

An Urgent Message From:

Romey Clark

Dear Friend,

Over the past several weeks, the crisis in Central America has worsened. Those who seek peace must act now to prevent further bloodshed and devastation.

I am writing to tell you about an important program that has been developed to combat the threat of U.S. military intervention in Central America, and to ask for your personal support.

The concern and outrage that you and millions of other Americans have already expressed over our nation's support for repressive, dictatorial regimes has helped spark strong Congressional opposition to President Reagan's Central American policies. More than 104 members of Congress, including 14 Republicans, recently signed a letter supporting Mexican President Lopez Portillo's peace initiatives.

In addition, Congressional legislation has been introduced which would prohibit the use of American troops in El Salvador, would prohibit the use of American funds for covert actions in Nicaragua, and would oppose the resumption of military aid to Guatemala.

Further evidence of widespread opposition to President Reagan's Central American policies include:

. . . Polls show Reagan's policies lack public support. Recent public opinion polls in Newsweek and the New York Times found an overwhelming majority of Americans want the United States to "stay out" of El Salvador.

. . . The media is "opening up" to opposition viewpoints. The true story of U.S. involvement in Central America is finally starting to be heard. Stories that only a year ago would have gone unpublished or have been buried on the back pages of the New York Times, are now on the front page of virtually every newspaper in the country.

. . . Our allies oppose U.S. intervention in Central America. Despite strong pressure from the Reagan Administration, France, Mexico, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Greece, and Ireland, have recognized the popular opposition in El Salvador. All of our allies have full diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan government, and many have indicated their opposition to U.S. military policies in the region.

(continued on page 2)

But the Reagan Administration has indicated, time and time again, that it is prepared to do "whatever is prudent and necessary" to sustain the military and oligarchy in El Salvador and Guatemala. They are spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to shape "favorable" news coverage of events in Central America. Their message, based on inflammatory, often misleading rhetoric, has been successful in helping to maintain a strong American presence in the region.

We can bring an end to U.S. military involvement, and bring peace and stability to Central America. But to do so, we must forcefully counter the Reagan Administration's "misinformation" program.

A comprehensive program has been developed to challenge the Administration's propaganda and misinformation effort. The organization sponsoring this endeavor is the Disarm Education Fund, an organization that I helped create more than five years ago. The Disarm Education Fund supports a demilitarized foreign policy. It believes that freedom from war is a fundamental human right. . . that countries have a right to seek their own political solutions without the threat of intervention by the United States. . . and that U.S. foreign policy must be carried out with the full knowledge and consent of the American people.

The program that we have developed consists of three basic elements:

1. Fact-Finding. Prominent fact-finding delegations, which include representatives of national religious, professional, academic, and social action organizations concerned with the widening conflict in Central America, travel to the region. They meet with government officials, opposition leaders, and the local population. The purpose is to obtain credible, first hand "eyewitness" accounts of the nature of the conflict, and to determine the extent of American involvement. Previous Central American delegations have included representatives from the National Association of Social Workers, the American Public Health Association, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the National Council of Churches, the Washington Office on Latin America, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, and the Center for Development Policy.

2. Media Outreach. To counter Administration propaganda, and to offer alternatives to the Administration's foreign policies, delegation members will participate in an extensive communications program immediately upon their return. This includes news conferences, meetings with the editorial boards of national news magazines and newspapers, publication of guest editorials, and appearances on radio and television interview programs.

3. Congressional Briefings. The Congress frequently lacks access to information and points of view that are critical of official U.S. policy. Upon their return, delegation members will therefore testify at House and Senate Committee Hearings, hold informal Congressional briefings, and meet personally with Members and their staffs.

(continued on page 4)

Central American Battleground

- Rigged presidential election (3-7-82)
- Followed by military coup (3-23-82)
- More than 50 U.S. military advisors in Guatemala.
- U.S. aid: \$4,000,000 (1982).

