

"Between peoples there are no borders. Long live solidarity"

LA LUCHA SOLIDARIA

3558 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR. 97214 (503) 236-7916 Summer 1992

Salvadoran Peace Process in Crisis

On February 1, 300,000 people gathered in San Salvador to celebrate the beginning of a new era in El Salvador: a cease fire began, thus ending 12 years of war, as did the task of implementing far-reaching peace accords. The peace accords, signed by the ARENA government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), address the social and economic injustices that were the cause of the armed conflict.

From April 29 to May 10, I participated in the 7th annual CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) May Day delegation to El Salvador. We met with representatives from labor unions and federations, women's organizations, members of the FMLN, human rights organizations, peasant cooperatives, and the UN observer mission (ONUSAL). We also participated in the International Workers Day march on May 1 in San Salvador, a march attended by about 75,000 people and led by the five-member General Command of the FMLN.

CISPES sends delegations to El Salvador every month to provide accompaniment and political support for the grassroots movement, to learn about the conditions in El Salvador, to provide material aid to the grassroots movement, and to pressure the ARENA government to

comply with the accords.

The political atmosphere in El Salvador is one of near crisis. Every group we met with emphasized the government's non-compliance with the accords. The implementation of the accords is seriously behind schedule. The Salvadoran government signed the peace accords from a position of weakness: they were under intense international



Photo by Lisa Petke

Women combatants at the FMLN-END encampment in El Paisnal

pressure and the majority of ARENA leaders recognized they could not win the war militarily. Currently ARENA and the armed forces are attempting to block or delay the implementation of the accords in order to prevent the far-reaching reforms that threaten their position of privilege. The Bush administration is consenting to this position by not pressuring for compliance, because they, too, have no interest in the development of real political, social, and economic democracy in El Salvador.

The most serious example of the disruption of the peace process has been the government's refusal to dismantle the Treasury Police and the National Guard, security forces notorious for their brutality. Rather than dissolve these units by March 2—as

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PCASC NEWS

Was Your Shirt Made in Guatemala by a Woman Working for \$2 a Day?

If your shirt has a Van Heusen label on it, it just might have been. Guatemala, the worst human rights violator in the hemisphere, is home to more than 250 factories that produce brand-name clothing for U.S. companies, including Levi's, The Gap, Gitano, Sears, K-Mart, and Van Heusen. These factories, called maquiladoras, produce goods solely for export and are granted concessions unavailable to other businesses. They employ more than 45,000 workers, mostly women, who are paid just \$1-2 a day (compared with the \$5-6 a day needed for a basic minimum wage in Guatemala).

Conditions in the maquiladoras are often appalling. Workers suffer physical and sexual abuse. Child labor and forced labor are common: workers say that they've been locked into their factories overnight to keep them working.

Workers at two plants owned by Phillips-Van Heusen, the corporation behind the Van Heusen line, have responded to below-subsistence wages, forced labor, 60-70-hour work weeks, sexual harassment, and unsafe working conditions by organizing a union and applying for legal recognition—a right guaranteed by Guatemalan, U.S., and international law. In response, the Guatemalan government has stonewalled recognition of the union. Company managers have threatened and attempted to bribe union organizers in order to get them to quit their jobs. In at least one case, workers say an organizer received death threats from personnel managers. The organizer was later shot and nearly killed.

Such responses by the Guatemalan government and maquiladora owners are standard practice. Maquiladora owners are intent on maintaining their zero rate of unionization in Guatemala. They have responded to unionization efforts by firing union supporters, closing plants after unions are recognized and reopening them a few days later as non-union plants, physical intimidation, death threats, and disappearances.

Across the U.S., supporters of Guatemalan workers are focusing public attention on such labor practices by targeting Phillips-Van Heusen for resisting the unionization efforts of its workers. On May 30, 15 members and supporters of PCASC successfully picketed PVH's factory outlet in Troutdale. Large signs warned shoppers about Van Heusen's abuse of its Guatemalan workers. Potential patrons were handed informational leaflets, and several shoppers vowed



PCASC activists protest unfair labor practices by PVH in Guatemala

Photo by Noel Merritt

on the spot not to shop at PVH.

PVH has already shown some sensitivity to growing public pressure by mounting a counter-propaganda campaign in the U.S. and by nominally raising wages in their Guatemalan factories, in an effort to stave off unionization. By continuing to increase pressure on PVH's avowedly "concerned" CEO Larry Phillips, we have a real chance to both help Guatemalan workers and to create links between workers in the U.S. and those in other countries.

—Jim Salt

THE
PARACLETE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

Colorful Gifts from Self-Help Co-ops!



Open Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm, or by appointment
1132 SW 13th Ave., Portland, 274-5434

The Paraclete Society is a nonprofit international development agency working with people in Latin America in self-help and community development projects. We provide training, technical assistance, start-up loans, and equipment to cooperatives. As part of the alternative trade movement, the Paraclete Society helps producer cooperatives market their products, assuring that artisans receive fair prices for their work.

Take Action

To help workers in Guatemala win their right to a decent wage:

*Write, phone, or FAX Larry S. Phillips, CEO of Phillips-Van Heusen, and urge him to recognize and negotiate with the Guatemalan workers' union, halt all efforts to oppose union supporters and organizers, and promise that PVH won't leave Guatemala in response to the unionization efforts. (Write: Mr. Larry S. Phillips, Phillips-Van Heusen Corp., 1290 Avenue of Americas, New York, NY 10104; Phone: 212-468-7100; FAX: 212-468-7398.

*Write Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias, Presidente de la Republica, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, and urge legal recognition of the Phillips-Van Heusen workers union.

*Participate in upcoming PCASC actions in support of Guatemalan workers. Call PCASC at 236-7916 for information.



Lynn negotiating with Troutdale's finest *Photo by Noel Merritt*

CISPES Summer Camp!

During the last 12 years, CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) has trained thousands of activists in basic organizing skills. In the summer of 1991, more than 100 CISPES members gathered at Camp Kinderland in western Massachusetts for a 7-day training devoted to political analysis and organizational development. This year, CISPES' summer camp is back by popular demand. Camp Kinderland II will focus on political education to deepen our understanding of the political dynamics which shape the struggle in El Salvador and our work in the United States. As part of the political training we'll also participate in a workshop aimed at overcoming oppressive behaviors (racism, sexism, and heterosexism).

This year, thanks to the airline fare wars and cost sharing, PCASC will send three people to summer camp: Jenny Guyer, our staff person, and Steering Committee members Kathy Brock and Jay Harden.

Nicaraguan Activist Speaks in Portland

On April 20, Gladys Baez gave an inspiring as well as informative talk on her work in Nicaragua. As National Coordinator for AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan Women's Association, Ms. Baez spoke of the struggle for women's rights and the dwindling governmental support for basic human needs that affect Nicaraguan women's lives.

