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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER  
ROBERT C. MCFARLANE  
MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *FRW*  
SUBJECT: "Central America Week" Activities, March 18

Please find attached a summary of activities planned by groups opposed to the President's policies in Central America. The activities are scheduled to take place during the week of March 18-25.

I would like to discuss with you our public diplomacy efforts in general and in particular the need for wider circulation of our White House digests on Central American policy and more access by the press to our Central America Outreach weekly meetings.

# National Campaign for Peace in Central America: The Time for Action is Now

Citizens concerned about U.S. policy in Central America should prepare themselves for a season of shocks during the first six months of 1984. The brief chronology below underscores the need for citizen action to become more visible and more vocal than ever before. This resource provides the basic information concerned citizens need to know in order to counter President Reagan's drive to escalate U.S. involvement in Central America in 1984. It also announces and outlines an exciting National Campaign for Peace in Central America which will culminate in nation-wide organizing for Central America Week, March 18-25.

## U.S. Policy: The First Six Months

- January 8            The National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, headed by Henry Kissinger, will release its recommendations on a medium- and long-range U.S. policy towards the region.
- January 16           National independent human rights groups will release an evaluation of the status of human rights and reforms in El Salvador. This is the date President Reagan would have had to officially certify progress in these two areas for U.S. military aid to continue to flow to El Salvador. On November 30, 1983, President Reagan vetoed legislation to continue the certification requirement in 1984.
- January 23           The Second Session of the 98th Congress will convene.
- Jan. 8 - Feb. 29      Following the release of the Kissinger report, the administration will probably seek massive additional funding from Congress for military and economic aid to El Salvador and Honduras.
- March 18-25           Central America Week
- March 25            The announced date of presidential elections in El Salvador.
- April 1              The "extended training exercises" with the Honduran military, which have kept 3500-5000 U.S. combat troops in Honduras since November, are scheduled to end. Will they be "extended" once again?

April 1 - June 1 Congress appropriated \$24 million for fiscal year 1984 to continue the covert war against Nicaragua. These funds should run out during this period. Will the administration seek more funds to maintain its covert operation against Nicaragua?

## **Nation-Wide Action: You Are Needed Now**

In response to the growing crisis in Central America, dozens of national religious, labor, peace, and human rights organizations have called for a nationally coordinated week of action: Central America Week, March 18-25, 1984. The week will start with thousands of concerned citizens coming to Washington, D.C., to call for peace in Central America. It will end with dozens of local actions across the country.

Central America Week is being supported by the National Council of Churches, the National Labor Committee in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador (which unites sixteen presidents of national AFL-CIO trade unions), and several other groups, such as the Interreligious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America, SANE, the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, Church Women United, the Washington Office on Latin America, and the American Friends Service Committee (see last page for list of endorsers).

These groups are calling on you and each of their members to:

- SPEAK OUT against policies and actions that continue to escalate the conflicts in Central America and U.S. involvement in the region;
- LEARN more skills in organizing by attending the National Training Seminar for Action on Central America, in Washington, on March 19;
- RESPOND to the witness for peace and justice for the Central American people by participating in the National Religious Convocation for Peace in Central America, on March 19, in Washington;
- JOIN with citizens across the nation to ask our national legislators to end U.S. intervention in Central America on the National Day of Advocacy, March 20, in Washington;
- ORGANIZE rallies, teach-ins, educational forums, vigils, worship services, processions, or other community events to publicize the need for peace in Central America, March 22-25.

## Building For Central America Week

The Reagan administration will be making a series of announcements regarding U.S.-Central America policy during January and February. Use these announcements - the questions they raise, the debates they spark - to build momentum for Central America Week, March 18-25, 1984.

As always, one of the best ways to counter the administration's protestations that its policy is working is to call for a "reality check" on Central America: in both human life and dollars, the costs are too high.

## The Kissinger Report on Central America

On August 10, 1982, President Reagan appointed the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America "to investigate and recommend a medium- and long-range policy" for the United States regarding its relations to the region. The commission is headed by Henry Kissinger and is scheduled to release its reports on January 8, 1984.

While the content of the Kissinger report has yet to be revealed, its conclusions will most likely follow this outline: 1) acknowledge that poverty and economic and social injustice are the root causes of unrest in Central America; 2) recommend a multi-billion dollar economic program for the next 5-10 years, including bilateral and multilateral aid, private foreign investment, trade concessions, and massive infusions of Economic Support Funds (a category of U.S. bilateral security assistance); and 3) protect this economic program by providing a U.S. security shield in the form of increased military aid, equipment, and advice over the next 1-3 years.

The justification of "a security shield" to protect U.S. economic aid has been used by the Reagan administration for the past 2 1/2 years. As the "reality check" below indicates, such a policy has done little to stop repression, let alone promote economic recovery or democratic institution-building.

In an article analyzing the probable repercussions of the Kissinger report, the WASHINGTON POST reported: "Analysts outside the [U.S.] government said greatly increased military assistance might or might not hasten an end to the fighting [in Central America], but it would be guaranteed to escalate tensions, distort further the warped economies of the area and discourage private investment that the region desperately needs." (WP, 12/12/83)

There can be no successful economic reconstruction of Central America while wars rage throughout the region. Increased military aid only exacerbates the conflicts. A just and lasting peace can be concluded only through the active encouragement, participation, and promotion of negotiated political settlements.

## Central America: A Reality Check

The Reagan administration has invested \$1.395 billion in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in bilateral aid alone. For the past two years, administration spokesmen have stated that the aim of U.S. military aid is to provide "a security shield" behind which economic development and democratic institutions can be built. President Reagan used the argument in his April 27, 1983, speech before the Joint Session of Congress.

But since the Reagan administration took office, the situation in Central America has gone from bad to worse. The reality is a nightmare.

### EL SALVADOR:

- In the past four years, the Salvadoran Catholic Church has documented 37,882 civilians murdered by official government forces and allied right-wing paramilitary groups.
- From January to October 1983 alone, 4,651 civilians were killed by those same forces: an average rate of over 100 murders per week.
- Despite the Reagan administration's recent protests over murders by death squads, in a typical month (October 1983) death squads murdered 88 civilians. Official uniformed Army and security forces murdered 353 civilians, four times as many as the death squads' killings.
- The upsurge in death-squad activity in 1983 indicates a renewal in political killings of targeted labor leaders, campesino leaders, religious and refugee workers, and Christian-Democratic politicians.
- 468,000 Salvadorans displaced by the violence have been given the protection of the Catholic Church and live in refugee camps inside El Salvador; 244,500 Salvadorans are refugees in Mexico and other Central American countries. Together they account for 23.6% of the entire population. None of these 23.6% is eligible to vote in elections.
- 8 U.S. civilians and 1 U.S. serviceman have been murdered in El Salvador. All of their cases remain unsolved.
- There are no democratic institutions, no freedom of press, no freedom of assembly, and no functioning judicial system.