- Military-run elections (11-29-81).
- More than 90 U.S. military advisors sent (12-81).
- \$26,700,000 in U.S. military assistance (1982).
- Greater assistance planned for 1983.

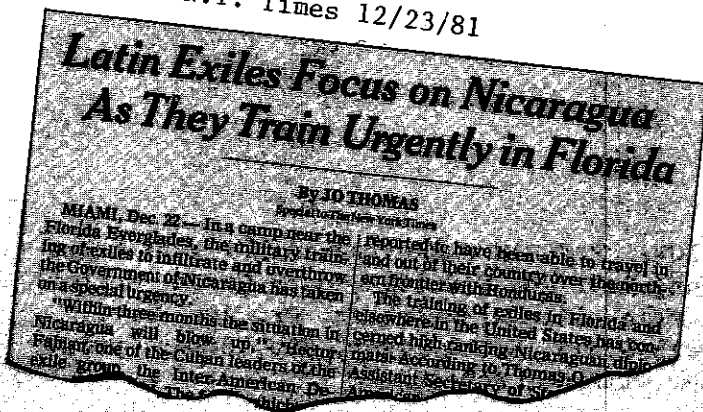


- 30,000+ civilians killed by military since 1979.
- 4 U.S. religious workers, 4 Dutch journalists murdered by military (1981-82).
- 1,000,000 Salvadorans uprooted, homeless.
- \$90 million in military aid to Junta in 1982.
- Even greater military aid projected for 1983.

- Somoza dictatorship overthrown after 46 years (7-79).
- U.S. cuts off all economic aid and international credit (1981).
- Reagan approves \$19 million CIA "covert actions" to destabilize Nicaraguan government (1982).
- Reagan Administration permits military training in U.S. of exiles for future invasion (1982).

- Runaway inflation threatens major social upheaval (1982).
- U.S. warns Costa Rica that unless they develop an army, further U.S. aid may be eliminated — Costa Rica has had no army for 30+ years.

N.Y. Times 12/23/81



And, now our tax dollars are being used for military training of exiles so that they can go back home and kill and maim and make war on civilians.

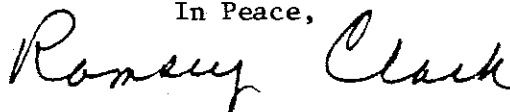
HELP DISARM disarm Central America!

If this program sounds ambitious, believe me, it is. But it has a tremendous potential for success in helping to end the senseless violence and loss of life that has become so commonplace throughout Central America.

Your support can help make the difference. The Disarm Education Fund is not an organization "top heavy" with bureaucracy. You won't receive a slick magazine or newsletter. Every penny, except for the minimal cost of this appeal, will go to defray the costs of this program, and will bring our message to the Congress and the American people.

The Fund's work is vital and unique. . . . and it is solely dependent upon the support of people like yourself. Please return the enclosed envelope with your tax-deductible contribution, and please be as generous as possible. Your support will insure that we are able to continue our efforts in the critical days ahead.

In Peace,



Ramsey Clark

***The Disarm Education Fund
113 University Place
New York, N.Y. 10003***

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U.S. to Train 1,500 Salvadoran Soldiers

By RICHARD HALLOGAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 — The Reagan Administration plans to train 1,500 Salvadoran soldiers.

He said the Soviet Union had shipped Cuba more arms in 1981 than in any year since the 1962 missile crisis.

Mr. Iklé testified: "In 1970, Soviet naval vessels spent approximately 200 ship days in the south Atlantic. In 1980, this number had increased 13-fold to 2,600 ship days."

U.S. Advisers at 'Torture Class,' Salvadoran Says

By RAYMOND BONNER

Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY — A 21-year-old who asserts that he is a former Salvadoran soldier says that United States military advisers were present at two "training sessions" early last year when two suspected guerrillas were tortured by Salvadoran Army instructors.

