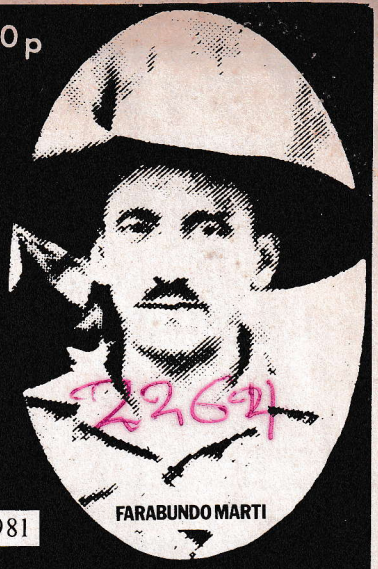
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EL SALVADOR NEWS BULLETIN



22621

El Salvador Solidarity Campaign

No 10 Sept 1981



U.S. marines entering the Guantanamo base on Cuba on August 17th, as part of the exercise codenamed "Ocean Venture 81". Since August 1st 120,000 soldiers, 240 warships and 1,000 aircraft have been mobilied by NATO and the Inter-American Reciprocal Aid Treaty with participation by 12 countries. The operations, lasting 2 months are centred on the Caribbean and the Baltic. Rear-Admiral R. McKenzie commanding the Caribbean contingency force said that the operations were "to show world opinion the military capacity of the U.S. to act in this zone."

IN THIS ISSUE:

SALVADOREAN TRADE UNIONISTS VISIT BRITAIN
HONDURAS: REGIONAL GENDARME FOR THE US

EDITORIAL

The ruling Christian-Democrat-military Junta in El Salvador is facing one of the worst political crises in its eighteen month rule. It is under heavy pressure from right-wing groups, high-ranking officers in the armed forces and from the private sector of the economy. This pressure is threatening the continued presence of the Christian Democratic Party in the Coalition. This move could cause problems for the United States, who to counter the international rejection of their policy have had support using the presence of Jose arte, the civilian figurehead of what is ilitary regime. The United States have ents that they will not support a new g from a coup d'etat or which does not his is forcing the extreme right to accept esence of Duarte, but not the Christian Democrats, in the restructuring of the Junta which they are negotiating. To maintain the unity between the extreme right and the private sector a new political party is being formed, Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), with the man most likely to lead it a lawyer well known for his links with the oligarchy, Rene Fortin Magaña.

In the last month the two largest associations of the private sector, ANEPO and ASI, have publicly blamed the Junta for the disastrous situation of the economy. They have carried out a wide propaganda campaign, and according to one of their statements "the Agrarian reform has resulted in the loss of 30% of the cotton crop, and the economy has been badly hit by the absence of cereals for export".

In the first week of June the Public Transport Owners Association (AEAS) went on strike for an increase in public transport fares to safeguard their profit levels. The Junta agreed that it would subsidise petrol to avoid a fares increase, but after two weeks the Junta had to agree to a fares increase as it was unable to maintain the subsidy. This caused further public anger.

As well as the serious disagreements about economic policies, the right is split concerning the proposed elections for 1982 and 1983. For the right-wing army officers, the U.S plan to hold elections is simply a means by which to win or maintain international support.

imprisonment, kidnapping, assassination and mutilation of workers and trade union leaders; to massive repression: mass arrests and closure of trade union premises, bombings, dissolution of strikes using military forces, etc.

They said that the working class and all the popular sectors (peasants, teachers, students, unemployed, shanty-town inhabitants, small traders) have fought hard battles in order to obtain freedom, democracy, justice and peace, but in reply to these aspirations they have been subjected to physical and legal repression, the latter illustrated by the passing of anti-worker decrees such as:

Decree 296: which denies civil servants the right to organise themselves in a trade union, or to strike.

Decree 366: which dissolved the Electricity Workers Union (STECEL) and established precedents for the dissolution of other workers' unions in the energy sector.

Decree 44: by which the Junta has militarised work centres such as: Communications, Ports, Water, Electrical energy; applying military standards so that if workers strike to recover their rights they will face court martial.