AMNLAE is active in the political arena—by getting legislation passed to protect women's rights—and on the social front—by sponsoring 49 Women's Houses, which provide a variety of social services to women and their families. As the Chamorro government continues to cut funding for social services, activists like Ms. Baez play an even greater role in organizing and disseminating services and information.

—Greg Gruszczynski

**You're invited to a benefit concert featuring
Guatemalan marimba music by**

IXIMCHE

We will also be showing a video about the Popular Resistance Communities in the Peten. Proceeds to benefit a children's mental health project in the Peten and PCASC.

Saturday August 29, 1992 7:30-11:00 p.m.

Clinton St. Theatre, 2522 SE Clinton

\$5-10, sliding scale Refreshments available

Call PCASC, 236-7916, for more information



"This is the best marimba band we've ever heard!" -Cathie and Lynn DeWeese-Parkinson

The Status of Women

Women's rights have long been viewed as separate from—and generally, less important than—human rights. Obviously, such attitudes are based on the assumption that women are less than full human beings; thus, for example, abuses specifically directed against women, such as rape, battering, sexual harassment and discrimination, are not considered to be the same as human rights abuses.

Sadly, this bias exists in the solidarity movement, as well.

In Nicaragua, although women formed the backbone of the revolution, accounting for the majority of the neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees which organized everything from civic campaigns and educational workshops to construction projects and inoculation campaigns, it was the men who held—and continue to hold—the leadership positions. And while the FSLN espoused a commitment to ensuring women's equal rights, in practice it failed to follow through on key survival issues such as reproductive rights, sexual harassment and abuse, family planning, and enforcement of anti-battering laws. The FSLN's landmark media law which outlawed the use of women's bodies as sex objects in advertising was the first advance to be ditched by the Frente just prior to the 1990 elections (its repeal enabled the Sandinistas to establish a privately-owned television station).

Today—as well as historically in Nicaragua—the impact of deteriorating economic conditions is hitting women the hardest. Because the economic and social realities of Nicaragua dictate that most Nicaraguan women will spend some, if not most, of their lives as single mothers, it is the women, as the sole support of their families, who are facing the day-to-day realities of their children's hunger; lack of clothing, decent housing and access to medical care; dwindling educational opportunities; and rising infant mortality rate. As the "expendable ones" at the bottom of the social ladder, it was the women who were hardest hit by the mass layoffs, being the first to be fired; and it is the women who fill the streets and the markets, desperately trying to sell anything they can in order to feed their families. And it is the women who are hardest hit by the Chamorro government's steps to replace sex education in the schools with "religious and moral" training, to shut down women's health centers, and to cut off what little access to abortion and family planning that women had.

The impact of the policies of both the FSLN and the Chamorro government takes on an added dimension in light of the fact that women make up more than half the population of Nicaragua and in many areas (most notably the cities where the population increases at a faster rate than the countryside), the vast majority of families are headed by women. The government's refusal to recognize women's rights has had devastating repercussions in Nicaragua and has made it very clear that women's rights are, indeed, synonymous with human rights.

In Guatemala, the position of women is even worse. According to an organizer who recently visited Portland, "Women are the most exploited in Guatemala." [Her name is not mentioned here for her own protection.]

In addition to widespread domestic violence, incest (e.g., daughters raped by fathers), and the increasing numbers of impoverished families headed by single women as a result of widowhood, women have virtually no rights in Guatemalan society. In the Guatemalan family, the woman must obtain permission from the man in order to carry out any activities not directly related to family and home. Thus, a woman may not obtain schooling, attend meetings or become involved in political activities without the man's permission, and women's organizations must develop their programs accordingly.

For example, one women's group began offering a sewing workshop as a way of getting women out of the house to meet together. They did so because the women's husbands would not allow them to leave the house except for activities, such as sewing, that might provide extra income for the family. Recently, the group also organized a retreat for these women—a tremendous achievement, which was accomplished by one of the organizers going house-to-house to speak to and obtain permission from the husbands of each of the women.

Although there are women who hold leadership positions in some of the mass organizations, the issue of women's right to equality and all the issues which specifically affect women have yet to be addressed fully. Again, the struggle for the human rights of an oppressed people



Women FMLN combatants

Photo by Lisa Petke

against a dictatorship is seen as a separate and more important issue than the struggle for the rights of the most oppressed sector of the society.

In El Salvador, human rights abuses against women—domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, etc.—are of such critical importance that nearly 30 women's organizations have formed in the past decade to confront these issues. Nevertheless, women continue to be viewed as domestic servants by all sectors of society. Women combatants in the FMLN fought side by side with the men in the field, but were expected to cook for the men and wash their clothes off the field. Neither the FMLN nor the ARENA government considers "women's issues" to be a priority, leaving women to struggle in isolation against social injustice. Incredibly, FMLN Comandante Nidia Diaz recently informed women guerillas that they could now lay down their arms in order to resume their lives as *wives, mothers and daughters*.

Like Nicaraguan women, the women of El Salvador are bearing the brunt of the poverty and monstrous social conditions: half of all women are single mothers, while unemployment among women is up to 52 percent. The women who are able to find work are most likely to be domestic workers or the lowest paid workers in foreign garment factories and electronics assembly plants. The women's organizations, however, are determined to struggle

for equal recognition and equal rights, a spirit that is perhaps best summed up in the words of the T-shirt of the National Coordination of Salvadoran Women (CONAMUS): "Soy Feminista."

In the United States, recent revelations about sexual assaults against women in the solidarity movement have forced many organizations to confront their attitudes about such behavior. Unfortunately, the prevalent attitude has been that if a woman speaks out against such assault, she is being "divisive," when, in fact, it is the perpetrator of such acts who is being divisive.

The Women of Chicago CISPES, which has been investigating the problem and working on "undoing" sexist and abusive behavior patterns, published a discussion and position paper in the CISPES Discussion Bulletin #6 (October 24, 1991). They stressed the importance of women—and organizations—confronting any man who sexually assaults, pressures or demeans a woman, regardless of the country of origin of either party. This means that organizations must establish "safe" mechanisms for women to report and resolve incidents of assault.

This means that all of us in the movement must realize that undoing sexism is of equal importance to undoing racism. It is synonymous with undoing oppressive and abusive behavior: it is a matter of human rights.

—Mimi Yahn

1492

October 12, 1992 marks the Quincentennial of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Many noisy and costly celebrations of this event will glorify the myth of Columbus' "discovery" while silence surrounds his haunting legacy: environmental greed and abuse, promotion of slavery, racism, genocide of the Taino people and the indescribable agony of the Native American holocaust which was to follow.

We have a different celebration in mind

We are the Communities of Resistance Art Project—a group of activists from different cultural backgrounds who take this historic opportunity to come together in exploration of the Columbus myth and its profound influence on all our lives.

Our mural is called "WE SPEAK." It is our tribute to the many cultural voices which have been silenced, but it also reflects our passionate feelings as artists who grapple with the modern world. The mural will be assembled in



Artwork by Lorenzo Guel

1992

panels which depict the hopes and struggles of people of color and others who have worked for social justice.