- In the past three years, damage from the civil war to El Salvador's roads, bridges, and power lines has cost almost \$1 billion. According to the World Bank, per capita income has fallen 35%; \$400 million leave the country in capital flight each year; and foreign exchange goes largely to buy food for the army and to purchase military equipment.

#### HONDURAS

Honduras has not had the same history of violent repression which characterizes all its neighbors. Unfortunately, some ominous trends are developing.

- In 1982, four civilians were murdered by death squads; in 1983, there were 45 such murders (Jan.-Oct.). Eighty Hondurans have "disappeared" since 1981, according to the Committee of the Families of the Disappeared.
- Honduran labor and peasant movements are among the strongest in Central America, capable of carrying development projects and laying the basis for peaceful, democratic change. Death squads have particularly targeted labor and peasant leaders.
- Honduras is the poorest country in Central America, with the highest infant mortality rate and the lowest life expectancy. As the country becomes even more militarized, fewer resources will be available to address its serious economic and social problems.

#### GUATEMALA

- According to British and Canadian church sources, more than 100,000 civilians have been murdered by government forces in the last decade. These same sources estimate that there are up to one million internal refugees and 100,000 more in Mexico.
- For the past year (1983), no figures are available on civilian deaths or disappearances as no human-rights monitoring groups are allowed to function in Guatemala.

If a source is not cited in text, all human rights figures are from Americas Watch Committee. All refugee figures, unless otherwise noted, are from the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees. The figures are received from host countries. The number of refugees from El Salvador living in the United States is not included in the above information. All economic figures are from the World Bank. All health statistics from UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

## More Military Aid For Central America: The Fiscal Year 1984 Supplemental

Since gaining office, the Reagan administration has escalated U.S. military involvement in El Salvador during the first quarter of each year. In February 1981, an increase of \$25 million was announced which financed the first large contingent of U. S. advisors to El Salvador, as well as funding for major increases in the amount of U.S. military weaponry, supplies, and equipment. In February 1982, the administration sent an additional \$55 million to furnish the Salvadoran military with jet bombers, surveillance jets, and other light aircraft. On March 1, 1983, President Reagan requested \$110 million in additional military aid for El Salvador. In each case, these funds were on top of monies already approved by Congress.

We believe the pattern will continue in 1984.

Using the momentum of the Kissinger report, the Reagan administration will ask Congress for significant increases in military and economic aid. We project the request will come in the first month of the congressional session.

The package will focus on El Salvador, although it may include aid for Honduras as well. But until such time as the package is formally presented, we shall continue to refer to it as "the supplemental", as it will be monies in addition to the \$64.8 million Congress has already approved for military aid to El Salvador for fiscal year 1984.

It is around this supplemental request that Central America policy will be debated during the first six months of 1984. It is on the amount of funds in the supplemental that votes will occur in congressional committees and in the Congress as a whole.

Public and congressional displeasure with Reagan's policy will be measured by how much or little of the President's supplemental request is ultimately approved by Congress.

But no matter what happens, the supplemental - whatever form it may take - will be an escalation of U.S. involvement in the region, especially for El Salvador.

A successful Central America Week is critical to break the momentum of the Kissinger report and to defeat the supplemental.

# The Hidden Costs of U.S. Military Action in Central America

Charts of U.S. aid to Central America are deceptive. It is a simple matter to document how much money Congress allots to Central America in its annual foreign aid decisions (see box "U.S. Aid to Central America"). But in the case of Central America, those figures are rapidly becoming the tip of the iceberg: It's what you can't see that rocks the balance in Central America.

The puzzle of "hidden" monies is never easy to solve. Often, its "solution" is nothing more than guesses, estimates, or a list of questions without answers.

The covert war against Nicaragua is a case in point. Since the amount of funds is classified, media reports and allusions to the funds made by members of Congress become the data on which estimates are made. A conservative estimate of the funding for the U.S. covert operation against Nicaragua is \$73 million, for the period of March 1982 - June 1984 (\$19 million in FY 82, \$30 million in FY 83 and \$24 million for FY 84).

The real labyrinth exists in Honduras:

- In order to adhere to a limit of only 55 U.S. advisors in El Salvador, the Pentagon established a Regional Military Training Center (CREMS) on the Atlantic coast of Honduras at Puerto Castilla, staffed by 100-125

U.S. AID TO CENTRAL AMERICA		(in millions of dollars)				
<b>COSTA RICA</b>						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Military <sup>1</sup>	0	.1	2.1	2.6	2.1	
Development <sup>2</sup>	13.5	11.4	11.5	19.1	15.0	
Econ. Support Funds	0	0	90.0	82.0	70.0	
Total	13.5	11.7	103.6	103.7	87.1	
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Military	6.7	35.4	82.0	81.3	64.8	
Development	43.1	33.3	39.5	48.1	38.0	
Econ. Support Funds	9.1	44.9	115.0	140.0	120.0	
Total	58.9	113.6	236.5	269.4	222.8	
<b>GUATEMALA</b>						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Military	0	0	0	.2	0	
Development	7.7	9.1	8.1	12.5	13.0*	
Econ. Support Funds	0	0	10.1	16.4	0	
Total	7.7	9.1	18.2	28.9	13.0	
<b>HONDURAS</b>						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Military	4.0	8.9	31.2	37.3	41.0	
Development	45.8	25.6	31.1	35.1	32.0	
Econ. Support Funds	0	0	36.8	48.0	40.0	
Total	49.8	34.5	99.1	120.4	113.0	
<b>PANAMA</b>						
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	
Military	.3	.4	5.1	5.4	5.5	
Development	1.0	8.6	11.6	10.0	11.1	
Econ. Support Funds	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	1.3	9.0	16.7	15.4	16.6	

1 - Military aid is the total amount of funds in the categories of International Military Education and Training (IMET), Foreign Military Sales (FMS) credits, and Military Assistance Program (MAP).

2 - Development Aid is funds for economic projects administered by the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) of the State Department. It does not include funds for P.L. 480 food assistance.

\* - These funds must be administered by private voluntary organizations, not A.I.D.

FY 1980-82 figures are actuals. FY 83 and 84 are the amounts appropriated by Congress as of November 18, 1983, in the case of FY 84 by means of continuing resolution on appropriations.

U.S. military advisors. This base is mainly for the training of rapid-reaction battalions for the Salvadoran military. While part of the funding for the base (as well as the U.S. military personnel and staff stationed on it, and the transportation of Salvadoran troops to and from it) is included in the military aid allotments for El Salvador and Honduras found in the foreign aid bill, clearly not all the costs of such an operation can be met from these monies. What is unclear at this point is the total cost of the base and all the sources of its funding.