In a series of interviews, the young man, Carlos Antonio Gómez Montano, said the men that he described as Americans attended the sessions as observers and did not take part in the torture. But he said they made no apparent effort to stop or protest the activity, in the case of a 17-year-old youth and a 13-year-old girl.



- Did you know that the U.S. is allowing Nicaraguan exiles to train in Florida and California for a future invasion of Nicaragua?
- Did you know that among the 1500 Salvadoran "troops" being trained here in the U.S. there are kids aged 14 and 15 years?
- Did you know that in an interview with European journalists this February Roberto D'Aubisson who is now El Salvador's main political leader said,

"You Germans are very intelligent; you realized that the Jews were responsible for the spread of Communism and you began to kill them." (Mexico's El Día 2/11/82)



Marcelo Cepeda, left, and Benjamin Cuadra training at a Nicaraguan camp in San Bernardino County in California.

Foes of Nicaragua Regime Train in California

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17 — Small groups of Nicaraguans are undergoing military training under the guidance of Cuban exiles in the southern California desert.

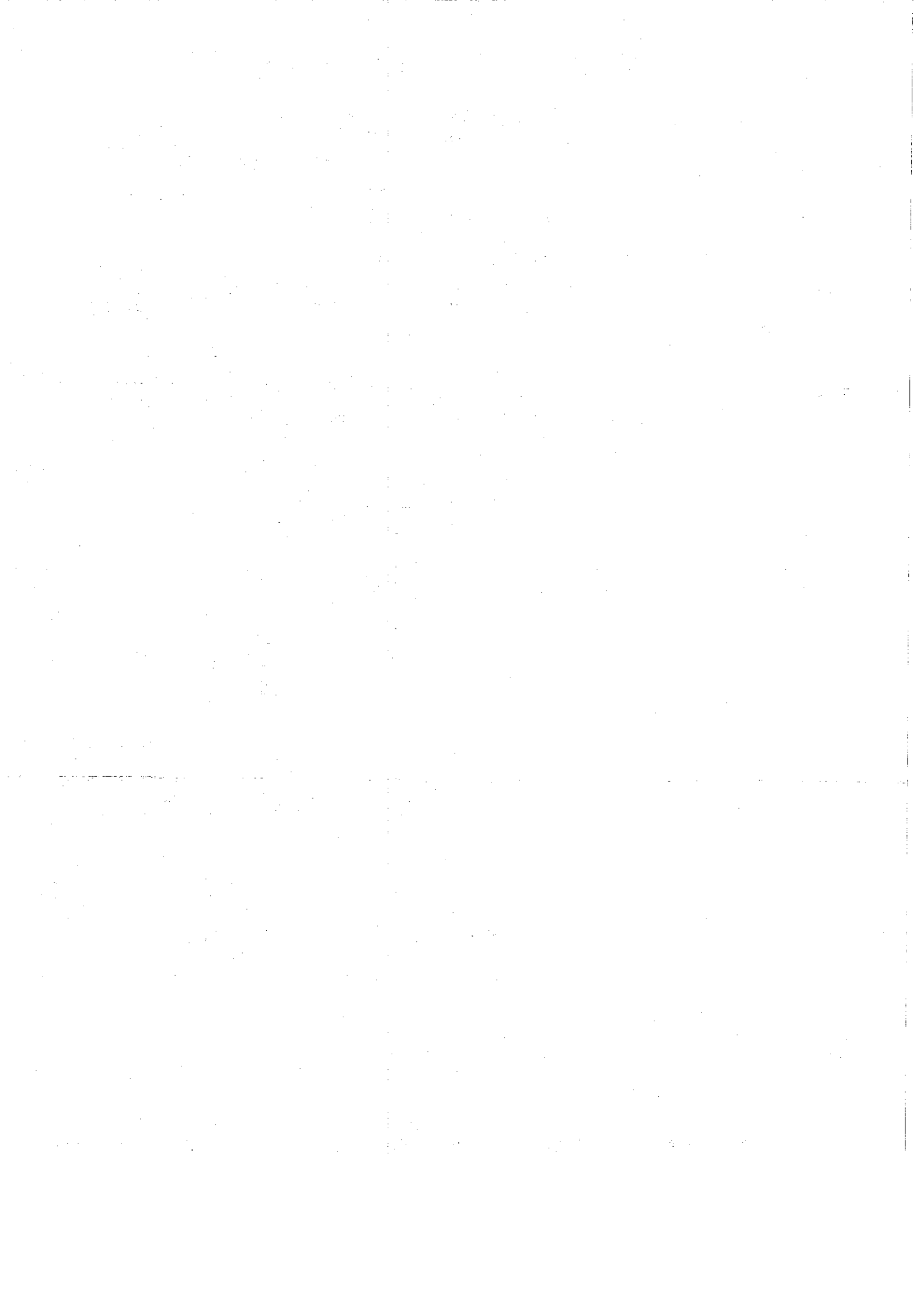
More than one operated by Cuban exiles near the Florida Everglades. Nicaraguan political activists say that military training is also occasionally being given in rural areas of suburban Orange County to the sons of Cuban exiles.