Our priority is to make this mural accessible to the "community of resistance" which inspired it and especially to the young people of this city and region. Once completed and unveiled in time for a month long stay at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center during October, the mural will tour schools, community centers and other public spaces.

For more information, write:

**Communities of Resistance Art
Project * 2249 E. Burnside *
Portland, OR 97214**

The Communities of Resistance Art Project is a project of ALANA (Asian, Latino, African and Native Americans for peace and justice) and a part of the Resistance 500 Campaign. ALANA is dedicated to achieving peace and justice internationally, while educating, organizing and mobilizing people of color in Portland to counter the effects of racism and militarism in our communities.

NATIONAL CARAVAN to Build the New El Salvador



After more than a decade of war, 75,000 Salvadoran deaths, and nearly \$6 billion in U.S. aid, El Salvador stands at the crossroads of peace. With the beginning of the cease fire in El Salvador on February 1, the popular movement and the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) have begun to step up the struggle for a free and just country, shifting into the political and economic terrain. The principal components of this next phase for the Salvadoran people and for the international solidarity movement will be to guarantee the implementation of the Peace Accords; defend human rights; build the political challenge against ARENA; and to develop the alternative social and economic initiatives of the popular movement and the FMLN.

Together with other organizations in the U.S., CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) will participate in a national caravan of trucks filled with needed goods to support strategic projects in communities throughout El Salvador. The trucks will travel through the U.S. in March of 1993, stopping in participating cities to load the supplies and to have media and public events. Here in the Northwest, we will buy one truck between the CISPES committees in Bellingham, Seattle, Portland, Eugene and Corvallis. A portion of the money we raise at this fall's Work-a-Thon will go towards the purchase of this truck. The truck we send will go to the lisiados, war-wounded FMLN combatants, to help them set up rehabilitation centers.

This year's Work-a-Thon promises to be even more exciting than last year's. The Work-a-Thon is similar in concept to a walk-a-thon or a bike-a-thon, but rather than

walking or biking, we will work for a day at a community project. PCASC is co-sponsoring October's Work-a-Thon with the Ben Linder Construction Brigade (BLCB), a project of the Portland-Corinto Sister City Association. After sending six brigades to Corinto, Nicaragua, the BLCB is bringing a construction brigade from Corinto to Portland. The Corinto brigade will participate in the Work-a-Thon. Join us in working side by side with our Nicaraguan companeras and companeros this fall!

**We need your support to make it happen.
Now's the time to get involved!**

Basic information:

- each truck costs approximately \$8000, which includes the cost of two drivers and travel expenses.
- we will be working very closely with Pastors for Peace, who has 8 years of experience organizing caravans to Central America; they will purchase the trucks with the funds we raise by December
- the trucks themselves are strategic material aid; they are 10-ton Mercedes Benz box trucks which are high quality and equipped with spare parts; the recipients in El Salvador could decide to sell them because they are worth twice as much on the market there
- the materials to fill the trucks will be based on specific needs identified by the organizations in El Salvador; lists will be provided; all items must be new or in excellent condition.

YES! I want to support the Caravan.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

I would like to volunteer, call me!

I would like to contribute ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ Other to purchase the trucks and collect the urgently needed supplies for war-torn communities in El Salvador

I would like a speaker to come and give a presentation to my organization about El Salvador and the Caravan.

For more information, call us or send this coupon to:

PCASC
3558 SE Hawthorne
Portland, OR. 97214

(503)236-7916



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Once again the American people are crawling in ever smaller numbers to the voting booth to choose their oppressor. This year the three top dog autocrats named, uh, Tweedledee, Tweedledum, and Tweedledork, I believe, all three sticking to a candy-coated hidden agenda for we the people to swallow.

In Central America the hidden agenda of many U.S. imperialists has controlled the lives of millions of people for over a century. Today our Congress sleeps on the pillow of Pan-Amnesia, and they'd rather we forget about Central America, too. But we won't, will we?



Here is what's happening amidst the snoring subcommittees and lethargic legislators:

Earlier this year Congress passed a six-month Continuing Resolution (CR). The El Salvador provision on the CR prohibits new military aid to El Salvador after the \$21 million appropriated in last fall's CR is spent. That \$21 million has been earmarked for "non-lethal" purposes, i.e. military supplies other than weapons. Unappropriated military aid from previous years, estimated at \$30 million, will continue to flow unimpeded. While the provisions in the CR are the strongest measures on El Salvador ever to pass, they still allow the Salvadoran military to receive up to \$50 million in military aid in the next six months.

David Obey, Chair of the House Foreign Relations Subcommittee, has authored a bill designed to mark up the language on restricting military aid to El Salvador's ARENA government. In light of the peace accords signed by both ARENA and the FMLN, it is important to send a clear message to the Salvadoran right wing that they must begin complying with the peace settlement. The best way to do this is through their pocketbooks—by withholding aid. Obey's bill includes \$11 million in military aid for fiscal year 1993, as opposed to the Bush administration's request for \$27 million. Most likely, the \$11 million dollar package will be approved in another Continuing Resolution on October 1. That CR will probably last at least until the new Congress is sworn in January 1993. Even a year after the peace accords were signed in El Salvador, the United States will continue to pump military aid into the Salvadoran armed forces.



On Nicaragua, Obey may have had good intentions when he wrote a letter asking U.S. AID to "hold up" \$100 million of emergency relief aid to Nicaragua, but he played into the hands of the right wing instead. Recently most of

this type of aid has gone to right-wing business and political interests in Nicaragua. By asking for a "hold up," Obey was trying to put pressure on the Bush administration to direct the funds toward more needed projects in health care, education, and land reform. Now the hold up of this aid is precisely what is being used by Bush along with Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Jesse Helms, and other hard-line Republicans to further coerce the Chamorro government into purging the military and police of any Sandinista influence. In a letter orchestrated by Kirkpatrick and signed by several Republicans, President Chamorro and Vice President Antonio Lacayo were urged to get rid of Humberto Ortega, head of the military, and replace him with their buddy Alfredo Cesar.

Now, with an IMF carrot dangling just out of reach and a right-wing business sector breathing down their necks, Chamorro and Lacayo face an interest payment they cannot make to the World Bank for Somoza-era debts. Failure to make this payment will surely push Nicaragua's inflation rate even higher, putting more and more people on the road to starvation.



The U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua has retired and Bush has nominated Joseph Sullivan as his replacement. Sullivan was the subject of an internal investigation by the State Department because of his alleged involvement in covert CIA operations to upset the Sandinistas in the 1990 elections. As if \$12 million in overt aid was not enough, over \$600,000 was covertly approved to defeat the Sandinistas. Senator Christopher Dodd requested the investigation, but the reports have been labeled "Top Secret" and sent to the Intelligence Committee rather than to the Foreign Aid Appropriations Committee. Some observers see a potential cover-up in the making.