- The U.S. has run several joint military maneuvers with the Honduran armed forces. In 1982, the largest of these was Big Pine I which lasted six weeks and involved 2,000 U.S. combat troops. The Pentagon states that the exercise cost \$5 million.
- Big Pine II, the current "extended training exercise", is keeping 3500-5000 U.S. combat troops in Honduras from November 1983 through March 1984. The exercise is four times the duration and more than double the personnel of Big Pine I. The Pentagon cites \$24 million as the price tag of Big Pine II. It is unclear what is included and what is excluded from that figure.
- As part of Big Pine II, U.S. troops and engineers have "modified and lengthened" two existing Honduran airfields (approximate cost, \$7-13 million), built six new landing strips to accommodate C-130 transport planes and other light jet aircraft, established a military hospital to care for over 1,000 wounded, and constructed two radar bases along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. Setting aside the questionable purposes of such activity, there are no answers as to the cost of any of this construction.
- In August and September, 1983, two aircraft carriers, one battleship, and fourteen escort ships were stationed off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of Central America. Included in this flotilla were 140 jet warplanes and 16,500 officers and crew. The Center for Defense Information, a Washington-based research group, estimates that it costs \$1 million per day to operate just one aircraft carrier. The Pentagon testily replies that the costs of the naval operation have nothing to do with Central America policy as the ships "would have to be somewhere."
- The U.S. has also been running regular surveillance overflights of Nicaragua. Most of those flights originate at the U.S. Southern Command in Panama. No price tag here either.

One is left with a lot of questions. While the maneuvers are paid for out of undesignated monies in the exercise fund of the Department of Defense appropriations, no clear accounting of costs has yet occurred. How much is all of this costing the U.S. taxpayer?

To answer part of that question, congressional committees have asked the General Accounting Office to check all U.S. expenses and projects in Honduras. A comprehensive report from the GAO is expected in the first quarter of 1984.

Clearly, the bottom line is that the cost of U.S. involvement in Central America is far greater than Congress and the American people have been told.

## Say "No!" to U.S. Intervention: A National Pledge Drive, January-March

To respond to the escalation that an increase in U.S. military aid would represent, a national pledge and petition drive has been launched to demonstrate public concern over the threat of U.S. escalation in Central America. Since petitions and pledges must be presented dramatically in order to be taken seriously by legislators, the drive will culminate during Central America Week when constituents will personally deliver the pledges and petitions to their Senators and Representatives in Washington.

- Gather signatures in your community at all public events, meeting places and community events (use the pledge as a mass petition).
- Gather the signatures of local opinion-makers (e.g. city, county and state officials, religious and community leaders, etc.) on individual pledge sheets. (Take the wording of the pledge/petition and transfer it onto one-page individual pledge forms. Local leaders sign the individual pledge with their name, title/position, address and date of signature.)
- At a local press conference, announce the names of those opinion-makers who signed individual pledges and the number of citizen signatures gathered from your pledge drive right before you leave for Washington. Let your local media know that you are "taking your town" to Washington to stop U.S. intervention in Central America.
- Bring three copies of all completed individual pledges and petitions to Washington, on March 20th, for the National Day of Advocacy (one for your Representative and one for each Senator).
- Keep another copy for use by your own organization (announcements of upcoming events and for local fund-raising mailings).

If you are unable to come to Washington on March 20, please send your completed pledges and petitions to another group in your state who will be sending a delegation. If you do not know of anyone in your state who intends to participate in the National Day of Advocacy, contact the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) for the name of a contact person in your state (call after March 1st).



## Central America Week 1984

### MONDAY, MARCH 19: NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR ACTION ON CENTRAL AMERICA

An all-day training session will offer over 75 workshops on more than two dozen different organizing skills and issues pertinent to work on Central America. Workshops will range from building state-wide networks on Central America to local delegation visits with your Members of Congress, from ballot initiatives to canvassing, from local media work to coalition-building with hispanics, students, blacks, and women.

Workshop leaders will be local organizers who have been particularly successful at organizing campaigns and experts from national religious, labor, and human rights organizations.

The National Training Seminar will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, with registration beginning at 8:30 am, on March 19, in Washington, D.C. The site is not yet confirmed and will be announced in future mailings or contact the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) after February 1st.

We encourage as many people as possible to attend the National Training Seminar. However, it is not a prerequisite to participating in the Tuesday National Day of Advocacy. We understand that not many people can be in Washington, D.C., for two days. We have provided a pre-registration coupon for the National Training Seminar on the back page. If you intend to participate, please return it to us so that we can better gauge the number of training packets we will need to prepare. Deadline for preregistration is March 2.

### MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 19: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS CONVOCATION FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

A national interfaith service to pray for peace in Central America will be held Monday evening, in Washington, D.C., at 7:30pm, (site to be announced).

The worship service will give witness to the fact that the lives of the Central American people are a testimony of the world's struggle for peace with justice. Inspirational readings by national Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant leaders, as well as gospel choirs and Central American music will be included in the service.

BRING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO PRAY FOR PEACE IN  
CENTRAL AMERICA

The National Religious Convocation is designed for you: to bring moral, spiritual, and emotional support to the individuals and groups who work every day to end U.S. intervention in Central America and to bring peace to the people of the region.

Like any religious service, this one is open to the public. Local groups and individuals are encouraged to ask their Senators and Representatives to accompany them to this worship service to pray for peace in Central America.

- Approach individuals or groups in your community which have a personal, political, or professional relation with your Member(s) of Congress (M.C.). Ask them to participate in the Central America Week events in Washington, on March 19 and 20. If they accept, urge them to invite the M.C. to attend the National Religious Convocation to add their prayers for peace in Central America.
- Prominent local religious and/or other community leaders who already plan to attend the Washington events can jointly extend an invitation to your Congresspersons to join them at the National Religious Convocation.
- Organize a delegation of concerned citizens and schedule a meeting with your Representative and Senators, at their local offices, during January or February. Part of the discussion for that visit is to request the M.C. to accompany you to the National Religious Convocation for Peace in Central America.

Please remember, this is no time to forget our friends in Congress. If you receive a commitment from one or more of your M.C.'s, please inform the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) or World Peacemakers (contact Beth Graybill or Doug Tanner, 2025 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-265-7582).

TUESDAY, MARCH 20: NATIONAL DAY OF ADVOCACY ON CENTRAL AMERICA

The aim of the National Day of Advocacy is to bring at least 2000 concerned citizens to Washington, to meet with their national legislators on the issue of U.S. policy towards Central America. The timing of the event could not be better chosen for an effective and dramatic impact on Congress, as the debate over sending more military aid to the region will be just beginning.

The series of events on March 20th is self-contained, and does not depend on its participants' attendance at the previous day's National Training Seminar. It is on March 20th that the largest number of people is expected to be in Washington.

The National Day of Advocacy has three major activities:

9:00 - 11:30 AM: Legislative briefings at different locations on Capitol Hill for participants in the day's activities. Groups will assemble between 9:00 and 9:30 am at designated sites, identified by the state in which the participants live (e.g., all people from Ohio will gather at one site, all Oregonians at another). To find out where your state will assemble, contact the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) after March 1st. Briefings will cover information on the current debate in Congress on Central America, the positions of your state's Senators and Representatives, how to "lobby" your Members of Congress effectively, and any other questions participants may have about the day. This is the place where the petitions from the entire state will be collected.

