

Says Dr. Alvarez Cordova, former Minister of Agriculture and currently President of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, "The junta is being sustained exclusively by the United States. U.S. intervention is a fact and it must stop. Peace can only exist in Central America if El Salvador is allowed to determine its own destiny."

WE HAVE A CHOICE

We in the United States have a choice to make. Knowing all of the above, either we remain silent and allow our government to intervene further in the lives of the people of another nation, turning Central America into another war zone. Or we act, and act now, to prevent this.

The following organizations make up the Democratic Revolutionary Front in El Salvador:

- Popular Unity Action Front
 - Democratic Nationalist Union
 - Popular Leagues of February 28
 - Popular Liberation Movement
 - Popular Revolutionary Bloc
 - National Association of Salvadorean Teachers
 - Christian Federation of Peasants
 - Union of Farmworkers
 - Union of Slumdweller
 - Syndical Coordinating Committee
 - Revolutionary University Forces
 - Salvadorean Revolutionary Student Movement
 - Union of Marketplace Women
 - Union of Bank Employees
 - Federation of Workers
 - Popular Neighborhood Committees
 - International Solidarity Blocs
 - Movement for Popular Culture
 - General Association of Salvadorean Students
 - Association of Salvadorean Bus Line Owners
 - Federation of Food, Clothing and Textile Workers
 - National Federation of Small Enterprise
 - Independent Movement of Progressive Professionals and Technicians
 - Christian Social Movement
 - Union of Workers of the Salvadorean Institute of Social Security
 - Union of Workers of the United Incorporated Industries
 - Central American University
 - University of El Salvador
- (partial list)



YOU CAN HELP STOP U.S. INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR

by writing a letter IMMEDIATELY to:
Sec. of State Alexander Haig
U.S. State Department
Washington D.C. 20520

and

Hon. Mark MacGuigan
Sec. of State for Ext. Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario

Let them know that you are aware, in spite of the press cover-up campaign, of the increasing and crucial level of U.S. intervention in El Salvador, and that you demand that this be ended at once: that the thousands of Salvadorean lives be spared from the merciless vengeance of U.S. military pride.

Calgary Emergency Committee
for El Salvador
3212 Rundelawn Drive N.E.

IS THE U.S. CREATING ANOTHER VIETNAM WAR IN EL SALVADOR?

FOR THE PAST YEAR or so we have read many horror stories about El Salvador. We have been led to believe that a struggle between "leftist extremists" and "rightist extremists" is taking place. The military junta is described as reform-minded and liberal, doing its best to control the violence. Is this really the case?

The 5 million people of El Salvador are some of the poorest in all Latin America. Only 16% of the employable work force works all year round. One out of four children dies before reaching five years of age. Two percent of the population owns 60% of all arable land. The majority of the population receives only 1900 of the 3500 calories necessary to sustain health. The average life span is therefore only 46 years.

Thus it should not be difficult to understand why a people would want to change their lives radically. And they have organized to do just that. In El Salvador, the Democratic Revolutionary Front, which comprises over 150 organizations incorporating all sectors of society at all levels of income and education, was recently formed (see over). Their total membership adds up to nearly one million people; and if one includes entire families in these counts, it becomes clear that it is not a small group of "leftist extremists" as we have been led to believe, but instead the great majority of the Salvadorean population.

On the other side, the ruling junta in El Salvador, installed by the October 15, 1979 coup and professing widespread reforms, has embarked on a campaign of terror and violence virtually unprecedented in the history of El Salvador—with the support of the United States. The U.S. Armed Forces, with massive military aid, equipment, and over one hundred instructors, have been outfitting the Salvadorean armed forces and training them in "modern counterinsurgency war techniques." They have set up three strategically located centers for this, as well as four helicopter bases and a naval base on an island in the Gulf of Fonseca.

Massacre is a daily occurrence, accompanied by the physical leveling and destruction of villages and towns with aerial bombing (including napalm), artillery and armored vehicles. The Red Cross has reported bombing and strafing with helicopter gunships (S.F. Chronicle, Aug. 2).

Since the first of the year over 5,000 Salvadoreans have been murdered with this U.S.-supplied equipment. And right now Congress is preparing to send another \$5 million in FMS (Foreign Military Sales) credits and \$498,000 in IMET (International Military Education and Training) credits for Fiscal Year 1981. Helicopters, jeeps, patrol boats, megaphones, trucks, planes, engines and radios will be sent to the Salvadorian military.

