Democratic Party headquarters, in spite of the fact that the government junta and the Party—it seems—did not authorize said operation, is evidence that the junta and the Christian Democrats do not govern the country. Rather, political power is in the hands of unscrupulous military personnel who only know how to repress the people and favor the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy.

There is a report that last November "a team of six North Americans was in El Salvador. . . . They gave out some \$200,000 worth of gas masks and bulletproof vests. They also gave instructions on how to use them in riot control." You should be informed that there is evidence to show that beginning then the security forces, with greater personal protection and efficiency, have repressed the people even more violently, using deadly weapons.

Therefore, since I as a Salvadoran and archbishop of the San Salvador archdiocese have the obligation to work for the reign of faith and justice in my country, I urge you, if you really want to defend human rights

- To prohibit the giving of military assistance to the Salvadoran government;
- To guarantee that your government will not intervene directly or indirectly with military, economic, diplomatic or other pressure to determine the fate of the Salvadoran people.

We are going through a serious economic and political crisis in our country, but without a doubt the people are more conscientized and organized and thereby are becoming agents responsible for the future of El Salvador and are the only ones capable of ending the crisis.

It would be deplorable and unjust if by the intervention of foreign powers the Salvadoran people should be frustrated, repressed and hindered from deciding autonomously the economic and political course our country should follow.

It would mean violating a right that we Latin American bishops meeting in Puebla publicly acknowledged—"Legitimate self-determination for our peoples. This will permit them to organize their lives in accordance with their own genius and history and to cooperate in a new international order" (Puebla, 505).

I hope your religious sentiments and your sensitivity for the defense of human rights will move you to accept my request and thereby avoid greater bloodshed in this long-suffering country.

Sincerely,
Oscar A. Romero, archbishop

February 17, 1980.

U.S. INTERVENTION IS EXPECTED IN EL SALVADOR

As the popular struggle in El Salvador advances against the oppressive regime of that country, the U.S. Imperialist intervention becomes more apparent, in their endeavor to halt the revolutionary process of that Central American country.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind that the downfall of the tyrant Carlos Humberto Romero was a result of an American plot in conjunction with the Christian Democratic Party of El Salvador. The objective of this plot was to halt the rising fight by the Salvadorian people for liberation from the oppression of the ruling class and Imperialism.

One month before the replacement of General Romero, representatives of the Christian Democrats had been present in a meeting that took place at the American Embassy. The purpose of this meeting was to draft plans which culminated in the installment of a government that, although calling itself liberal, proceeds to deceive the people and to cripple the development of the revolutionary process that is growing within the heart of the people.

It is not strange, within this context, that there have been numerous visits of American officials to Central America, especially to El Salvador after the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza. Among these Washington officials was William Bowdler, remembered for his role in U.S. numerous interventions in Nicaragua. Interventions that were geared to impede the popular victory of the Sandinistas.

Immediately after the regime of Carlos Humberto Romero was replaced, the State Department in Washington expressed its willingness to provide any economic or military aid to the new regime.

A few days ago, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced that the United States was studying the possibility of a 49 million dollar loan to the government of El Salvador which will help stabilize this government. There was also talk regarding a 5 million dollar loan for military purposes.

At the same time it was revealed that during his recent visit to Central America, William Bowdler, pressured the Guatemalan and Honduran regimes to prevent any arms from reaching the Salvadorian Revolutionaries through these frontiers.

In the same way, regional observers do not discount Washington's role behind the denounced plans to invade El Salvador. This plan would be executed by a mercenary army of 5,000 men that according to reports is being organized in Guatemalan bases by war expert Mario Sandoval Alarcon.

Inside of El Salvador, the fact of U.S. intervention is well-recognized, and has been evidenced by more than one incident during William Bowdler's recent visit to that country.

On January 25 of this year, Carlos Ruth of the Nationalist Democratic Alliance of El Salvador was killed when the car in which he was travelling was machine-gunned in front of the American Embassy in San Salvador. The possibility that the fire came from the same American imperialist embassy, which is heavily guarded by a large number of marines, has not been discarded in El Salvador.

In addition, three days before this incident, on January 22nd, Jose Humberto Mejia and Francisco Arnoldo Ventura, university students, were kidnapped by U.S. Marines and repressive Salvadorian forces and kept in the U.S. Embassy. After that date, their whereabouts are unknown.

As, during their struggle, the Nicaraguan people affirmed their opposition to direct U.S. military intervention, so today the Salvadorians assure that, in such an event, they will fight side by side against the enemy just as the peoples of Cuba, Viet-Nam and Angola did.

The revolutionary organizations of El Salvador, each day more unified in the struggle, have asked for an intense and broad solidarity of Central America, of all Latin America, and of other countries of the world in the face of the interventionist threats of American imperialism.