NOON - 1:00 PM: A Rally for Peace in Central America on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. This event will be organized by the National Labor Committee in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador, which unites 16 presidents of national AFL-CIO trade unions. National labor, civil rights, and religious leaders will speak on U.S. policy towards Central America. Music will be provided by prominent artists.

1:00 - 5:30 PM: Meetings with your Senators and Representatives. All appointments with your legislators need to be made by you or your group. Contact the appointments secretary in the Washington, D.C., office of your legislator. Make your call for an appointment after February 1st, but no later than March 5th. Inform the appointments secretary approximately how many people you will have in your delegation so that he or she can arrange for an appropriately large room. Remember, you want to meet with your Senator and Representative, not just an aide. It is not your worry that the legislators will be receiving dozens of phone calls for appointments on March 20th. Leave your name and phone number (or that of your groups' contact person) with the appointments secretary in case you must be reached about consolidating your appointment with another group's. Be sure to call again to reconfirm your appointment between March 5 and 14. (At the morning legislative briefings, some groups may decide to consolidate their appointments, especially if one group, for example, has an appointment with the legislator and another group does not.)

## BRING YOUR TOWN TO WASHINGTON TO KICK OFF CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK

Organizing for the national kick-off events of Central America Week is as demanding a task as preparing for any other national demonstration in Washington, D.C. For the events on March 19 and 20 to be successful, you will need the involvement of your community's churches, labor groups, students, and other community groups.

With events on two consecutive days, participants will be leaving from your community for Washington at different times. For the events on March 19th, organized carpools and van rentals should meet the needs of most communities. However, in several cities we understand that groups will be organizing buses to leave on Monday, March 19, in order to bring participants to the National Religious Convocation.

To bring people from your community to the National Day of Advocacy, on March 20th, charter buses and van rentals are generally the most cost-effective forms of transportation. However, for large groups (50+), you might ask a travel agent to investigate group rates on train and airline services. Depending on timing, you can sometimes find a bargain.

All participants in the March 20 National Day of Advocacy must be in their state's legislative briefing no later than 9:30 am.

For those people who will need accommodations Monday evening, information on hotels, hostels, and other lodging may be obtained from: The Washington Convention and Visitors Association, 1575 "I" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202-789-7000). For large groups, we again encourage using a travel agent to seek special group rates and we urge you to make reservations early.

What about those people who simply cannot come to Washington? For people in your community who support these actions but cannot attend them, organize a "phone-in" to your legislators' offices on March 20th. Their phone calls will arrive in Washington as your group meets with their legislators. Also encourage them to sign the national petition and to attend the local events you are holding at the end of Central America Week.

## MARCH 22-25: LOCAL ACTIONS FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Central America Week is built around the fourth anniversary of the death of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated while saying mass in San Salvador on March 24, 1980.

Across the nation, organizers use the March 24 date to hold large and dramatic events focusing on Central America. The focus of the second half of Central America Week, therefore, is on local actions. Rallies, teach-ins, vigils, processions, and worship services are being organized to educate local communities and publicize the need for peace in Central America.

Because elections are scheduled in El Salvador for March 25th, as well as the fact that 1984 is an election year in the United States, teach-ins on the REALITY of Central America and the costs of U. S. policy towards the region are an especially good idea this year. Campus teach-ins are best held on weekdays (Wednesday or Thursday), community teach-ins on Saturdays, and worship services on Saturday evening and Sunday.

The Interreligious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America has prepared a special resource packet on Central America Week for use by local organizers. Packets are \$3.00/each and may be ordered from the IRTF, Room 633, 475 Riverside Dr., NY, NY 10115; 212-870-3383).

### INITIATING ENDORSERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK 1984

Agricultural Missions/National Council of Churches; American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.; American Friends Service Committee; Church of the Brethren; Church Women United; Clergy and Laity Concerned; Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Interreligious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America; Lutheran Church in America; Maryknoll Sisters/Office of Social Concerns; Medical Missions Sisters/Sector North America; Methodist Federation for Social Action; National Assembly of Religious Women; National Council of Churches of Christ/U.S.A.; National Ecumenical Student Movement; National Labor Committee in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador; National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Religious Task Force on Central America; Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the U.S. Catholic Conference; Sisters of Mercy of the Union; Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace; Sojourners; Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches; Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; United Church of Christ; United Methodist Church/Board of Church and Society; United Methodist Church/Board of Global Ministries-Women's Division; U.S. Catholic Mission Association; Washington Office on Latin America; World Peacemakers.

Additional Endorsers

Americans for Democratic Action, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)/International Human Rights Program, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Democratic Socialists of America, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Guatemala Scholars Network, Institute for Food and Development Policy, Inter-Community Center for Justice and Peace, Mothers and Others Against the Draft, National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People, NETWORK(A Catholic Social Justice Lobby), Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, OXFAM America, Religious Task Force/ Mobilization for Survival, Riverside Church Disarmament Program, SANE, U.S. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, U.S. Student Association.

YES! I want to stop U.S. Escalation in Central America.  
I plan to participate in Central America Week 1984.

- \_\_\_ Preregistration for the National Training Seminar, Monday, March 19.
- \_\_\_ I will attend the National Religious Convocation, Monday evening, March 19.
- \_\_\_ I/we will be organizing to bring our town to Washington, D.C., on March 20.
- \_\_\_ I/we will plan local actions during the second half of Central America Week. We are considering holding a \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ I know this work takes money. Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ Please send me more information on Central America Week as it is produced so that I may use it in our local efforts to mobilize our community. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_.

Make all checks payable to: The Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, 120 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 ( 202-546-8400).

## **COALITION**

For a New Foreign and Military Policy

120 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington D.C. 20002

The Coalition unites national religious, labor, and social action organizations working for a peaceful, non-interventionist and demilitarized U.S. foreign policy.

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information  
contact

WORLD PRESS RELEASE FOR GROUPS SPONSORING CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK ACTIVITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Name

Telephone number(s)

(HEADLINE - A simple sentence highlighting main event)

(Name of organization) is sponsoring a (event e.g. vigil, rally to protest U.S. intervention in Central America) on March 24, 1984 at (time and place) as part of Central America Week, March 18-25, a nationally coordinated event which will join thousands of congregations and communities in a week of worship, study and action in support of justice and peace in Central America.

The (event) will commemorate the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was slain in El Salvador while saying Mass. His appeals to the armed forces of El Salvador and to the government of the United States, to stop the repression in his country will be remembered in similar acts of prayer and protest around the world.

Other local activities during the week will include (list some and attach a schedule of events to press release.)

"Our group (continue with two or three good quotations from the spokesperson of the sponsoring organizations. This person should be clearly identified both in relationship to the event and to her/his employment. The person should speak about the overall goals of the week. This can be several paragraphs.)"

On (date) local citizens, including (prominent individual) will travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with (your Senator or Representative) to discuss their concerns about U.S. policy in Central America. There they will join thousands of others who will meet with their legislators as part of a National Day of Advocacy for Peace and Justice in Central America. On the evening of March 19, they will attend a National Religious Convocation at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington. This worship service will bring leaders of the religious community in the U.S. and Central America together to pray for peace and justice. (Your Representative or Senator) will be attending the service with the delegation from (your town).

