

U.S. must back the Contadora program

by Pedro Rubio

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"When we can finally come to an agreement and find common denominators to develop ourselves in order to pay [our debts], on the horizon appear hostile signs coming from bureaucracies which still practice colonialist philosophies. . . . Latin America has a vocation for democracy and freedom, but needs the Free World's help and understanding to emerge revived from this dilemma," said Colombian President Belisario Betancur when he welcomed Gaston Thorn, chairman of the European Economic Community, to Colombia on Oct. 30.

This quote summarizes the dilemma facing relations between Ibero-America and the United States. Either George Washington's nation returns to the community of principles among the fraternal republics of America, as outlined in the Monroe Doctrine, or the great giant of the North will be nothing but a colossus with feet of clay, responsible for its own destruction for having condemned its best trading partners and political neighbors—the Ibero-American nations—to genocide and social chaos.

In particular, it is in the interest of the United States itself to work jointly with the Contadora Group in formulating and implementing an aggressive program of development for the area, conducive to a long-standing peace in the Caribbean region, and to reject any militaristic Kissinger-like adventures evocative of Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick. Nothing would better suit Soviet imperial designs than a U.S. military intervention in Central America, since it would give the Russian czars the opportunity to kill many birds with one stone: A good portion of the U.S. troops quartered in Europe would be re-deployed to the Caribbean, leaving the door open behind them for a Warsaw Pact invasion of Europe. The Soviets would then have an "excuse" to retaliate in response to the aggression suffered by a friend of the Kremlin czars. Thus, not only Europe would be "decoupled" from the United States, but also Ibero-America, since such a preposterous move would be politically intolerable to all governments, from Mexico to Argentina.

Aware of the fact that lasting peace can only be defined in economical and political terms and not in militaristic ones per se, the governments of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela,

and Panama created the Contadora Group. Their aim was to halt the fratricidal war bleeding Central America and threatening to expand to the rest of the continent. Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid vehemently expressed himself in this respect last April: "It is right there that the origins of tensions lie, in the poverty, in the poor health, in the general backwardness, in the exploitation systems, and in the authoritarian regimes that have prevented democracy and liberty in Central America." Undoubtedly, de la Madrid was referring to the colonialist practices of businesses like United Fruit Company, today known as United Brands—the same drug-trafficking pirates that coined the surname of "banana republics" in reference to the degraded and looted Caribbean nations. Rightfully have the Contadora leaders stressed repeatedly that no lasting peace in the region will be reached if the prevailing injustices dictated by modern colonialism are not progressively eliminated.

Nevertheless, the State Department, bastion of Henry Kissinger's stooges, has done everything possible to sabotage Contadora's peace initiatives. By Oct. 15, following the tireless diplomatic efforts by the foreign ministers and presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama, five Central American countries were about to endorse the second version of the "Contadora Treaty." Without due warning, four of the Central American nations decided Oct. 19 to meet separately to raise objections to the document, so as to make it unacceptable to Nicaragua. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge publicly admitted that these nations' governments had acted under State Department pressure and blackmail. Guatemala, however, announced her readiness to sign the original document.

Shultz and Kissinger oppose Contadora's plan of action, considering it preemptory: "The cessation of hostilities and of belligerent acts or preparation for war, arms restraint, a commitment of all the countries in the region not to support subversion or destabilization of neighbors, and withdrawal of foreign military forces." Furthermore, the notorious bipartisan commission for the Caribbean, known as the "Kissinger Commission," was explicitly created to counter Contadora. The Kissinger Commission report advocates the "Hong Kong model" (whose basis is drug trafficking), presumably as a panacea for the Caribbean economies. The country which most dramatically reflects the effects of rigorously applying these recommendations is Edward Seaga's Jamaica. This country is being praised by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* as a paradigm of "free enterprise" for having devoted its land and population, to marijuana production, or "ganja," as it is locally known. A second Reagan administration cannot keep supporting these crimes against humanity. President Reagan must rapidly get rid of those Malthusian officials and advisers who are using the power of the United States to commit genocide.

As a labor leader, I have had the opportunity to discuss these problems with my Central American counterparts, and I can assure you that no worker differs with what I am telling

you. I have been deeply moved on hearing directly of the violence which ravages the region, and I was anguished to remember the bloody events which stole the lives of more than a half-million Colombians at the end of the 1940s. I have witnessed the self-sacrificing efforts of President Betancur to prevent this from happening again, and I pray that President Reagan has the wisdom to understand the magnitude of what

is risked if he does not act in time to prevent this holocaust. What is at stake is Western civilization itself. Before it is too late, everything that smells of Henry Kissinger and his oligarchic sponsors must disappear from the political scene. Let us turn the anger which wells up in us from these injustices into creative energy and mobilize the world in favor of a new movement in defense of the inalienable rights of man.

Resolutions passed by the Schiller Conference

Support the Contadora Group

The Third International Conference of the Schiller Institute unanimously voted to give its absolute and total support to the efforts and policies of the Contadora Group toward bringing peace to Central America.

The resolution, which was presented at the end of a discussion panel on the Central American situation Nov. 25, also condemned plans for a U.S. military intervention in the region, promoted by the faction of Henry A. Kissinger in the government of the United States.

Investigate the Trilateral Commission

On the initiative of Alejandro R. Iaccarino of Argentina, the conference of the Schiller Institute unanimously endorsed the creation of a Latin American committee to investigate the Trilateral Commission's activities, which undermine the sovereignty and prosperity of the nations of Ibero-America. The guidelines elaborated by the members of the new committee include:

"1) The primary headquarters are to be established in the city of Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina.

"2) Each Latin American country will have its own headquarters, to the effect of compiling and establishing any and all relevant information to be remitted to the main headquarters in Argentina.

"3) In Washington, D.C., a secondary headquarters will be established, given the participation of multinational companies with their controls in the United States.

"4) Each participating member of the committee will have access by request to the central archives of information. . . .

"6) All Latin American organizations and leaders who agree with the objective of broadening the investigation of the goals and means of domination implemented by the Trilateral Commission and the International Monetary Fund will be part of this investigatory committee.

"7) The leaders of said investigatory committee should

be men of renown in the national profile of each one of their respective countries.

"8) Each member will have the responsibility for keeping the mentioned investigative work private.

"9) They will have the responsibility to protect, despite any personal risks, the established mission in defense of their own country and of Latin America as a whole.

"10) Information gathered will be released to the public as it is compiled."

Form a labor alliance

Trade-union representatives attending the conference met to launch the activities of the new labor section of the Schiller Institute. Their press release reads in part:

"To be able to give our countries real alternatives, we declare our irrevocable commitment to fight to defend the *inalienable rights of man*. We set the following tasks:

"1) Formation of commissions by country, region and continent responsible for making sure the tasks are carried out. . . .

"4) Setting up the means to educate children and parents in order to develop the creative power of human beings.

"5) Taking inventory of the material and economic resources, and especially the human resources to achieve this plan.

"6) Convoking as soon as possible the First World Gathering of Worker Members of the Schiller Institute."

Translate works of LaRouche, Perón

The following resolution, submitted by a delegation of workers from Argentina, was adopted unanimously:

"Given the similarity of thinking and philosophies expressed by Mr. Lyndon LaRouche of the United States, and the Argentine philosophies inspired in the thinking of Gen. Juan D. Perón, made known by the Argentine delegation here, let it be resolved here:

"1) the writings and conferences of Mr. LaRouche be translated and disseminated in Spanish;

"2) similarly, the works on social justice and labor by General Perón be translated into English and into the other languages of our brother nations which have participated in this conference."