Decree 507: criminalising strikes for immediate needs and legalising exra-judicial declarations extorted under torture, which is practised by the judicial forces.

They also denounced the arrest of two companions, who had formed part of the CUS delegation when it had visited Latin American countries and the United States. They said that Alejandro Molina Lara, Disputes Secretary of FENESTRAS, had been arrested in El Salvador in February, and that Jose Sanchez, General Secretary of the Revolutionary Trade Union Federation had been arrested by the Guatemalan authorities on his way back to El Salvador from Mexico. They called for urgent action to be taken demanding respect for their physical integrity and freedom.

Given this background Alfonso and Ramon Martinez asked the British Labour Movement to support their struggle, suggesting several ways in which the trade unions, the workers and people in general could develop some solidarity toward the Salvadorean people.

Their requests are as follows:

1. To get support from the TUC for the petition made to the ILO for sending a Trade Union delegation to El Salvador to investigate the situation of the country's labour movement.
2. To support an international Solidarity Conference to be held in Montreal, Canada, at the beginning of October. They requested financial support for a tour by a CUS delegation to promote this conference in several Latin American countries.
3. To send financial support for the opening of a CUS headquarters in Mexico, given the repression in El Salvador, where all union premises have been destroyed, and work must be clandestine. The approximate amount needed to open this office is £10,000.
4. To get support from branches and national unions to:
   - 4.1 – send messages of condemnation addressed to the Salvadorean Junta and demanding respect for liberties and workers rights
   - 4.2 – Support the activities of the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign in Britain, especially financially.
5. To condemn the US government for its interference in El Salvador's internal affairs, and the British government's support for United State's foreign policy.

Alfonso and Ramon Martinez left the country to continue their work of raising solidarity before returning to El Salvador to continue their trade union work. They hope that their requests to the British Labour movement will receive a positive answer. ELSSOC is developing the work that they began, which also included agreements with the Trade Unions visited, and we ask all affiliates and supporters to help us develop this work.

(Lucho, ELSSOC)

Affiliation:

Organisations	**£10**
Individuals	**£ 5**
Unemployed	**£ 2**

El Salvador Solidarity Campaign
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London N1
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LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE RESISTS

SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL

SUPPORT THE CULTURAL STRUGGLE IN

CHILE and EL SALVADOR

This Festival is being organised to show and to publicise the need for an effective solidarity with the struggle of these two peoples, especially with the cultural aspect of the struggle. It aims to build a direct and permanent contact between artistic and cultural groups/individuals already doing solidarity work with 'El Salvador' and 'Chile' and those that are not yet involved.

MUSIC
Karaxu (Chile), Banda Tepeuani (El Salvador)
Steel 'n Skin (Britain), Raincoats (Britain)

THEATRE
Broadside Mobile Workers Theatre, C.A.S.T.

VISUAL ARTISTS
Braulio Barrida, Roberto Matta, Nemesio Antunez, John Dugger, Charles Beauchamp, Julieta Gimpel, Hugo Rivieros, Victor Ramirez

POETS
Black Ink Collective, Adrian Mitchell, Chilean and Salvadorian poets

FILM
films from Cuba, El Salvador, Chile and Nicaragua

SEMINARS
Ernesto Laclau on The State and Culture in Latin America, **Maxine Molyneux** on Women and Culture in Latin America, speakers on revolutionary culture in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada

WORKSHOPS
will be held around the following three topics:
– The culture of imperialist oppression
– The culture of resistance
– The culture of solidarity

DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITS
about the current situation in both El Salvador and Chile and photographic exhibitions

Contact address: 29 Islington Park Street, N1.

24, 25, 26, SEPTEMBER 1981

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON STUDENTS' UNION . MANNING HALL
MALET ST. WC1

FINANCIAL APPEAL

The El Salvador Solidarity Campaign urgently needs financial support. The costs of Solidarity work, beyond our commitment to the FMLN—FDR, to whom £2,000 was sent in July, are substantial. Please send what you can.