"(Quote from a spokesperson for the group going to Washington discussing the urgency of the situation in Central America and responsibility of U.S. policy-makers.)"

( Central America Week, 1984, is being coordinated nationally by the New York-based Inter-Religious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America. It is endorsed by (use full or partial list of endorsers.) )

Note: News releases should be double-spaced and always printed on white paper with black ink. Leave an inch margin on each side of the paper. Make sure a contact person is prominently listed and that the date, time and place of your event are in the first paragraph. Mailing the release to a specific person at the newspaper and following up with a telephone call or personal visit is better than delivering it in person. The person you want to see may be on deadline (if she/he is, leave right away and say you will call later -- you will only alienate the reporter if you are not understanding of deadline pressures) or may not be in the office.

The Inter-Religious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America will be doing national press work for Central America Week. Please let us know about events you have planned for the week and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the contact people for those events. Also let us know the names and addresses of media contacts in your community with whom you are working so that we can send them copies of a national press release. Please return the reply form, which is included in this packet, with this information by March 1.

## MEDIA STRATEGY

The sponsoring organization should identify one or two persons to establish contacts with the media. If you have two people, one should direct his/her efforts towards print and the other towards broadcast. These persons should be well versed on the subject matter involved and be able to explain in detail the goals and objectives of the event(s), and identify key spokespersons within the organization for interviews with the media. Your public spokespersons should reflect the diversity of your organization—women, minority people, youth, etc.

**6-8 Weeks Before Event:** Contact persons from organization should send out press information on the event to local media outlets. Information included in this kit should contain press release on the event, background information on the sponsoring organization, biographies of key spokespersons, logos or art work that media representatives can use for visuals. A cover letter should be addressed to the media representatives giving them a brief description of the event, its significance and a suggestion that you would like to set up a meeting to discuss the weeks activities.

Note: Contacts for print media are: city editor, religion editor, assignment desk. Contacts for broadcast are: news

director, assignment desk, religion reporter, or a producer of a radio or television show on which you would like your spokespersons to appear. If anyone in your organization has a connection or personal contact with media representatives, it would be beneficial to use them as the source, or they might be able to point you in the right direction.

**3-4 Weeks Before Event:** All media contacts should have been made by now. Meetings with media representatives should begin now. During the meetings with media representatives, press kit materials should be reviewed in detail and questions regarding interview possibilities, suggestions on visual coverage for television broadcast, arrangements for access of media to events should be discussed. Reporters may not have the time or interest to cover all the events, so you should be able to identify the most significant activities of the week for them to cover.

**1 Week Before Event:** Follow up on all of your contacts this week to remind them of the weeks activities and to inform them of any changes that might have occurred in scheduling.

**Week of the Event:** Be available at events to assist the media in any way possible. Be sure to have a person on hand to answer questions.

**After the Event:** Letters to your contacts to thank them for their help and cooperation are always appropriate.

# Central America Week 1984

March 18-25

## GUIDE TO NATIONAL EVENTS:

*It is critical that people from all over the country be strongly urged to go to Washington D.C. in order for these national events to be successful. Those who cannot participate directly in the Religious Convocation, Day of Advocacy, or Training Seminar should organize a send-off or welcoming-home reception for your community's delegation. Invite members of the press to cover the events. Members of the delegation should be prepared to discuss their objectives and/or experiences.*

### MONDAY, MARCH 19: NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR ACTION ON CENTRAL AMERICA

An all-day training session will offer over 75 workshops on more than two dozen different organizing skills and issues pertinent to work on Central America. Workshops will range from building state-wide networks on Central America to local delegation visits with your Members of Congress, from ballot initiatives to canvassing, from local media work to coalition-building with hispanics, students, blacks, and women.

We encourage as many people as possible to attend the National Training Seminar. However, it is not a prerequisite to participating in the Tuesday National Day of Advocacy. We understand that not many people can be in Washington, D.C., for two days. Indicate your interest in participating in the Training Seminar on the Response Form or by contacting the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, 120 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002. Deadline for pre-registration is March 2.

The National Training Seminar will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, with registration beginning at 8:30 am, on March 19, in Washington, D.C. The site is not yet confirmed and will be announced in future mailings or contact the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) after February 1st.

### MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 19: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS CONVOCATION FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

A national interfaith service to pray for peace in Central America will be held Monday evening, in Washington, D.C., at 7:30pm, (site to be announced).

This interfaith celebration will be an opportunity for the religious community to express our common concern for the destruction of human life in Central America and to pray together for justice and peace in that region.

Like an religious service, this one is open to the public. Send a delegation from your congregation or community. Invite your Congresspersons to attend with you.

- Approach individuals or groups in your community which have a personal, political, or professional relation with your Member(s) of Congress (M.C.). Ask them to participate in the Central America Week events in Washington, on March 19 and 20. If they accept, urge them to invite the M.C. to attend the National Religious Convocation to add their prayers for peace in Central America.
- Prominent local religious and/or other community leaders who already plan to attend the Washington events can jointly extend an invitation to your Congresspersons to join them at the National Religious Convocation.
- Organize a delegation of concerned citizens and schedule a meeting with your Representative and Senators, at their local offices, during January or February. Part of the discussion for that visit is to request the M.C. to accompany you to the National Religious Convocation for Peace in Central America.

Please remember, this is no time to forget our friends in Congress. If you receive a commitment from one or more of your M.C.'s, please inform the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-546-8400) or World Peacemakers (contact Beth Graybill or Doug Tanner, 2025 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-265-7582).

*Handwritten initials and a circular stamp in the bottom right corner.*

The aim of the National Day of Advocacy is to bring at least 2000 concerned citizens to Washington, to meet with their national legislators on the issue of U.S. policy towards Central America. The timing of the event could not be better chosen for an effective and dramatic impact on Congress, as the debate over sending more military aid to the region will be just beginning.

The series of events on March 20th is self-contained, and does not depend on its participants' attendance at the previous day's National Training Seminar. It is on March 20th that the largest number of people is expected to be in Washington.