Commentary on the Reality of El Salvador
February 4, 1980 - El Salvador
Impending Intervention

U.S. Intervention in El Salvador is materializing:

In a recent commentary we echoed the denunciation of a threatened invasion of El Salvador from Guatemala, which is included in imperialist plans to prevent the victory of a social revolution in the smallest country of Central America.

New information on those invasion plans was given by the Liberation Popular Forces Farabundo Marti in a document published by papers in Costa Rica, Mexico and other countries. It is affirmed in this document that the Guatemalan Army and thousands of ex-Somocista soldiers, who fled the country with the overthrow of the Nicaraguan Tyranny, will participate in the invasion.

After affirming that such an interventionist threat corresponds to the desires of Washington to drown the struggle of El Salvador for emancipation, the Popular Liberation Forces Farabundo Marti asked for the solidarity of the entire world in order to keep imperialism from materializing these plans of aggression.

The people of El Salvador, points out the document, have never wanted the war, but have had to confront for 48 years military regimes which have used the most violent repression to maintain the privileges of an oligarchic society and of imperialism.

We don't want war, underlines the document, but we have to fight for the right to build for our country an independent, democratic future of fraternity and equality for the immense majority now oppressed.

The Popular Liberation Forces Farabundo Marti point out, similarly, the importance of the principles of revolutionary unity that this organization reached in the beginning of this year with the National Resistance and the Communist Party. This unity is considered transcendental in this starting stage of the decisive battle for the people's conquest of power. In the face of the counterrevolutionary war imposed by the oligarchy and imperialism, underlines the document, the popular reply has been the intensification of the revolutionary struggle.

Finally, this guerrilla organization points out, participation in the popular government that sooner or later will arise in El Salvador will include members of the working class, peasants, the middle class, the progressive members of the clergy, the small and medium business people and industrialists, and the young officials of the army who don't have their hands stained with blood and are willing to serve their people.

Commentary on the Reality of El Salvador
February 4, 1980 - El Salvador
Impending Intervention

In another development, the Unified Popular Action Front (FAPU) of El Salvador announced today that it is quite possible that a fascist coup d'etat Chilean style could occur in that country, led by forces which would not refrain from the assassination of half a million Salvadorians in order to destroy the struggle of the people.

The FAPU formulated a call to the young, honest and progressive members of the military to impede the success of a manoeuvre of this kind.

Also, the FAPU called on the democratic governments of the world, particularly those of Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, the countries which are members of the Andean Pact, and all peace lovers, to guard the interests of the Salvadorian people, who have been repressed and massacred for the last 10 years, and to impede the realization of such a fascist move.

RECENT VISIT TO EL SALVADOR

At the present time El Salvador finds itself in a chaotic situation. It is the scene of intense social contradictions, and there is a profound polarization inside the class struggle. The many aspects of this chaotic reality have been recreated by the Mexican Journalist Mario Menendez Rodriguez, who recently visited El Salvador on a special mission of the press agency, Prensa Latina.

Today and in the commentaries which will follow, we will present the essential facts of the above mentioned journalistic documents. These facts, according to Menendez Rodriguez, explain the reality of the profound economic, political, judicial, ideological, cultural and spiritual crisis in which El Salvador finds itself. These facts also demonstrate the inevitability of a popular insurrection by the people of El Salvador, who are no longer willing to put up with repression and public disgrace.

The possibility of a peaceful solution to the severe and numerous problems of 5 million Salvadorians has been totally blocked by 14 ruling class families who in conjunction with North American Imperialists completely control the economy of this Central American nation. Mario Menendez Rodriguez adds that no one doubts, and the Catholic Church states daily, that the violence has been imposed on the people by these 14 families. They are unsociable, insolent, ignorant, and intransigent criminals, with a feudal mentality, whose armed forces, special security forces, and numerous paramilitary groups have created a climate of terror and destruction.

In the streets of El Salvador and in the clear light of day, Menendez Rodriguez witnessed human beings being hunted down like animals. He saw men, children, women and old people fall under the fire of machine guns that were sent the Salvadorian regime by the U.S. government. These people of all ages died only because they were asking for bread, work, housing, education, health, and the right to liberty and democracy. In cities, towns, farms, and factories Mario Menendez Rodriguez saw the bodies of peasants and workers who had been horribly mutilated. In many cases their genitals had been cut off and put in their mouths, their eyes were pulled out and their tongues or faces amputated, their fingers destroyed by muriatic acid. He saw other decapitated bodies, the heads of which were put on display to terrorize the people.

Menendez Rodriguez also relates in the first of his

reports about the Salvadorian situation, the manner in which many church members were massacred for having sided with the people in their fight for liberty, democracy, and social justice. In the bloody streets of San Salvador, he saw the priest Octavio Ortiz raised his arms to form a cross and asked for mercy for the people who had been wounded while participating in a demonstration. The government killers paid no attention to his pleas and his tears. A government tank ran him over to assure his death.

