

# WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA

110 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

(202) 544-8045

July 21, 1983

Dear Friends,

The Washington Office on Latin America and P.E.A.C.E. for Guatemala (Program for Emergency Assistance, Cooperation and Education) invite you to participate in a working session on Guatemalan refugees. The half day session will focus upon sharing information, dialog and identifying principle areas of importance and possible approaches to responding to them.

The session will take place July 29, 1983 from 9:00-12:30 a.m. at the Church of the Reformation, 212 E. Capitol Street, Washington D.C. (2 blocks directly east of the Capitol) in St. John's Conference Room #1. Coffee and donuts will be served upon arrival and at 9:15 a videotape on the refugees in Chiapas will be shown. The remaining time will be given to a series of panel discussions with full audience participation where attention will be directed to the current Guatemalan refugees' situation in Honduras, Mexico, the United States and the policies of those respective governments toward the refugees. The internal situation in Guatemala as it relates to refugees will also be considered.

Please bring with you any publications you can share with the other participants including information you may have on audio-visual materials relating to Guatemalan refugees. Also, we would request that you bring a brief, written biographical sketch of your organization and your involvement or interest in Guatemalan refugees. The sketches will be reprinted by the Washington Office on Latin America in a report on this working session which will be sent to all session participants.

Immediately following the working session, at 12:30, a luncheon will be given at which there will be a special guest speaker. Gisela von-Muhlenbrock Clarke, Foreign Law Specialist with the Hispanic Law Division of the Library of Congress, will be speaking on "The Rights of Refugees and the Duties of States vis-a-vis Refugees." A former Chilean law professor, she has been researching this topic for publication later this fall.

We are looking forward to a very productive meeting with all of you!

Warm summer greetings,

Dana V. Martin

R.S.V.P. (202) 544-8045