The National Day of Advocacy has three major activities:

- 9:00 - 11:30 AM: Legislative briefings at different locations on Capitol Hill for participants in the Day's activities. Groups will assemble between 9:00 and 9:30 am at designated sites, identified by the state in which the participants live (e.g., all people from Ohio will gather at one site, all Oregonians at another). To find out where your state will assemble, contact the Washington for a New Foreign and Military Policy (202-844-8400) after March 1st. Briefings will cover information on the current debate in Congress on Central America, the positions of your state's Senators and Representatives, how to "lobby" your Members of Congress effectively, and any other questions participants may have about the day. This is the place where the petitions from the entire state will be collected.
- NOON - 1:00 PM: A Rally for Peace in Central America on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. This event will be organized by the National Labor Committee in Support of Human Rights and Democracy in El Salvador, which unites 16 presidents of national AFL-CIO trade unions. National labor, civil rights, and religious leaders will speak on U.S. policy towards Central America. Music will be provided by prominent artists.
- 1:00 - 5:30 PM: Meetings with your Senators and Representatives. All appointments with your legislators need to be made by you or your group. Contact the appointments secretary in the Washington, D.C., office of your legislator. Make your call for an appointment after February 1st, but no later than March 5th. Inform the appointments secretary approximately how many people you will have in your delegation so that he or she can arrange for an appropriately large room. Remember, you want to meet with your Senator and Representative, not just an aide. It is not your worry that the legislators will be receiving dozens of phone calls for appointments on March 20th. Leave your name and phone number (or that of your groups' contact person) with the appointments secretary in case you must be reached about consolidating your appointment with another group's. Be sure to call again to reconfirm your appointment between March 5 and 14. (At the morning legislative briefings, some groups may decide to consolidate their appointments, especially if one group, for example, has an appointment with the legislator and another group does not.)

#### BRING YOUR TOWN TO WASHINGTON TO KICK OFF CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK

With events on two consecutive days, participants will be leaving from your community for Washington at different times. For the events on March 19th, organized carpools and van rentals should meet the needs of most communities. However, in several cities we understand that groups will be organizing buses to leave on Monday, March 19, in order to bring participants to the National Religious Convocation.

To bring people from your community to the National Day of Advocacy, on March 20th, charter buses and van rentals are generally the most cost-effective forms of transportation. However, for large groups (50+), you might ask a travel agent to investigate group rates on train and airline services. Depending on timing, you can sometimes find a bargain.

All participants in the March 20 National Day of Advocacy must be in their state's legislative briefing no later than 9:30 am.

For those people who will need accommodations Monday evening, information on hotels, hostels, and other lodging may be obtained from: The Washington Convention and Visitors Association, 1575 "I" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202-789-7000). For large groups, we again encourage using a travel agent to seek special group rates and we urge you to make reservations early.

What about those people who simply cannot come to Washington? For people in your community who support these actions but cannot attend them, organize a "phone-in" to your legislators' offices on March 20th. Their phone calls will arrive in Washington as your group meets with their legislators. Also encourage them to sign the national petition and to attend the local events you are holding at the end of Central America Week.

# CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES: NO HAVEN FROM WAR

## NO HAVEN FROM WAR

The conflicts in Central America are driving a steady stream of stunned and terrorized refugees to countries throughout the region and into the United States. It is hard for most Americans to hear the stories these refugees tell, for they are stories about the violence convulsing their homelands — a violence in which the barbaric has become commonplace. The U.S. government refuses to accept these persons as refugees. To do so would imply tacit recognition, at the very least, that the governments of the countries from which they are fleeing — governments which the U.S. supports — are unable or unwilling to guarantee the safety of their citizens. But many congregations across the country are acting in different ways to help and protect these refugees.

## The Roots of the Exodus in El Salvador

Since early 1980, international observers have characterized the situation in El Salvador as one of widespread civil warfare. Human rights violations have been extremely high, with most sources indicating at least 40,000 civilian deaths since the beginning of 1980.

Until late 1979, El Salvador had been ruled by the world's longest succession of dictatorial military regimes. In 1979, a coup brought to power a civil-military junta which was unable to find a middle ground between the majority of the population which demanded changes and the powerful minority which opposed even the most minimal reforms. The situation rapidly deteriorated into a state of civil warfare as the government embarked on what one church spokesperson described as a "war of extermination against the civilian populace," and the opposition took up arms as a last resort in its struggle for social justice.

Tens of thousands of people are now displaced in El Salvador. None feel safe in the atmosphere of pervasive violence. Refugee camps are often raided by paramilitary bands looking for "subversives." Church and humanitarian relief workers have been killed or harassed. Those displaced in rebel-held areas have been bombed and attacked by government troops. Many church people are among those who have been forced to leave their homes and flee.

At least a half million more Salvadorans have fled the country altogether. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and voluntary relief agencies estimate that some 300,000 Salvadoran refugees are spread across Central America and Mexico.

## The Guatemalan Parallel

The situation in Guatemala is disturbingly similar to that in El Salvador. The extreme disparity between the wealth of a tiny minority and the abject misery of a peasant majority has generated explosive tensions. In the face of severe government repression to maintain the status quo, armed opposition developed. Large-scale military offensives against guerrilla activity in the countryside have been accompanied by atrocities — described by some observers as "genocidal" — against civilian peasants. The destruction of entire villages and mass-acre of their inhabitants, most of whom are Indians, has been documented by the National Council of Churches, Amnesty International and other outside observers.

As a result of these upheavals, well over half a million of Guatemala's eight million people are displaced inside that country, according to estimates by Guatemala's Roman Catholic bishops. Estimates of the number of Guatemalans who have fled into neighboring Mexico range upwards of 100,000. Refugees in camps near the border live in fear of deadly raids from Guatemalan territory.

## Nicaragua

Counterrevolutionary or *contra* military attacks against Nicaragua left more than 1,000 Nicaraguans dead in 1983. The *contra* operations staged from base camps in Honduras and Costa Rica, financed by the CIA, have forced the displacement or relocation of over 90,000 Nicaraguans away from homes and lands in the border areas under frequent attack. The threat of attack on Miskito indigenous communities

along the border in Eastern Nicaragua prompted the government to relocate some 11,000 Miskitos in 1981. At the same time, several thousand Miskitos crossed over the river border into Honduras.

## Precarious Refuge in the Region

The situation faced by most refugees fleeing their homelands to other countries in the region has been bleak. El Salvadorans who fled to Honduras have been attacked by pursuing troops and on several occasions by Honduran troops as well. Those who attempted to resettle near the border were subjected to attacks and kidnappings by Salvadoran military and paramilitary bands from across the border. In the last year, most were summarily relocated away from the border, ostensibly for their own protection. There have also been attacks against Guatemalan refugees in the El Tesoro camp in northern Honduras.

The treatment of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees in Honduras differs sharply from that given the refugees who have left Nicaragua. The nearly 20,000 Miskitos are being allowed to resettle on agricultural land, and 2,000 other Nicaraguans live in towns and have relative freedom of movement. The 19,000 Salvadoran and 550 Guatemalan refugees are confined to camp sites and are kept under strict military surveillance. Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras, both Miskito Indians and former members of the dictator Somoza's National Guard, are widely reported to be recruited and trained for anti-government raids into Nicaragua.

The attitude of the Mexican government has become increasingly hostile towards Central American refugees whom it sees increasingly as a threat to Mexican security and stability and for whom it has few resources. In 1982, UNHCR estimated that some 120,000 Salvadoran refugees were in Mexico. More than 100,000 Guatemalans are believed to have sought haven there, too. Nongovernmental agencies are not permitted to work or provide aid directly to these refugees.

