

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.