

tionism will, at this point, only feed the growing anti-American, anti-IMF "rebellion" and could provoke a serious backlash in relations with Europe as well.

U.S. promotion of "democratic change" is seen, however, only a temporary tactic to establish the measure of control and credibility needed to move militarily against any country or political force that backs Washington's policies ... in the name of "defending democracy."

The ongoing General Assembly of the Organization of American States, meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, is the scene of American diplomacy to create a "moderate democratic" counterweight to Cuba around the five-nation Andean Pact. The U.S. delegation, led by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, is trying to convince the Andean countries to issue a "set of economic and political principles that would stand in contrast to the so-called Havana Declaration of Nonaligned Countries. The Havana Declaration attacked the IMF conditionalities, demanded creation of a new monetary system, and posed advanced sector intensive aid to Third World industrial development as the only remedy for world recession.

Vance is also trying, according to the Washington Star report, to sell the Andean pact countries on "Washington's conviction that the former colonial powers in the Caribbean, Britain, and France, joined by such countries as Canada and Japan, should play an active role in providing coordinated technological and economic assistance to the mini-states of the area."

The paradigm for Washington's "democratic" tactic, is last week's "moderate, centrist" military coup in El Salvador, a coup run largely through Venezuelan-allied Christian Democratic and Jesuit networks. Washington supported and encouraged the coup against repressive dictator Gen. Romero in order to preempt another popular revolution on the order of Nicaragua. It is expected that the United States will now renew military aid to El Salvador on the grounds that the "human rights" picture has improved.

—Mary Goldstein

State Dept. hand in El Salvador coup

Although State Department official Hodding Carter III firmly denied any role of the United States government in the El Salvador coup last week, evidence is mounting that shows differently.

As early as September, in testimony before the House International Affairs Committee, Viron Vaky, undersecretary of state for Latin America, cited U.S. special interest in Central America due to its "geopolitical proximity." Vaky warned that the feudal-like structures and overwhelming poverty of countries like El Salvador lead to growing polarization and opposition from the population. Since "change is inevitable," Vaky stressed, the United States must promote "peaceful change compatible with individual liberties and democratic values." This was an implicit reference to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's policy that no more "Nicaraguas"—radical, sweeping away of the dominant oligarchical institutions—would be tolerated.

Sources close to the State Department report that Vaky made El Salvador his "number one priority" after the overthrow of Nicaragua's dictator, Anastasio Somoza in July. Both Vaky and William Bowdler, special envoy to Central America, took charge of efforts to secure "peaceful change" in the country, superseding the U.S. ambassador to the country. Flying "in and out" several times in the last three months, Bowdler and Vaky first tried to pressure the now-ousted Romero government to grant token concessions, and later met with Christian Democrats, liberal businessmen, and military officers to form a "moderate" replacement for the Romero regime.

According to as yet unconfirmed reports, the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) delegation to the country, which handles relations with the El Salvador military, was beefed up in the last several months.

One specialist on El Salvador reported that the Carter administration went so far as to lay down "conditions" on the composition of the new junta. Washington emphasized that the military representatives on the junta must come from desk officers, men whose distance from troop command and the army's repressive role would give them some credibility before the population. (That condition was met.)

A Jesuit combination

The leading "think tank" force that has emerged behind the new junta is the Jesuit order, centered around local representatives of the order's University of Central America. The university's rector, Roman Mayorga, is one of the three civilian members in the new five-man government. And a core of "very bright" economists from the university is being cited as the brains behind the operation. UPI reported that Jesuits provided the "spiritual counseling" to the officers involved in the coup.

This Jesuit role, along with the support of the related Christian Democratic party, is the key to whatever credibility the new government will be able to garner in the eyes of the country. Observers note, however, that Jesuits pose one of the more dangerous features of the new government. The religious order is notorious for its historically held advocacy of a medieval world order in which the oligarchy dominates a poor and superstitious peasantry.

The rest of the Latin American continent is not at all supportive of the new El Salvador junta. Regional observers have already dubbed the whole affair the "El Salvador model"—Washington's new method of holding off the vast social and economic changes in the area that development will require.

The U.S. 'reappraises' relations with Jamaica

Immediately upon the return of Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley from the Nonaligned summit in Havana in early September, a decision was made in Washington to "reappraise" U.S. relations with Jamaica. That "reappraisal" has already led to a decision that Washington, working with London, will work to remove Manley from power, and replace him with a government more easily controlled, according to reliable reports emerging from the recent London security conference.

Manley's "pro-Cuba" speech in Havana is the usual reason cited for the policy review, but the real reasons go beyond this. Since the Havana summit, Manley has made clear that he is committed to the creation of a new international monetary system as agreed upon by the nonaligned as their program.

For Manley this is crucial as the only way to relieve

Latin nations reject gunboat diplomacy

Washington's gunboat diplomacy in the Caribbean has not met with cheers in Latin America, even from some of the continental "big powers" traditionally aligned with the United States. Fidel Castro's challenge to the developed nations to industrialize the Third World struck a strong chord throughout the continent. As Peru's president Francisco Morales Bermúdez—who has tolerated the IMF "conditionalities" for three years—candidly said, Castro was speaking for the views of the entire Third World on economic policy.

Brazil's foreign minister, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, told reporters in New York City Oct. 2 that Brazil is more concerned about "the international economic crisis" than about the possible security threat from Cuba. "Our borders are calm and we are capable of guaranteeing the security and well-being of our people," said Saraiva. "The only thing we are concerned about is the deterioration of the

international economic situation with its dangerous consequences for international trade, rising inflation and worsening energy crisis. These perils can have a negative effect on the Brazilian situation." Saraiva rejected as "interventionist policy" the idea of creating a standing Latin American military "peace-keeping" task force.

Even more striking is the opposition from Venezuela, regarded as a friend of Washington. Venezuelan Defense Minister General Rangel Burgoin adamantly rejected Venezuelan participation in any force to police the area, declaring that he found no strategic threat whatsoever in the few Soviet troops in Cuba. Venezuela has "no interest in participating in the conflicts of other states," he said.

The Herrera Campins government in Caracas refused to sign scientific agreements with the United States for fear of appearing to support Carter administration policy in the Caribbean. And a scheduled policy address by the Venezuelan energy and mines minister in Washington has reportedly been canceled in protest to Jimmy Carter's "roughrider" policy.