Nicaragua presents the brightest panorama for refugees and displaced persons. Most of the some 22,000 Salvadoran refugees and the 90,000 internally displaced there have been given lands to farm and resources to build communities and agricultural cooperatives.

## No Haven in the United States

At least 250,000 Salvadorans and Guatemalans have arrived in the U.S. in the last four years. Three very compelling motivations draw many of those forced to flee their homelands. Refuge and survival in neighboring lands, including Mexico, is all but unavailable and impossible. Many of those who come have family and/or friends already in this country. And they come because this is the United States, known as the land of opportunity, or at least where there is a job and there isn't generalized persecution. Central American refugees continue to arrive by the thousands each month and will continue to do so as conditions deteriorate further in Central America.

The official U.S. response to these Central Americans seeking haven here has been to characterize them as economically motivated illegal immigrants, and to apprehend and deport or expel them back to their homelands. In late 1983, deportations and expulsions of Salvadorans numbered some 400 to 500 per month. While the fate of most has not been investigated, there are several well-documented cases of persons who were killed after being returned to El Salvador from the U.S.

Individual political asylum status has simply not been available for Salvadorans and Guatemalans. Until recently, many of those apprehended by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) were not informed that there is such a status and that they had a right to apply for it. Thousands of Central Americans have been denied access to lawyers or legal information and pressured and coerced into waiving rights and agreeing to depart "voluntarily" from the U.S. While abuses diminished after a U.S. District Court in California ordered a halt to such practices in mid-1982, lawyers and church activists working on behalf of detainees continue to report numerous difficulties in aiding Central Americans held by INS

Few of the Central Americans who do apply are granted political asylum. Of the more than 22,000 Salvadorans who applied for asylum in the last three years, only some 1,100 cases have been decided. As of September, 1983 only 74 were granted asylum. The U.S. government has also refused, despite many Congressional, church and public appeals, to apply an available administrative measure called Extended Voluntary Departure status to temporarily suspend deportations of Salvadorans and Guatemalans until the violence subsides in their homelands.

### Churches Responding to Tremendous Needs

The large numbers of these refugees arriving without legal permission translates into tremendous human and social needs in communities across the country. Most are destitute, without any material resources. Many are psychologically — even physically — devastated by the violence they have escaped and by losses or separation of family, or both. Established social services are all but unknown and inaccessible to them.

The presence of these refugees in need of safe haven poses an immediate human challenge to which many churches have felt called to respond. These efforts of local congregations, interfaith groups, and others have led to the creation of Central American refugee aid projects in a number of communities across the country.

These projects, most of which are affiliated with local councils of churches, have focused on meeting what are seen as the most immediate life-and-death needs: identifying persons detained by INS and stopping their deportation; promoting and coordinating the provision of legal assistance to those who file for asylum; and mobilizing local church and community resources to respond to the most basic human survival needs.

National religious organizations have provided support for these efforts. In particular, Church World Service and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service have developed ecumenical programs to address the issue of protection for these refugees and to channel church resources to the local refugee relief projects.

### Sanctuary

Over 92 churches in some 45 communities throughout the country have taken the bold step of offering "sanctuary" to Central American refugees, publicly declaring that they take into the care, protection and sanctuary of the church building undocumented refugees otherwise threatened with apprehension by U.S. immigration authorities and likely deportation or expulsion back to their homelands.

By offering sanctuary in probable violation of federal immigration law, these churches have publicly challenged the morality and legality of current government policy of returning refugees to homelands where persecution is likely. In doing so, the sanctuary movement has played a significant role in making the plight of the victims of the conflict in Central America an issue of national concern and debate.

### The Fundamental Issues

As the church responses have highlighted, U.S. political and economic policies toward Central America are bound up with the root causes forcing refugees to flee those same countries. The practice of denying haven to Salvadorans and Guatemalans arriving in this country appears to be consistent with official support for the regimes governing their homelands. To recognize these people as bona fide refugees would be, at the very least, tacit recognition that those governments are unable or unwilling to guarantee the security of their citizens. Such recognition would draw increasing attention to the government responsibility for widescale atrocities and civilian deaths in El Salvador and Guatemala. And to recognize that refugees are fleeing in large numbers from countries whose governments the U.S. supports might well call into question that support.

Most Central American refugees insist that they want to go home, when the violence ends. The establishment of a temporary legal status for these refugees means that while the warfare continues, they can remain here without fear of being forcibly repatriated.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Direct Assistance:

Central American refugees usually need assistance both with basic survival requirements and legal defense here in the U.S. Look into the situation in your area, see whether there is a local project, and consider what resources you and your congregation or group can generate, such as food, clothing, housing, legal assistance, and/or bond funds. Material aid is also urgently needed for refugees and displaced persons in Central America. For more information, contact your denominational refugee office, or Church World Service Immigration & Refugee Program (domestic U.S.), (212) 870-2730; or CWS Latin America Office (Central America), (212) 870-2461; Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service Central America Concerns Office, (212) 532-6350; or Catholic Relief Services, (212) 838-4700.

### Contact Elected Officials:

The Administration has steadfastly refused to grant Extended Voluntary Departure status for Salvadorans. In November, 1983, a new bill was introduced in Congress which would require the suspension of deportations of Salvadorans for at least two years, until a full U.S. government investigation is completed on the situation of Salvadorans displaced and made refugees by the current conflict. The study is to give special attention to the fate of deportees returned by the U.S. Called the DeConcini-Moakley Bill (S.2131 and H.R. 4447), it has already received substantial bipartisan support. This bill is now the focus for Washington advocacy on behalf of Salvadoran refugees in the United States. Write and/or call your Congressional representatives to urge their support for the bill. Contact the CWS-IRP Washington Advocacy Office for details: (202) 783-7501. Also urge legislators to work for an end to U.S. military aid and involvement in the region.

### Sanctuary:

Your congregation may want to consider offering public sanctuary to Central American refugees. Call or write the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America for more information. They have produced an excellent series of publications on the why and how to of Sanctuary. CRTFCA, 407 S. Dearborn Street, Room 370, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 663-4398.

### Work with the News Media:

Expand the limited coverage of refugee and Central American issues by writing letters to the editor, generating "op-ed" articles or guest editorials, arranging meetings between concerned community leaders and editorial staffs to discuss coverage and editorials, developing "media events" with the refugee community in your area, and organizing press conferences with representatives from Central America and/or concerned community figures.

### Organize Your Community:

Organize a community coalition among church groups, unions, community organizations, local officials, refugees and others to air views and concerns within the area and to advocate in Washington on behalf of refugees. Community events involving the refugees are excellent educational and network building forums and also can draw news media coverage.

Adapted from an article by Patrick A. Taran in the *Refugees and Human Rights Newsletter*, Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program, Summer 1983.

Additional copies available from the Inter-Religious Task Force on El Salvador and Central America, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 633, New York, NY 10115. \$4.00 per 100 copies.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

25 Jan 1984

TO: JAB III

Attached are copies of the memos to the President on consumer prices for the past 12 months. It might help to have them during Marty's brief explanation of the figures for calendar 1983.