Central America activists are calling for legislative hearings to question Guatemala's most favored nation trading status because of the continuing repression of labor organizers in that country. A petition in support of labor rights in Guatemala is being circulated. A Dear Colleague letter is being written and will be sent to U.S. trade representative Carla Hill.

Fifty-four Senators sent a letter to Guatemalan President Serrano urging him to investigate human rights cases and punish those responsible in order to "end the pattern of political violence in Guatemala." Senators Hatfield and Packwood were among the signers.

—Jay Harden

FLASHPOINTS

EL SALVADOR

• **Dirty War May Be Just Beginning** A series of recent attacks on FMLN members and supporters have prompted FMLN leaders to accuse right-wing forces of waging a "dirty war" against the FMLN. On May 17, unknown attackers fired at the car of FMLN Commander Nidia Diaz. (Diaz was not in the car at the time.) On May 19 Vladamir Flores, a former FMLN combatant and currently the driver and bodyguard for a member of the FMLN's peace accords follow-up commission, was ambushed and critically wounded by a group of heavily armed men in civilian dress. The FMLN blamed the assault on ultra-right forces within the military who oppose the peace process. In response to the attacks, the FMLN called a state of emergency and temporarily withdrew from the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (COPAZ). After a promise by President Cristiani to fully investigate the attack on Flores, the FMLN agreed to rejoin COPAZ.



• **FMLN Launches Political Party** At a huge rally on May 23, the leaders of the FMLN officially declared the FMLN a political party, despite efforts on the part of the Salvadoran government to stop them. In defiance of the accords, President Cristiani and conservatives in the National Assembly have tried to block the legalization of the FMLN as a political party, claiming they could not be a political party as long as they remained an armed force. The FMLN decided to move ahead independently to enter the political arena. The FMLN already has political committees operating in 200 of the country's 262 municipalities.

• **Commission to Investigate Human Rights Records of Military Officers** An Ad-Hoc Commission charged with evaluating the human rights records of 3,000 officers in the Salvadoran Armed Forces was formed on May 19. The Commission will examine the officers' records on human rights, their professional ability, and their commitment to democracy, in an attempt to rid the armed forces of human rights violators. Nine U.S. congressional leaders signed a letter urging the U.S. State Department to make its files available to the Ad Hoc Commission and the Truth Commission, another group established by the accords to investigate human rights abuses.

• **Government Begins Investigation of El Mozote Massacre** Responding to pressure from the Salvadoran Catholic Church and numerous human rights organizations, the Salvadoran Justice Department has finally opened an investigation into the December 1981 massacre in Morazan province that left nearly 1,000 campesinos dead and drove thousands more into refugee camps in Honduras. According

to the one surviving witness, the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion was responsible for the massacre, the worst during the 12 years of civil war.

• **Energy Crisis Worsens** The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission announced it would cut off electricity to the country for eight hours a day beginning May 27 in the country's worst energy crisis in 50 years. Seventy-five percent of El Salvador's energy comes from hydroelectric plants, and two years of drought have left the reservoirs dangerously low. Ecologists blame deforestation, in part, for the problems. The watershed along the Rio Lempa was deforested when a series of dams were built in the 1970s. More of the forest was destroyed by the army's counterinsurgency campaign during the 1980s. A recent UN study shows that 77 percent of the country suffers from increased erosion caused by deforestation. In early June, the government announced two reforestation projects to help reverse the ecological damage.

• **Looking for New Friends** The Salvadoran Jesuit newsweekly *Proceso* charged that the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) was planning to create a new Salvadoran labor organization, because AIFLD's traditional labor ally, the National Union of Workers and Peasants was becoming too independent. The magazine claimed that \$30 million in the Salvadoran Labor-Business Foundation's coffers had come from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) to be used to fund the effort to create a new labor movement friendlier to U.S. policy. All the groups in question denied the allegations. AIFLD claimed that "No U.S. administration has influenced our objectives."

—Karyn Bertschi



HAITI

• **Bush Orders Refugees Turned Away** In late May President Bush ordered the U.S. Coast Guard to start picking up Haitian refugees at sea and forcing them to return to their country, without allowing them to apply for asylum in the U.S. Bush claimed the policy change was necessary because the camp at Guantanamo, where refugees' claims had previously been processed, was now overflowing with Haitians. The U.S. plans to close the camp. Out of the 34,000 Haitians processed at Guantanamo since the September 30 coup, 14,000 have already been returned to Haiti, 8,000 have been allowed to seek political asylum, and 12,000 remain at the U.S. base. The administration insists that Haitians can still apply for asylum at the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Human rights activists were outraged at Bush's action. According to international law a nation may not return political refugees to their country of origin. The Bush administration has attempted to circumvent this provision by claiming that since the refugees were never in U.S.

territory, the U.S. is not breaking international law by returning them to Haiti.

• **Haitians Need Not Apply** In order to gain the right to apply for asylum in the U.S. Haitians who were picked up at sea had to convince INS officials that they had a "credible fear of persecution" if they were forced to return to Haiti. Often the refugees only chance to do so, came in a five or ten-minute interview aboard the Coast Guard ships—often after a grueling passage at sea. Miami's Haitian Refugee Center filed a lawsuit protesting this procedure, but the Supreme Court let stand a lower court's ruling in favor of the government. In a further assault on the refugees rights, those Haitians who had been granted the right to file for asylum but who were found to have a communicable disease were ordered to be reinterviewed to determine whether their fear of persecution was "well founded." During all these crucial interviews, the Haitians at Guantanamo have been denied the right to legal counsel.



• **Leaky Embargo Hurts Haiti's Poor** More than a dozen countries in Europe, South America and Africa have ignored the OAS embargo on Haiti (imposed on all but humanitarian aid last October). Their ships have continued to deliver cargo ranging from industrial goods, such as petroleum, steel, tires, and diesel engines, to luxury items, such as wine and perfume. The partial embargo has only hurt the poor. A huge black market has emerged in Haiti, enriching the already wealthy and the military who control it.

• **Haitians Protest Coup** In early April students in high schools and colleges in Port-au-Prince staged protests, banging pots and pans to show their opposition to the military government. In mid-May students and teachers in the capital and in cities around the country joined protests and circulated Aristide posters and flyers. Although protesters have been threatened and arrested, the demonstrations have continued. In April a Venezuelan nun was arrested by authorities for the possession of "subversive material"—calendars with Aristide's picture on them. Two hundred nuns, priests and church members took to the streets to protest. Soldiers threatened the crowd, but did not fire on protesters. The nun was later freed.

• **Military Names New Prime Minister** In June, the military-backed government in Haiti installed Marc Bazin, conservative businessman, politician former World Bank official, and the U.S.-backed candidate in the 1990 elections, as Prime Minister. The presidency remains vacant.

