

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:

"President Reagan must know that his people are offering him a second opportunity to rule for the Good. . . . He 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.'"

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.