There is also the case of Felipe Jesus Chacon, the highly respected leader of the Christian encounters movement and father of Juan Chacon Vasquez, Secretary General of the Revolutionary Popular Block. In addition to the tortures which he received, they peeled the skin from his face, a face which announced the new man, they pulled out his eyes which had witnessed so many crimes, and they cut off his tongue with which he had denounced the 14 families of the Salvadorian ruling class.

Mario Menendez Rodriguez points out that for the people of El Salvador, there is no road left to be followed but that of revolutionary violence in response to the terror imposed on them by the extreme right. It has been decided, after trying every peaceful means possible, that the people will exercise their legitimate and supreme right of Insurrection.

A COMMENTARY REGARDING THE REALITY
OF EL SALVADOR. February 21, 1980. El Salvador
Visit to El Salvador II

Recent visit to El Salvador

In a recent mission the journalist Mario Menendez Rodriguez stayed in El Salvador several weeks, and while he was there he able to confirm the explosive situation of that country. El Salvador where within the ruling class, 14 families own and control the national economy at the expense of the misery and hunger of millions of salvadorans.

Mario Menendez Rodriguez himself, as a special envoy of the news agency Prensa Latina, was witness to the determination of a people to build a better future and the strength of their revolutionary struggle.

Now more than ever before, the Mexican Journalist emphasizes in his report that the dispossessed are determined to destroy the old and decaying economic, political and social structures of El Salvador, county where an intolerable military Dictatorship, serving as the guardian of the interests of the National ruling class and foreign capital, has governed for more than 50 yrs.

The facts which follow reflect the dramatic situation in El Salvador, a country in which a few landowners own the best arable land, 58% of the population have less than \$10 dollars a month for their subsistence and only 1e out of 100 people are employed during a whole year.

In El Salvador the illiteracy rate is 60% in the rural areas and 40% in the city, there are less than 3 doctors per each 1000 People. All of these doctors are heavily concentrated in the nation's capital. The Hospital system counts with less than 2 beds for each 1,000 inhabitants.

As far as the housing problem in San Salvador is concerned, more than 200,000 people live under inhuman conditions protected only by shacks made out of cardboard and newspapers without any running water, electricity or toilets.

Mario Menendez Rodriguez stay in El Salvador coincided with the unity that was formed between the Revolutionary forces and Democratic forces of that Central American nation.

In his report, the Mexican Journalist refers to this Revolutionary unity and says that the uncontainable march of the Salvadorian People gains even more strenght because, for the first time, the popular forces of Liberation- Farabundo Marti (FPL), The Salvadorian Communist Party (PCS), the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), and the People's

A COMMENTARY REGARDING THE REALITY OF EL SALVADOR
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Visit to El Salvador - I

Revolutionary Army (ERP) which are the most widely known political-military organizations of this nation, are acting in a common agreement of Unity.

At the same time he adds, this unity of action is also seen in practice between the mass organizations POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY BLOCK (BPR), FRONT OF UNIFIED ACTION (FAPU), POPULAR LEAGUES 28th OF FEBRUARY (LP-28) AND THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONALIST UNION (UDN). The important and influential sectors of the Catholic Church and the Social Democratic tendency, as well as the Progressive forces of the Christian Democrats and the armed forces are indifferent to this unity.

In addition, like Mario Menendez Rodriguez has seen in his trip through El Salvador, the Unity among the different Revolutionary and Democratic forces is evident as is the incorporation of the Revolutionary Party of the Workers and the Popular Liberation Movement, founded in 1979, as well as other leagues and organizations.

The report which Melendez Rodriguez made was extensive, covering every Public Demonstration, armed occupation of cities, small town, villages, farms and factories. It reveals the coordination that is conducive to the qualitative development of the Revolutionary Process in El Salvador.

CENTRAL AMERICA: AREA UNDER TENSION

The past weekend Central America was a scene of severe tension, caused by the criminal and repressive policies of the Guatemalan and Salvadorian governments and by the rising influence of Imperialism in that region of our America.

In El Salvador Para-Military Terrorists killed the Attorney-General of the republic, Mario Zamora Rivas, who recently had been accused by one of their leaders, the retired Major Roberto Darbizon, of being a member of the Farabundo Marti - Popular Liberation Armed Forces.

A few hours later, the offices of the National Federation of Unions in the capital of that country was destroyed by an explosion. In addition Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, of San Salvador, has been threatened once again with death by the ultra-right paramilitary groups.

In the meantime in Guatemala it was revealed that special anti-riot troops have been mobilized to the south region of the country by the government. In this region thousands of farmworkers have gone on strike to demand economic and social improvements.