• **Aristide Calls for Stronger Measures** Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide called on the U.S. and other countries in the hemisphere to take stronger action to restore democracy to Haiti. Aristide urged a tightening of the embargo, specifically the interception of oil tankers

bound for the island. The exiled president said that a naval blockade might be necessary to force the military into relinquishing power. He pointed to hopeful signs of splits in the military and indications that at least some of the coup backers were tired of the violence and ready to negotiate his return.

—Karyn Bertschi



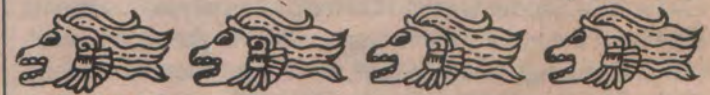
PERU

• **Presidential Coup** In early April President Alberto Fujimori dissolved the Peruvian legislature, announced the reorganization of the judicial system, and declared a state of emergency and a suspension of civil rights. Fujimori attempted to justify his actions by claiming that the assembly and the courts were inefficient and corrupt. His "self-coup" was unanimously backed by Peruvian armed forces and the National Police. Troops patrolled the streets, took control of newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations, and arrested dozens of congressional leaders, opposition leaders, journalists, and union officials. Initially the international community condemned Fujimori's actions. The U.S. announced a freeze on all non-humanitarian aid to Peru. However in early June, Fujimori promised that he would hold elections in October to choose a new constituent assembly, and the U.S. said it would resume some aid to Peru—food and anti-narcotics assistance.

• **A Drug Coup?** An editorial in the Lima daily *Expresso* called the coup a "drug coup" designed to protect the military. The newspaper quoted, "unconfirmed reports [that] weeks earlier (US) Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson handed Fujimori a list of 170 military officers who, according to the US official, were involved in drug trafficking."

• **Changing of the Guard** Current U.S. Ambassador to Peru Anthony Quainton will resign this summer and be replaced by Alvin Adams, the current U.S. ambassador to Haiti.

—Karyn Bertschi



MEXICO

• **Smoldering Questions in Guadalajara** Questions are still being asked about the deadly April 22 explosion in Guadalajara. The massive blast, which originated in the sewer system, damaged a 20-block area, killing 190 people and leaving 450 injured and 4,500 homeless.

Amidst all the finger-pointing, three main questions have arisen: Why wasn't the area evacuated when residents first complained about gasoline odors? Which industries

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FLASHPOINTS

continued from page 9

are responsible for the disaster? What are the existing laws and regulations concerning safety and hazardous materials?

Mexico's Attorney General, Ignacio Morales Lechuga accused PEMEX (National Petroleum of Mexico) of negligence by allowing high concentrations of gasoline to build up in the sewer system. Despite strict national regulations pertaining to environmental hazards, few laws are enforced. For example, in northern Mexico, only 50 percent of all companies have been inventoried for hazardous materials, and only about 15 percent of all hazardous waste is regulated by the authorities. In Mexico City only 1,344 out of 30,000 factories have ever been inspected.

Since the Guadalajara disaster, urban residents throughout Mexico are demanding inspections of all PEMEX facilities and other industries with underground pipelines. In addition, numerous other environmental issues are now coming to the forefront for national discussion.

—Greg Gruszczynski

GUATEMALA



• **Peace Talks Stalled** Peace talks are stalemated, with the URNG (National Guatemalan Revolutionary Unity) and the Guatemalan government unable to even agree on topics for discussion. The rebel forces want the civil patrols dismantled and a Justice and Truth Commission established. Government negotiator Manuel Conde said the URNG is putting the Serrano government in a difficult position by requesting civilian participation in the peace talks.

Meanwhile, representatives of 11 indigenous organizations are asking to participate in the peace talks, to discuss the rights of the Mayan people. Mayans, who comprise over 50 percent of the population, want equal representation at the peace talks.

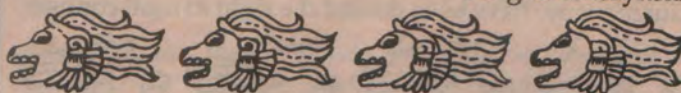
• **Students Protest Government Violence** A new wave of violence aimed at the university community has erupted in Guatemala. Students at San Carlos University in Guatemala City hold the government responsible for the recent wave of fire-bombings, death threats, and the murder of a student. At the 94th Annual "Huelga de Dolores" anti-government demonstration in Guatemala City on April 10, government forces opened fire on students, killing one. Students charge that the new Army police force HUNAPU is responsible for the killing.

• **Bombs Shake Capital City** Guatemala City was rocked by two bomb explosions during the week of May 3. One bomb exploded in the Ministry of Education building, injuring three people. The other bomb went off in a McDonalds restaurant and injured five people. The explosion at McDonalds was the fifth bombing in the capital city during the first two weeks of May. Hundreds of

anonymous bomb threats have increased the tension in the city. Guatemalan president Jorge Serrano has blamed the URNG for the bombings. Rebel leaders deny any involvement.

• **Central American Common Market?** Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have agreed to sign a Free Trade Agreement and establish a trade block among the three countries. The three Central American presidents will meet in June to form the Central American Economic Community (CAEC). The CAEC is scheduled to get off the ground in January 1993. The Trade Agreement calls for the adoption of a new regional tariff, the formation of a securities exchange, and studies to determine how to make the three countries economic policies more uniform. President Serrano claims that the accord will lead to a general improvement in economic conditions.

—Greg Gruszczynski



NICARAGUA

• **Which Side Are You On?** President Violeta Chamorro recently called on the National Assembly to suspend discussion of a new labor law. The law would have guaranteed important rights to women workers and would have eliminated portions of the existing labor code that allow employers to fire workers without cause. Chamorro asserted that the new law "would scare off investment and therefore diminish new sources of employment." Currently about 500,000 Nicaraguans are out of work.

• **Cholera Cases Reported** The Nicaraguan Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron has warned of a possible cholera epidemic. Water from Lake Managua has been found to be contaminated with the bacteria that causes cholera. The disease may be spread by eating fish from the lake or by eating vegetables that have been irrigated with lake water.

• **A Pat on the Back** Nicaragua is now the poorest country in Central America, yet the World Bank is pleased with Chamorro's efforts on the economic front. They recently congratulated her on her "achievements in stabilizing the economy." The World Bank is now recommending that the Nicaraguan government institute "spot protection programs" to aid those groups, such as poor women and children, hardest hit by the economic belt-tightening advocated by the Bank. Critics of the programs point out that offering aid to the poor while dismantling the social service system may be just an attempt to keep the poor from protesting the austerity measures.

—Karyn Bertschi

Flashpoints is compiled from information provided by the following sources: *El Salvador on Line*, *El Salvador Peace Accords Watch*, *HAITI Insight*, *NACLA*, *Peru Scholars*, *CERIGUA*, *Barricada Internacional*, and the *New York Times*.

continued from page 1

called for in the accords—the government simply transferred them, with their structures intact, to the armed forces, giving them a name change and new uniforms.

