

El Salvador's war of extermination

by Rutilio Remas Ayala

An eyewitness report from a journalist in El Salvador.

The constant campaigns to discredit El Salvador organized over the last several years by the foreign news media, principally that of the United States, constitute one more reason for writing this message. I say one more reason, because the primary and most tragic one of all is the guerrilla war that has caused the death of 50,000 Salvadorans and the destruction of one-third of our agricultural lands, the flight of our professionals, and the exile of our best labor-power, estimated at more than one-half million persons, many of whom have been unable to find relief abroad but only all sorts of miseries, including death in many cases.

I therefore take advantage of the opportunity the Schiller Institute affords me in the context of this very important international conference—which unfortunately I am unable to attend—to testify before you to the pain, suffering, and destruction of which the Salvadoran people have been victims. I append some statistical background reports to elaborate my point.

I also take this occasion to tell you that the agrarian reform carried out in my country over these last few years, contrary to what some politicians have reported insistently in the public media, has been a total failure, as was the reform carried out in Peru some 15 or 20 years ago—both reforms planned and executed by the same so-called specialized committees, the same individuals, and the same groups which deliberately waved the flag of social justice to destroy what little progress has been achieved in these countries over so many years.

I am honored to make this presentation through the international Schiller Institute which has opened its doors to all the underdeveloped countries and in particular to those of Latin America. The Schiller Institute, in its brief existence, has kept us abreast of the most important world developments, enabling us to know and understand the true roots of our chronic backwardness. It is the Schiller Institute which has opened our eyes. . . . It is Schiller who has shown us the pathway of hope, hope that is not utopian but realistic; a hope that Mr. Reagan, recently re-elected President of the most powerful nation on Earth, could realize through his government.

Once more the American people have told the world, through their vote, that they repudiate “zero growth” and similar policies; that they repudiate the moral collapse and cultural pessimism that overwhelms the United States and

Western world. Once more the American people have rejected the policies of the powerful groups of right and left which have created the current conditions of endless warfare, revolution, terrorism, large-scale drug-trafficking, and economic crisis that impose “austerity” (misery and hunger) upon the great majority of the human population.

President Reagan must know that his people are offering him a *second opportunity* to rule for the *Good*. The international forces that are consolidating to halt progress and social justice are complex and powerful, but unbreakable and stronger still is the will of the noble North American people with their fervent devotion to democracy, to social justice, to law an

potential within the American people and do everything in his power to stop these opposing forces which, wrapping themselves in apparently noble flags, mislead with such euphemistic phrases as “limits to growth,” “small is beautiful,” “what the ecologists could teach the economists,” “the dangers of the population explosion,” and similar nonsense. Taking advantage of the economic crisis, these emissaries of backwardness propose complex and vast programs of destabilization of governments and world economic disintegration. This has been the worst assault that the oligarchic, hegemonic, neocolonialist, and totalitarian socialist empires have launched against the material and spiritual life of humanity. President Reagan today has the opportunity to amend past policies, including those of his own government, which have given impetus to these insidious powers that Pope John Paul II calls “the culture of death.”

The war in El Salvador

Concretely, in El Salvador, we have seen how these forces prepared the environment which facilitated the corruption of successive governments, the class struggle, and finally the guerrilla war that gained strength when President Jimmy Carter named Robert E. White as ambassador to El Salvador. It was then that the tactics came to light which one Salvadoran newspaper described in the following way: “At the same time that the government is destabilized, the economy is destroyed and the red terror is set upon us.”

As *Executive Intelligence Review* correctly proved, Ambassador White was “the ambassador for the opposition,” and not to the established government in El Salvador. He strengthened those opposition parties militarily and ideologically trained by the Jesuits and other promoters of “liberation theology” which operated from the colleges and universities, as well as from the pulpits, to unleash this demographic war we are still suffering; a war that the Salvadoran armed forces could have brought to an end a long time ago.

With the appendix and this brief review I hope to give the audience and North American readers a view of the *harsh reality of this war of extermination* that has now been going on for more than five years in my country. Four U.S. nuns have died, along with other experts and advisers—unfortunate cases which have been commented upon innumerable

times in the foreign press. Yet for El Salvador, this infamous conflict has cost more than 50,000 lives! As one bishop has said: "The great powers provide the arms, El Salvador provides the corpses."

The following are some of the measures I consider urgent to undertake, not only for El Salvador but for the Western world in general:

Understanding the reality and the true cause of this war which continues to mow down Salvadoran youth and children, as well as this situation of continuous deterioration of our economy, we believe that emergency measures should be immediately taken, on a world scale, against the "limits to growth" and usurious policies of the international banks. The image of the United States, so deteriorated recently among countries that previously considered themselves friends, must be restored with works, with real deeds. I propose that, in El Salvador and on a world level, the following changes be implemented in some form:

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1) Effect changes in the U.S. diplomatic corps, eliminating those representatives of policies of extermination such as the infamous Global 2000 Report and the neocolonialism of the International Monetary Fund. President Reagan has the word.

2) Considerably lighten the burden of the Third World debt by granting longer terms and very low interest rates.

3) Grant soft credits for high-tech development of agriculture and industry and not, as is occurring now, by conditioning credits to block private enterprise and reduce population growth-rates.

4) Promote the development and education of the people, through established channels, eliminate Malthusian policies of all types, and collaborate to promote free enterprise.

5) Help implement in Latin America the worthy recommendations contained within Lyndon LaRouche's study "Operation Juárez," so broadly known among leading circles throughout the Americas but so little acknowledged by the United States government and by the press and mass media of that country.

The IMF threatens Honduran democracy

by Ondina Sierra de Hodges

Mrs. Hodges is a journalist with Tegucigalpa in Honduras.

Honduras is a small Central American country which depends almost entirely on the exploitation of its natural resources for foreign exchange. . . . During the past few years, due to the high interest on international loans, countries like Honduras have found themselves in a very critical political and economic situation.

The International Monetary Fund, acting as the political weapon of the international bank consortium, has imposed severe restrictions on the government of Honduras. The point has arrived at which the government is no longer ruling the country, but the New York, London, and Swiss banks.

For the first time in many years, Honduras has a democratic government honestly elected by the majority of the people. This government has tried to improve the country and eliminate corruption, and is totally supported by the military. Nonetheless, the government has been forced to take unpopular measures such as a general increase in different taxes. The result of all this has been general discontent among the Honduran people, caused by the bankruptcy of private enterprise, and a worsening of the political situation both within and outside the country.

Responsibility for all this rests with the International Monetary Fund, which has blackmailed and threatened the government of Honduras with a cutoff of international aid if it does not accede to its demands. To comply with these demands, the government is forced to enter a vicious circle, constantly increasing taxes to satisfy the voracious appetite of the IMF.

I, as a citizen of Honduras who in the beginning had great hope for our infant democracy, today feel disillusioned and concerned for our future.

The U.S. government must understand that true capitalist democracy will not preserve itself with arms, but with work and social well-being. Honduras needs a breathing space, a lowering of interest rates on international loans, and time for its young democracy to become institutionalized. Our industries must be rehabilitated and modernized. Import taxes must be lowered and industrialists given access to low-interest credit.

If the economic situation in Honduras and Central America could be resolved by giving a job to all who need and want it, the political problem of Marxism, which feeds on discontent and frustration, would cease to exist.