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State Department

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## The actual stakes in Central America

by Dennis and Gretchen Small

Secretary of State Alexander Haig has renewed his year-old compulsion to embroil American armed forces in the deteriorating Central American theater. Haig loudly reiterated that he would not rule out *any* policy options, including ordering American troops into El Salvador to fight the leftist guerrillas there. He told the *New York Times* Feb. 8 that Central America is far more vital to U.S. strategic interests than Vietnam ever was, and intoned, in a credible imitation of Henry Kissinger: "This is a profound challenge to the security of our hemisphere." At the same time, congressional sources leaked to the press that allied Argentine military forces were already deployed in El Salvador to aid the Duarte Junta.

As he has for the past year, Haig coordinated his provocative remarks with those of El Salvador's insurrectionary left—with whom he has kept in close touch via the "good offices" of the Socialist International. Last week, Rubén Zamora, the "foreign minister" for the FDR/FMLN guerrillas, told a Washington press conference that "it will take 30,000 Marines to maintain the [Salvadoran] government in power. The problem would be how to get out. If the Marines intervene in El Salvador the war will become a Central American war, [because] we will regionalize the conflict." The same Socialist Zamora met with Haig's Latin America specialists at the State Department in late 1981. Shortly thereafter, Haig himself held a lengthy tête-à-tête with the Socialist International's top Latin America specialist and Zamora's boss, the Spaniard Felipe González.

The Eastern Establishment news media are now giving massive coverage to the El Salvador war, constantly playing up the likelihood of the United States getting involved in a new Vietnam. Day in and day out, American readers are being besieged with "debates" over whether or not the Reagan administration will send troops to El Salvador, or "only" increase military aid there.

If Haig has his way, American soldiers will see action in Central America—not because he wants to end the state of insurrection there, but in order to extend it and make it bloodier. Haig is a known proponent of the philosophy of depopulating Third World areas like Central America through such provoked wars. Whether or

not he achieves this will depend in large measure on opposition to his "population wars" policies coming both from within the Reagan administration and from allies in the area.

Mexico's role is particularly important. Three times in the course of 1981, when Haig attempted to blow up Central America into a strategic crisis, Mexican President López Portillo deployed Mexico's diplomatic and economic weight with various "players" in the region to pull El Salvador back from the brink. But now Mexico is pinned down by its own problems: economic warfare is being run against the peso by Wall Street financial interests, and political unrest is surrounding the transition to a new presidential administration at the end of this year. The result, for the moment, has been to leave the area wide open to the gameplans of Haig and his Socialist International allies.

Conservative political circles in Washington, such as those around Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), have reacted to this picture of a prolonged, no-win meatgrinder war in Central America, by blaming "do-nothing liberals" encrusted in the Reagan administration. On Feb. 2, a mixed group of some of these self-proclaimed conservatives—many of them friends of Haig—marched in for a meeting at the White House, Capitol Hill sources told *EIR*, to "scream at Reagan for being soft in Central America." The head of the Fabian Society's Heritage Foundation, Ed Feulner, led the team, which included Senator Helms, James Baker III, and an editor from Irving Kristol's *Public Interest* magazine.

Two days later, U.S. ambassadors to the United Nations and the Organization of American States, Jeane Kirkpatrick and William Middendorf, respectively, convened an "in-house," half-day discussion on Central America for 100-plus administration personnel and area specialists. Dominating the demands for action from the gathered experts were proposals for immediate build-up of the Salvadoran army. Among the latter were that some 200-300 American helicopters—over the current 8—be sent; the rapid-patrol boat force in the Gulf of Fonseca bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua be beefed up; the Honduras-Nicaraguan border be sealed; and a permanent satellite stationed over the area for reconnaissance.

Democratic Party leader Lyndon La Rouché responded to these developments by agreeing with Helms and Co. on the urgent need to stabilize Central America, but warned that their information and intelligence evaluation of the situation there is entirely wrong. LaRouché identified Haig's State Department, the Socialist International, the Jesuits, and the Mossad-linked American company United Brands, as the key destabilizers. He called for the immediate firing of Thomas Enders and U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Deane Hinton, as the first necessary step toward stabilizing Central America.