As a result, the FMLN lacked the security guarantees they needed to demobilize the first 20 percent of their combatants on May 1. The FMLN's demobilization is linked to implementation of other key accords, particularly the establishment of a new civilian police force and programs designed to provide ex-combatants with land and jobs. The government has not yet complied with these sections of the accords, and the FMLN has made it clear it cannot be expected to unilaterally observe the accords.



The changing face of U.S. intervention

We expect the U.S. to accelerate the "low intensity democracy" component of its intervention strategy as the cease fire takes root. This is already manifested via U.S. AID (Agency for International Development) support for the government's "Municipalities in Action" program that targets the communities that are most supportive of the FMLN and the Agency's reluctance to support multi-lateral funding for reconstruction. The military and AIFLD (American Institute for Free Labor Development) are spearheading a plan to create "new" labor leadership through the Salvadoran Labor-Business Foundation (FOES—an appropriate acronym). We can also anticipate that the U.S. tax-dollar funded National Endowment for Democracy will fund a myriad of shadow organizations in El Salvador in an attempt to counter the organizing work of the FMLN's new political party as we approach the 1994 Salvadoran elections.

Through pressure on the forces trying to hold back the Salvadoran revolution, and direct support of the popular movement and the FMLN, we can confront U.S. economic intervention. Solidarity, anti-intervention, and peace groups must demand that the Bush administration and Congress show their support for the accords by ending all aid to the Salvadoran military and by making U.S. economic aid contingent on full compliance with the accords. For example, the U.S. and El Salvador were planning to participate in joint naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Fonseca from May 2-18, in direct violation of the accords. But so much pressure was generated within El Salvador by the popular movement and the FMLN and within the U.S. by the solidarity movement that the Salvadoran government was forced to withdraw.



What can we do?

We can place ads in the Salvadoran press. My delegation placed two ads in the paper, one demanding that the Salvadoran government and the Armed Forces comply with the accords, the other supporting the FMLN's decision

not to demobilize the first 20 percent of their combatants on May 1. We can also pressure ONUSAL to be vigilant and impartial in the implementation of the accords, and urge them to assume in the implementation process the active and positive role they played in the negotiations process.

We also must support the projects that foster revolutionary change. This includes aid for reconstruction, organizing and community-based development. CISPES is currently raising money for three projects of the NEST (New El Salvador Today) Foundation: empowering women in shantytowns, a union leadership training school, and supporting a repopulated community. We also support the Bravo Fund, the medical project of the FMLN. Current Bravo projects include training women paramedics, helping the war-wounded FMLN combatants set up rehabilitation centers, and, most importantly, supporting the combatants in the FMLN-END encampments (see ad on page 13). Currently, the former combatants of the FMLN, the END (National Army for Democracy), are concentrated in 15 encampments, as called for in the peace accords. I visited two FMLN encampments in the department of San Vicente. The troops there lacked adequate food, potable water, and building materials. Furthermore, poor sanitation in the encampments has led to serious health problems. Cases of cholera and typhoid have already been documented.



CISPES has been fighting for the democratic revolution in El Salvador for 12-years now, and we're closer to victory than we've ever been. Perhaps we're a bit disappointed that the FMLN did not win a military victory, but if they had won militarily, they probably would have faced a similar fate as the Sandinistas faced in Nicaragua. A military victory was not realistic; the November 1989 offensive proved that neither side could win the war. The Salvadoran people have struggled and sacrificed for these peace accords, and our support is needed more than ever.

The signing of the peace accords was a partial victory; the implementation of the accords, the demilitarization of the country, an alternative economic model that meets the needs of the people, the environmental recuperation, and a truly democratically elected government—that is victory. The Salvadoran people are struggling for this victory, and we have the opportunity and the obligation to participate in and support them. It will be a victory not only for the Salvadoran people, but for the whole world. Economic warfare may not be as easy to understand and fight as bullets, nor as blatant, but this is the war of the 90's, of the post-Cold War era, the war of George Bush's "New World Order," the war of the Free Trade Agreement. We need to educate ourselves about this new kind of war and oppose it on all fronts: in the U.S., in Central and South America, in Asia, in Africa, in the U.S., wherever it is being waged. It's a matter of life and it's a matter of justice.

—Jenny Guyer

Maria's Story

On April 30 more than 350 people crowded into the Universalist Church in Seattle to hear Maria Serrano speak, as part of the Women in the Revolution Tour, sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Maria—peasant, mother, and FMLN leader—became known to many people in the U.S. through the 1990 film, *Maria's Story*, which followed Maria and a group of fellow FMLN combatants through the countryside of the Chalatenango region in El Salvador.

As Maria spoke in Seattle, her remarkable determination and commitment to the people of El Salvador was felt in every word. Maria's contribution to the revolution in El Salvador, both in the armed struggle and as a community organizer in the popular movement, qualifies her to speak about the serious challenges now facing the implementation of the peace accords.



In Maria's opinion, the most substantive aspect of the accords has to do with the military. If the Salvadoran government would comply with the requirement for the dissolution of the Treasury Police and National Guard, a tremendous hardship would be lifted off the people. This action would go a long way toward establishing the political climate necessary for continued organizing by the popular movement.

While Maria expressed great hope concerning the peace accords, behind that hope lies a clear understanding of the nature of the ARENA-controlled government. "The accords have opened up the possibility to establish a new and just society in El Salvador," Maria told the crowd. Referring to the FMLN and their supporters in the communities, she went on, "We now have enough political organizing experience—enough experience in struggle—to deal with the reality of the political circumstances in El Salvador today. Right now we are dealing with resistance on the part of the government to the implementation of the accords which we all signed. Since 1984 the FMLN has had the objective of engaging in negotiations. But the government's response was always that they would not negotiate with us [unless we] turned in our arms completely—and then maybe they would talk. The current government of El Salvador had not shown the will to sign the accords in the beginning when they still thought we were a tiny group of guerillas. But the FMLN offensive of November 1989 proved to the Salvadoran government and the U.S. government that we were not a tiny group of guerrillas!"

In spite of the noncompliant attitude of the Salvadoran government, the FMLN has continued to comply with the peace accords, to the extent that they can with safety. At the time of Maria's visit, the Salvadoran government had failed

to take the necessary steps toward the dissolution of the Treasury Police and the National Guard. In addition, the Salvadoran Armed Forces had failed to concentrate in their designated zones. As a result, the FMLN announced that as of May 1 they would not proceed with the conversion of FMLN troops to civilian status. Referring to the ARENA government's attitude, Maria said, "They want to force us into a position where we have to resort to war. We are not going to fall into that trap!"



On the subject of the U.S./El Salvador joint military maneuvers, which were to have taken place May 2-18, Maria had this to say, "Because the Salvadoran government knows that the FMLN has so much popular support and the FMLN army is so capable, the government seeks to intimidate us with a show of combined force with the USA." (Due to pressure from the FMLN and international solidarity, the Salvadoran government decided to withdraw from the planned maneuvers.)