Archbishop Romero slain for his opposition

to the junta's repression

In a letter to President Carter dated February 17, 1980,

Archbishop Romero, a nominee for the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, had this to say:

"It disturbs me greatly that the U.S. government is... sending military equipment and advisors to train three Salvadorean battalions in logistics, communications and intelligence. In the event that this news is accurate your government, instead of favoring greater peace and justice in El Salvador, will undoubtedly aggravate the repression and injustice against the organized people who have been struggling for their fundamental human rights. I ask that if you truly want to defend human rights, you:

*—Prohibit military aid to the Salvadorean government;
—Guarantee that your government will not intervene directly or indirectly with military, economic or diplomatic pressure in determining the destiny of the Salvadorean people."*

The news that the Archbishop heard was accurate: and even he was slain for his outspoken opposition to the growing repression.

On March 25, just two days after his death, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations approved the \$5.7 million in military assistance by a 6-3 vote, despite testimony by the National Council of Churches, Amnesty International and a flood of letters from citizens opposed to the aid. Casting his vote against it, Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Clarence Long (D-Md.) said: "... we would once again be allying ourselves with a repressive right wing dictatorship in Latin America." And today, another \$5.5 million in aid is on the agenda.

What about further intervention? Will the

U.S. create another Vietnam-type war in El Salvador and Central America

Outright U.S. invasion of El Salvador in response to a broad popular insurrection may be too risky a maneuver for the United States at this time. Instead, it is heavily equipping and training the armies of the right-wing governments of Guatemala and Honduras to carry out such an invasion in its place. Honduran troops have already crossed the border and engaged in skirmishes with the popular forces; they also assisted in the massacre of 600 fleeing Salvadorean refugees by Salvadorean National Guard when they refused to let the refugees cross the into Honduras, according to the Honduran Episcopalian Conference. Ex-Somoza troops, Venezuelans and Puerto Ricans are currently being trained as well. Venezuela, which allows the U.S. to train Salvadorean government troops there, is a strong supporter of a U.S. plan for an Andean Pact (5 South

American countries) "peacekeeping force" for possible intervention. Furthermore, the U.S. has set up a Caribbean Rapid Deployment Task Force in Key West, Florida. WHY?

These are ongoing practices the United States government has used to defend the interests of U.S. corporations abroad. After having toppled popular regimes in Guatemala for United Fruit, Chile for Kennecott and Anaconda Copper, after having militarily invaded Cuba in 1961 and the Dominican Republic in 1965, while it continues to use the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico for bombing practice, there is no reason to believe that the U.S. will sit back passively and allow a popular victory in Latin America, after its chagrin at being "taken by surprise" by the triumph of the people in Nicaragua. National Security Chief Zbigniew Brzezinski even admitted that "the United States will never permit a new Nicaragua, even if it must take the most reprehensible measures to prevent it." He later said: "If all else fails, we'll send in the Marines."

Latin America is good business for U.S. corporations, who have approximately \$40 billion dollars invested there and will continue their profit-making operations as long as cheap labor and natural resources are available. They would prefer to pay someone \$3 a day to do the work for which U.S. laborers would receive \$40. Now, however, the people of Latin America are organizing to use their resources for their own collective benefit.

El Salvador Belongs to its People

And today, this is the task that the Salvadorean people are undertaking. They want to determine their own future as they see fit. Their struggle has been a long one, faced with repression at every turn. After years of protest, petition and non-violent occupations, the people have exhausted their peaceful means of resistance. Thus, as the Archbishop stated:

"When a dictatorship seriously attacks human rights and the commonweal of the nation; when it becomes unbearable and all channels of dialogue, understanding and rationality are closed off; when this happens, the Church speaks of the legitimate right to insurrectional violence."

Today the Salvadorean people, united under the broad Democratic Revolutionary Front, are defending themselves against the U.S.-supported junta, its U.S.-trained armed forces, and its paramilitary death squads—all these make up the so-called "rightist extremists." Moreover, they are undertaking an armed offensive to put an end to centuries of exploitation, and thus to begin to create a society based on social justice, freedom and equality.