



**Unitarian Universalist  
Service Committee**

**Human Rights  
Advisory Panel**

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**Robert E. White**  
Former Ambassador  
to El Salvador

Dear Fellow American:

Unless we all act quickly, our country may soon be involved in a full-scale land war in Central America -- a war we should not fight and cannot win.

As former U.S. ambassadors to El Salvador, we know first-hand how dangerous the situation there is. In light of our experience, the two of us (one Republican and one Democrat) are sending out a bipartisan appeal for your help in averting a tragedy.

Step by step, our government is drawing us ever closer to direct U.S. troop involvement in Central America:

-- The U.S.-directed mining of Nicaragua's harbors, which conservative Senator Barry Goldwater called "an act of war."

-- The Administration's declaration that the United States will not accept the jurisdiction of the World Court on Central American questions, rejecting bipartisan U.S. policy since 1946.

-- The use of U.S. pilots to fly regular reconnaissance missions over Salvadoran battlefields, and putting U.S. military trainers with Salvadoran pilots on some combat missions.

-- The training of American troops for a war in the Central American terrain, conducted at new U.S.-built military facilities throughout Honduras.

-- The CIA's manual for the Nicaraguan rebels, instructing them on assassination and terrorism.

Recently, four American CIA employees were killed when their surveillance plane crashed in El Salvador, perhaps shot down by the guerrillas. Two of our soldiers have been killed already in Central America. How long will it be before more American soldiers or pilots are wounded or killed in combat, by accident or by design?

(over please)

As U.S. diplomats experienced in Central America, we know that the region's conflicts will not be solved by a quick dose of U.S. military power. The main source of conflict is not any outside force, but rather the long-standing problems of poverty and injustice. These are the problems we should be addressing.

Twenty years ago, President John F. Kennedy said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable."

In Central America, he has certainly been proven right. Decades of despotic governments have blocked every peaceful path to social justice and economic reform, while the gap between rich and poor has grown ever wider. In frustration, some have turned toward those who advocate force.

Tragically, the United States has responded to this growing pressure for change by pouring millions of dollars of military aid into the region, \$196 million to El Salvador in fiscal 1984 alone. Yet, as you know, the results are grim.

More than 40,000 Salvadorans have been killed since 1979, the vast majority civilians. Over a million -- one-fifth of the entire population -- have been forced to flee their homes, and tens of thousands have sought refuge in the United States. Despite the recent peace talks, the war there rages on.

Only more suffering, destruction and death lie down the military road in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. It is time -- it is past time -- to find the road to peace.

We are writing to seek your help for an organization which is making a real difference in that search -- the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

For five years, UUSC has been deeply involved in numerous public and private efforts for peace and human rights throughout Central America. Its record of accomplishment is truly remarkable, as you can see:

El Salvador -- In close cooperation with Senator Paul Tsongas, UUSC played a crucial role behind the scenes in bringing about the recent talks at La Palma.

Shuttling between Washington and Central America, a UUSC representative carried confidential messages between leaders of the Duarte government, the Salvadoran military, the armed opposition, and the Catholic Church, helping to establish the necessary conditions for dialogue.

~~Nicaragua -- UUSC helped make possible face-to-face talks between Brooklyn Rivera, head of the Miskito Indians' main guerrilla forces, and Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinistas. These discussions were aimed at establishing peace and respect for the Miskitos' traditions and concerns.~~

U.S.A. -- UUSC has led ten delegations of members of Congress and other influential leaders on bipartisan fact-finding missions to Central America. These allow U.S. policy-makers and opinion-shapers to hear a broad range of views about the results of our policies in the region.

On these missions, participants meet with U.S. ambassadors, the heads of state, military commanders, business and political leaders. They also talk with Catholic Church leaders, union and farmworker representatives, survivors of human rights abuses, refugees, and leaders of the armed opposition.

After these missions, the participants have shared their findings with the Congress and the American people. On television and radio, in newspaper and magazine articles, in ~~public speeches and private letters, they are working to head off~~ the growing threat of direct U.S. military intervention.

As Minnesota Congressman James Oberstar has said, "UUSC has had more impact on tempering U.S. foreign policy toward Central America than any other group or agency."

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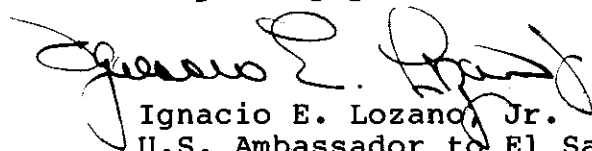
We agree. That's why we both now serve on the panel advising UUSC's work in the region. And that's also why we are inviting you to help at this crucial moment.

UUSC is now readying several more missions to search out the possibilities for dialogue and diplomacy before it's too late.


But in order to proceed, UUSC must obtain funding from individual contributors. This fine organization, with its non-sectarian programs for human rights around the world, relies on the generosity and concern of people like you.

Please send a contribution to help the search for peace. Your immediate response is of critical importance to the people of Central America, and to the people of the United States.

Very truly yours,



Ignacio E. Lozano, Jr.  
U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador  
1976 - 1977



Robert E. White  
U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador  
1979 - 1981

P.S. Help us act now, before we're embroiled in a tragic war.  
Your check today will make a real difference.