Despite the climate of uncertainty regarding the accords, the FMLN is moving ahead in their work to build a political party. Maria spoke about how the FMLN was making the transition from a period of fighting to one of peace and how they were taking advantage of the political space in order to widen their organizing efforts. "We are working very hard on the new political party of the FMLN and looking ahead to the 1994 elections. It is the FMLN's intention to work with other parties from the left and center, in a concerted effort to represent all the people. The only party we won't make an alliance with is the ARENA party! We are working on the consolidation of popular power achieved through 12 years of struggle."



In fact, there are indications that the Salvadoran government is well aware of the remarkable achievements of the popular movement. According to Maria, "This is a beautiful project to be working in, because we can see how ARENA is forced now to recognize all of the work which has been achieved in the communities. In November when the peace negotiations were taking place, the [ARENA-backed] mayors were running frantically back to their local communities, as part of the government's counterinsurgency program. The government is very interested in getting the mayors out to these little towns—it's been 12 years since the government lost local power."

After more than a decade of creating their own political models at the local level, people are not about to give up their power. Maria talked about the new public administration structure in the town of San Jose las Flores, which she has helped to develop. "Part of the accords say

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Support the Salvadoran Peace Process

Support the FMLN Veterans

The implementation of the Salvadoran peace process is facing a series of difficulties which is slowing or obstructing the full implementation of the hard-won peace accords. The veterans of the FMLN, who bore the brunt of the war, have yet to receive promised assistance from the international community.

The initial step toward concentration into 15 sites has already resulted in serious problems given the lack of infrastructure. A public health crisis is a strong possibility—cases of cholera and typhoid fever have already been diagnosed in these camps. The majority of these camps do not have access to potable water. Food and medicines are in short supply. Most of the men and women who fought to bring justice for their families and communities are now sleeping on the ground without shelter of any kind.

Education and job training will be especially important for the reintegration of the FMLN veterans into civilian life over the next few months. These FMLN veterans have the experience and commitment, but lack the technical training, to contribute to the building of a new democratic El Salvador. Classes are being held in the open with volunteer teachers and insufficient school supplies. Literacy training, concentrated scholastic courses and job training will be the cornerstone of a peace-time future for these young women and men. These crucial services will have an enormous impact on the stability of Salvadoran society and the peace which thousands of people gave their lives for.

Your contribution to the Bravo Fund at this critical moment will provide basic needs for the veterans.



Photo by Rick Droz



BRAVO FUND

P.O. Box 460586 • San Francisco, CA 94146

The Bravo Fund is named in memory of Dr. Alejandra Bravo Betancourt, a Mexican doctor who gave her life for the people of El Salvador. Dr. Bravo worked in an FMLN field hospital in rural Chalatenango for several years until her grisly murder at the hands of soldiers from the U.S.-trained Atlacatl Battalion on February 13, 1989. In violation of international law, the soldiers hunted down and destroyed the hospital and murdered five patients and four other health care workers. Dr. Bravo's spirit of solidarity and sacrifice lives on in the work of all those who struggle for a free El Salvador.

They urgently need you

YES! I support the peace process.

I can become a monthly sustainer. Enclosed is my monthly pledge of \$25 \$15 Other

Enclosed is a one-time contribution of \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other

Please send me more information about the Bravo Fund and the peace process in El Salvador.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Send your tax-deductible contribution to the Bravo Fund * c/o PCASC * 3558 SE Hawthorne * Portland, OR 97214

Cuba's Resilient Revolution

In a joke currently making the rounds, Gorbachev has his body frozen and then reappears in 100 years to ask whatever happened to the Cuban Revolution. The answer: "They say communism will fall in Cuba next month."

Although rumors of the Cuban Revolution's impending demise have multiplied since the dramatic changes in eastern Europe, the revolution remains defiantly optimistic.

Not that the impact of the fall of the eastern bloc hasn't been serious. With other avenues for trade closed, Cuba had grown increasingly dependent on socialist markets. Cubans are now facing long lines for an increasingly scarce supply of food, medicine, and fuel. Austerity measures in Cuba (unlike those in other developing countries) have not, however, resulted in the wholesale dismantling of social services. For example, because Cuba continues to place a high priority on health care, the infant mortality rate is still dropping (now 9.2/1,000, roughly equal to that of the U.S.).

For all its bureaucratic problems, the revolution is resilient and organized. To meet the need for food, people are planting gardens everywhere, and a 50 percent increase over last year's agricultural production is predicted. To deal with the shortage of oil, Cuba has begun importing thousands of bicycles from China, and Cuban factories are beginning to produce their own. In addition, Cuba has begun to develop its own oil industry: with offshore reserves Cuba could become a significant oil producer in five to seven years. Tourism, too, is up 25 percent over last year, although this industry generates a number of problems along with needed hard currency. Tourism and other enterprises, such as advanced biotechnology, are financed by joint ventures set up quietly to avoid U.S. pressure.

Before Cuba has a chance to adjust to the changed world situation, however, forces in the U.S. are trying to further tighten the embargo's stranglehold on the island. The Toricelli bill or Cuban Democracy Act (HR 4168 or CDA) would ban trade with Cuba by subsidiaries of U.S. companies in other countries, confiscate ships that have docked in Cuba during the previous six months, and pressure other countries into supporting the embargo by withholding aid or trade agreements.

The revolution's best hope may come from its youth. Raised in socialism and energized by the new leadership of Roberto Robaina, head of the Juventud (the communist youth movement) and newly elected member of the Central Committee, many young Cubans seem to have the enthusiasm and the ability to argue necessary to confront the internal and external problems facing their future.

—Cathie DeWeese-Parkinson

CUBA ACTION

Call your Representative and urge him or her to oppose the Toricelli bill (HR 4168) and instead support the Weiss bill (HR 454), which would exempt medicine from the embargo, and the Alexander bill (HR 4705), which would limit the embargo of agricultural products.

PCUN Update

With the arrival of the 1992 harvest season, PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste), Oregon's farmworker union, has resumed its field organizing. Organizers are once again focusing principally on Kraemer Farms, one of the Valley's largest agribusinesses and site of the historic strike lead by PCUN in August 1991. Our organizing is guided by the fact that only a collective bargaining will empower present and future Kraemer workers by replacing the entrenched labor system based on exploitation and discrimination.

Although this season's campaign is still in its early stages, several significant trends have already emerged. Kraemer Farms management refused to re-hire strike participants, and has sought to maximize their leverage and control over the new, "replacement" workers by concentrating them in Kraemer-owned housing. PCUN organizers are documenting these and other abuses, while successfully utilizing unconventional means to establish and maintain communications with the "controlled" workers. Kraemer Farms management appears to feel vulnerable, as indicated by their acceptance, through their attorney, of PCUN's offer to open negotiations. At some point this summer, we will likely need to mobilize supporters to participate in campaign activities and we know that many of our friends in PCASC will answer that call.