Neutrality Act of 1934, which bars the use of this country as a base of military operations against any country that is at peace with the United States.

How much more is there that we don't know? Who is working to get the truth out?

This is why Disarm needs your help . . . to help Disarm disarm Central America.

Your tax-deductible contribution will support Disarm in three ways: 1) Fact-Finding -- which will send eyewitnesses to investigate elections and discover the truth; 2) Media Outreach -- which will help Disarm counter the misinformation being propagated by our State Department and Pentagon; and 3) Congressional Briefings -- where we will testify and get U.S. policy changed. Help Disarm disarm Central America!



The Amerindians of South America

The Minority Rights Group Report No.15



WINNER 1982 UNA
MEDIA PEACE PRIZE

The Minority Rights Group Report No.15 · The Amerindians of South America



Resisting extinction

For over 20,000 years a wealth of many cultures flourished in South America, both in the high Andean mountains and the lowland jungles and savannas. But the coming of European invaders from the 15th century onwards, with their relentless colonization, destroyed many indigenous peoples. Indigenous nations lost as many as 90% of their populations within the first 50 years of European contact.

Today the deaths and damage continue. Land, the basis of Amerindian life, is continually being taken by governments, multi-national companies and 'development' projects. Amerindian language and culture are under attack, sometimes from unscrupulous forms of fundamentalist Christianity.

The Amerindians of South America, Minority Rights Group's new report no. 15, outlines the threats facing Amerindian peoples today and shows how they are resisting ruthless attempts to exterminate them. Written by Andrew Gray, of the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), based in Copenhagen, this completely new text draws extensively on information largely from indigenous peoples themselves. With sections on Amerindians and colonial history, Amerindian societies and organizations and detailed country profiles, it is supplemented by a map and a list of some of the many indigenous nations. It ends with a vigorous reaffirmation of continuing Amerindian identity in the face of ethnocidal pressures.

A radical reappraisal of Amerindian history, **The Amerindians of South America** reflects the spirit of resistance to colonization and their quest for self-determination. It is essential reading, not only for anthropologists, development agencies, governments and the media, but also all those who are concerned for indigenous peoples and their continuing survival.

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About MRG

MRG is an international research, educational and information unit, which aims to secure justice for minority and majority groups suffering prejudice and discrimination. We aim to educate and alert public opinion, throughout the world, both through our publications and our work at the United Nations. In 1982 MRG was the winner of the UNA Media Peace Prize.

For a full list of our publications and the work we do please write to the addresses below.

We wish to order copies of **The Amerindians of South America** at a price of £1.80/or US\$3.95 per copy, plus 20% P&P, or 10 copies for £13.50/or US\$30.00 post free.

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