Simultaneously it was announced in Mexico that last week the para-military organizations of the Guatemalan regime killed more than 10 citizens of that Central American country.

In Nicaragua, various agencies of the press have revealed that sections of the United States Congress and State Department are planning to use a 75 million dollar loan to blackmail that Central American country.

With respect to this intermeddling maneuver by the U.S., the journal Barricada, which is published in Managua, stated that 46 years after the assassination of Augusto Cesar Sandino, in which the U.S. was heavily involved, there are still today sectors of the U.S. government that insist on considering Nicaragua as one of their colonies.

Other examples of U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Central America were made public in N.Y. and in Paris. The N.Y. press repeated the declarations of U.S. government officials that have stated that president Jimmy Carter has sent a message in support of the Salvadorian dictatorship.

In the meantime in Paris, the French capital, members of a revolutionary organization of El Salvador, denounced

the U.S. government for granting military aid to the Salvadorian regime to the value of 50 million dollars. They added that a fleet of heicopter gunships, like the ones used in the genocidal war against Vietnam, were located presently at the Ilopango Airport, which is located about 10 kilometers from San Salvador.

For almost an entire century the North American Imperialists have dominated as they wanted the Central American countries, where they have carried out numerous military interventions, have imposed unpopular and criminal regimes, have exploited the natural resources of the region and have supported economically and militarily the worst tyrannies of that region.

The results of the U.S. intervention in the Central American countries have been shocking, as exemplied by the massive bloodshed that has occurred, the robbing and waste of the resources of these countries. Now that these countries have said " enough " to so many years of oppression and have intensified their centenary fight for the right to democracy and progress the Imperialist are trying to ablolish that right and to drown in blood the people's desire for liberty.

Obsessed with reliving the politics of the Cold War, of Gunboat diplomacy and the Big Stick Policy, the Imperialist forget that the times have changed and the correlation of forces is in favor of the opposition, independence, democracy, progress and the peace.

Commentary on the Reality in El Salvador
February 28, 1980--El Salvador
Church and Insurrection

The Catholic Church and the Popular Insurrection

The intensification of the official terror in El Salvador and the boost of the revolutionary struggle have reached such dimensions that the inevitable result will be the insurrection of the popular forces.

As the events are unfolding in the tiny Central American nation, there is no place for middle of the road positions. In El Salvador one is either with the people or against them, with those who perpetuate counterrevolutionary violence or on the side of those who oppose violent oppression. There is no other alternative than to exert revolutionary violence.

In El Salvador, the Catholic Church and its highest representative, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, have put themselves on the side of those who confront the cause of the dispossessed, workers, peasants, and students who struggle for liberty and social progress.

By aligning themselves with the people, many priests have been assassinated, tortured or expelled from El Salvador. In this country the security forces and the paramilitary forces kill priests who advance social liberation. Candidates for the priesthood and other persons who are bound in one manner or another to ecclesiastical work have not escaped the repression. Even parishioners have been massacred inside the temples.

There have been quite a few attempts against the life of Monsignor Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador. And recently the explosion of a powerful bomb silenced the Catholic Radio Station for defending the interests of the people.

In a recent interview with the Archbishop given to Mario Menendez (journalist), Oscar Arnulfo Romero expressed that the Salvadorean Catholic Church understands that it is necessary to demand social justice and denounce the exploitation of man by man, the discrimination and exploitation that the oligarchy and the armed forces practice against the people. To promote the complete liberation of the people, to promote structural changes, to stand by the people who struggle for their liberation, the Prelate announced, are the duties of an authentic church that marches along side the people.

The Archbishop added that the politicization of classes in the society brings with it the realization that it is not possible for the Salvadorean oligarchy to maintain its privileges at the price of human dignity.

In our country the Archbishop added, the oligarchy is the cause of the repression and the structural crisis, and it is the principal cause of the political, economic and social underdevelopment that affects this Central American nation.

In another part of his declarations to La Prensa Latina, Oscar Arnulfo Romero reaffirmed that the mass organizations are the forces in El Salvador that can win with their struggle an authentic society with justice and liberty.

At the same time he emphasized that the spirit of unity that exists within the Salvadorean popular organizations, and the chief of the Catholic Church in El Salvador emphasized that when a dictatorship attempts against human rights and good will of the whole people, when it becomes unsupportable and the doors are closed to dialogue, understanding and human relations, it is then when the Church speaks of the right of the people to a violent insurrection as the only solution.

The oligarchy's struggle to defend the indefensible does not have a perspective, taking into consideration the spirit of combat of our people. Inclusively, it could bring a short-lived triumph to the forces at the service of the oligarchy, but the voice of justice will be heard again and grow with the struggle of the whole people not to be quiet. Unlike the oligarchy threatens, to fill cementaries with bodies, the Archbishop said, a victory like that will never be won by the oligarchy against the people of El Salvador.