Another way to help us build the farmworker movement in Oregon is by using our new 22-minute video, *Nuestra Lucha: Our Struggle for Justice*. This video explains why unionization is the only avenue for genuine, lasting change, and features conversations with two PCUN members about their lives and aspirations as farmworkers. Also not to be missed is the footage from the Kraemer strike (including Dan Kraemer calling PCUN organizer Leone Bicchieri a "son of a bitch"). Copies can be purchased for \$10, or arrangements can be made to borrow a copy, especially to show the video to groups.

But the best way to stay in touch and hear about new developments is to receive our free quarterly newsletter, PCUN Update. Those ready to commit some time are encouraged to join our permanent Support Committee, which meets on the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Portland OPEU office at 212 SE 18th Street. The Committee is working to better organize and expand support, raise money, and broaden public awareness of our fight for justice and dignity.

To obtain the video, get on our mailing list, or get more information on supporting farmworkers, contact us at 300 Young St., Woodburn, Oregon 97071 (982-0243). Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. *Viva la Union!*



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that the mayors can go back to the towns. But they can't take away the democratic organizations which now exist, which were created by the people. The people are saying, 'Wait a minute, we didn't elect you—you don't represent us.' [In San Jose] we have a public administration committee with representatives from each sector of the community: from the workers' cooperatives, the health sector, construction, etc. The mayor may participate as one more member among all the other representatives. But no one individual will have veto power."

Beyond the substantial task of implementing the peace accords, an economic revolution must take place in El Salvador. The brutal economic inequities that created the war have to be addressed on a national level. The accords did provide for the creation of a Socio-Economic Forum, to address economic restructuring. However, the ARENA government has refused to participate in the forum.

The accords also provided for moderate land reform, including provisions for making land on estates of more than 610 acres available for sale to peasants and for respecting land holdings in areas controlled by the FMLN during the war. But as the cease-fire began, some landowners, with

ARENA's encouragement, began reclaiming their property in conflictive areas. Also, the government launched a wave of evictions, disrupting a number of people's cooperatives.

In the face of the Salvadoran government's treachery, Maria's commitment to the creation of a just society remains firm. "All together we're going to leave the state of misery that developed during the war. We must reconstruct our towns. We must create an economy which will feed and support our people. We must work to create an economy which will provide us with the basics and a bit more."

Maria's determination and insight are an inspiration to many of us. We are moved by her sheer endurance, through more than a decade of armed struggle and organizing. Maria also clearly confirms the relationship between our work in the U.S. and that of the popular movement in her country. "The power of the Salvadoran people and international solidarity, combined, are going to achieve the implementation of the accords. You are so far away—I think it's hard for you to know the particulars of what we are trying to achieve. But, you deserve the information, because our struggle is your struggle."

—Kathy Brock

I want to join the struggle for peace and justice in Central America

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I want to volunteer, please contact me



I would like information about PCASC's Emergency Response Network

I would like more information about the peace process in El Salvador. Please send me the latest issue of *El Salvador Peace Accords Watch* (published monthly, subscriptions are \$10/year and are free to sustainers upon request)

I would like to become a monthly/quarterly sustainer. Enclosed is my pledge of \$ _____ per month/quarter

Enclosed is a one-time donation of _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other



Please return this form to PCASC * 3558 SE Hawthorne * Portland, OR 97214



PCASC CALENDAR

Third Wednesday of every month: PCASC General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, NE 16th & Hancock. (July 15; August 19; September 16)

July 13: Physicians for Social Responsibility will sponsor a showing of the award-winning film "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes." 7:30 p.m. The Galleria, 5th Floor, 10th and SW Alder. Call 274-2720 for details.

July 18 & August 15: PCUN Saturday work brigades to help maintain and improve PCUN's offices, meeting hall, volunteer house and grounds in Woodburn. No experience necessary! Contact Larry Kleinman at PCUN, 300 Young St., Woodburn, OR 97071; 982-0243.

July 19: Ben Linder Construction Brigade Brunch to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution and to raise money for the brigade coming to Portland from Corinto, Nicaragua this fall. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The Peace House, NE 18th & Tillamook. \$8-20, sliding scale. For more info call 230-9427.

July 26: Portland Peaceworks general meeting to discuss the future of Peaceworks, including the civilian police review board. Colonel Sumner Park, 17th and SE Taylor, noon-3 p.m. For details, call 282-1940.

July 31-August 2: 14th Annual Conference: Empowering Women and Children: Changing the World! Sponsored by the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. To be held in Salem; women and children only; sliding scale fee \$75-105 (children \$20), includes conference, lodging, and meals. For more info call 239-4486.

August 1-2: PCASC's 9-month Planning Retreat, at a great retreat spot on the Hood River. Come and take part in planning for PCASC's fall Work-a-Thon, next spring's Caravan to El Salvador, ongoing committee work, fundraising, etc. Call 236-7916 for details.

August 2: Celebration of Peace in memory of Hiroshima. 5 p.m., Japanese-American Historical Plaza, Waterfront Park, north of Burnside. For more info, call 274-2720.

August 19-28: PCASC office will be closed while Jenny, Jay and Kathy are at CISPES Summer Camp.

August 29: Benefit concert featuring Guatemalan marimba band, *Iximche*. 7:30-11:00 p.m., Clinton St. Theatre, 2522 SE Clinton. See ad page 3, or call 236-7916 for more information.

September 18: Portland premiere of *The Panama Deception*, a new film by the Empowerment Project, producers of *CoverUp: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair*. Cinema 21, 616 NW 21st, \$10-20 sliding scale for opening night, \$5 additional showings Sept 19-24. Sponsored by KBOO. For more info, call 282-1940.



What is PCASC?

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) is a 13-year-old local, grassroots organization working against U.S. intervention in Central America and in support of the struggles of the Central American people for peace, justice, and self-determination.

We have three areas of work: 1) education about the situation in Central America; 2) raising money for humanitarian aid; and 3) active opposition to the U.S. government's interventionist foreign policy.

We are a chapter of CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador), and are affiliated with NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the Guatemalan People); and the Nicaragua Network.

Paid Staff: Jenny Guyer, Program Coordinator; Noel Merritt, Phonebank. **Volunteer Staff:** Jan Fenton, Bookkeeping; Jay Harden, Volunteer Extraordinaire. **FUN(ding) Committee:** Lynn DeWeese-Parkinson, Jay Harden, Seth Rockwell. **Newsletter Committee:** Karyn Bertschi, Kathy Brock, Bob Findley, Greg Gruszczynski, Jenny Guyer. **Steering Committee:** Kathy Brock, Lynn and Cathie DeWeese-Parkinson, Jenny Guyer, Jay Harden, Mimi Yahn.

PCASC

Portland Central America
Solidarity Committee
3558 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, OR. 97214

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