In short, the figures given to the President have sometimes differed from month to month, depending on which measurements CEA feels are most enlightening. Also, on occasion, the President has expressed interest in a particular aspect of the inflation figures, which is then included in subsequent memos.

An example of different figures is contained in the December and January memos (see attachments).

JC

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in December

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index for December.

The news is excellent. The Consumer Price Index declined by 0.3 percent in December, for an annual rate of decrease of 3.2 percent. Prices fell in a broad range of categories, including food, energy, and home purchase expenses. The only significant exception to the rule was medical care, for which prices increased at an annual rate of 8.4 percent.

The CPI is up by only 3.9 percent since December 1981, the smallest increase for any year since 1972. In 1979 and 1980, by contrast, the consumer price index increased by 13.3 percent and 12.4 percent respectively. The progress made against inflation in the last year is truly remarkable. It provides compelling evidence that the Administration and the Federal Reserve have pursued a successful anti-inflationary strategy, the benefits of which should last for many years to come.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

February 2~~3~~<sup>4</sup>, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN  
(Dictated while traveling)

SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in January

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January.

The news is good. The Consumer Price Index, as currently measured, increased by 0.2 percent in January, for an annual rate of 2.1 percent. By the measure of the CPI used prior to this year, consumer prices remained flat in January. Price increases remained moderate in most major categories, with price declines continuing in the energy sector of the economy. Medical care was the only major area in which inflation reached the double-digits.

The CPI, as it is now measured, is up only 3.8 percent since January, 1982, the smallest 12-month increase since 1972. The inflation news we have received over the last several months, coupled with renewed expectations of further energy price decreases, makes the inflation picture for 1983 look increasingly favorable.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN   
SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in February

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce consumer prices for February.

Once more, the inflation news is impressive. Consumer prices declined by 0.2 percent in February, largely due to further decreases in the cost of energy. Excluding energy, prices increased at a rate slightly more than 4 percent, which is still quite low by recent historic standards. Consumer prices in February were 3.5 percent above the level 12 months earlier. In contrast, as you know, the consumer price index increased by 13.3 percent and 12.4 percent in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Although the fall in energy prices is largely responsible for the occasional decreases in prices over the last several months, each month's figures provide confirming evidence that inflation should remain moderate even after energy prices level out.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in March

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March.

The good news regarding consumer price inflation persisted in March. The CPI rose by 0.1 percent, ~~0.1 percent~~ percent on an annual basis! Prices in March were 3.7 percent above the level of 12 months earlier.

Once again, falling energy prices played a major role in limiting inflation. Excluding energy, the CPI rose at an annual rate of about 4 percent in March. Preliminary evidence shows that the price of gasoline has risen in April, partially because of the 5¢ gasoline tax increase and partially because world oil prices have increased slightly in recent weeks. Therefore, we cannot expect the continuation of near-zero consumer price inflation in the months ahead. Nevertheless, recent evidence indicates that the underlying rate of inflation has fallen to a level below 5 percent, representing extraordinary progress over the last several years.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in April

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April tomorrow morning at 8:30 A.M.

Although tomorrow's inflation news does not provide cause for alarm, it does indicate that we have not licked inflation yet. Consumer prices in April rose by 0.6 percent, or over 7 percent on an annualized basis. A primary cause of the large increase was gasoline prices, basically the one-time effect associated with the imposition of the 5¢ increase in the gasoline tax in April. Excluding energy, consumer prices rose at a 4.7 percent annual rate in April. Prices in April were 3.9 percent above the level of 12 months earlier.

A one month up-tick in consumer prices should not be interpreted as signalling a long-term upward shift in the inflation rate. The underlying rate of inflation still remains in the 4 to 5 percent range. This may not always be apparent over the next several months, however, as higher energy prices somewhat distort the inflation picture.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Prices in May

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Labor Department will release the Consumer Price Index for May.

The CPI rose by 0.5 percent in May. The primary reason for the price rise was the higher consumer cost of energy, especially gasoline. When energy is excluded, the CPI rose 0.3 percent.

Comparing May 1983 with May 1982 shows a 3.5 percent rise in the CPI.

For the most recent three months, the increase was at a rate of 5.1 percent; without energy, 4.0 percent.

Although we obviously have to keep a close watch on inflation as the recovery gathers steam, as of now I am not concerned about the recent inflation.

Boote

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*

SUBJECT: CONSUMER PRICES AND ADVANCE DURABLE ORDERS IN  
JUNE

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the Consumer Price Index for June. In a separate release at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon the Commerce Department will release figures on Advance Durable Orders for June.

The news is very good.

Consumer prices rose only 0.2 percent between May and June. Food prices declined and the increase in gasoline prices was much smaller than in recent months. The level of the CPI in June was only 2.6 percent higher than June 1982.

New orders for durables were up a very strong 5.5 percent between May and June, higher than any month since the recovery began. (Remember that this is the increase from one month to the next and not an annual rate.) New orders for non-defense capital goods rose a respectable 4.3 percent. The new orders for defense capital goods jumped \$3.7 billion dollars for an increase of 78 percent.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

August 22, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN  
(Dictated while traveling)

SUBJECT: Consumer Prices for July

Tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index for July.

The rise in the overall CPI was 0.4 percent between June and July. This translates into an annual rate of 4.9 percent.

An actual decline in food prices (for the second month in a row) helped to hold the index down. Without the volatile food and energy prices, however, the rise was 0.6 percent or an equivalent annual rate of about 7 percent. This is evidence that prices are beginning to heat up in response to the very rapid growth of the past six months. I think we have to watch this carefully and to reiterate your commitment to pursue monetary and fiscal policies that will prevent a re-emergence of inflation.

For the past 12 months, the inflation rate was only 2.4 percent (from July 1982 - July 1983). That is very good news in itself but it also shows how much inflation has increased recently.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Price Index

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index for August.

The overall Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent between July and August, an increase at a 5.3 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate. This is essentially unchanged from last month's 4.9 percent rate of increase and only slightly higher than the 4.7 percent increase for the past 6 months. For comparison, the rise in the year from August 1982 to August 1983 was 2.6 percent.

Food prices rose only 0.2 percent implying that we have not yet seen the effect of the recent increase in raw food prices. There was also a temporary large increase in energy prices. When food and energy prices are excluded, the price increase was 0.5 percent, not really very different from the overall 0.4 percent.

In summary, inflation shows only a very slight indication of heating up, but we would not like to see it go much above the current rate during the months ahead.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID GERGEN  
LARRY SPEAKES

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN  
(Dictated while traveling)

SUBJECT: CONSUMER PRICES IN SEPTEMBER

This morning at 8:30 a.m. the Bureau of Labor Statistics will announce the Consumer Price Index for September.

Consumer prices rose by 0.5 percent between August and September. This translates into a 5.7 percent annual rate, slightly up from the annual rates of 4.9 percent and 5.3 percent in July and August. Consumer prices in September 1983 were 2.9 percent above prices in September 1982.

Food prices increased by 0.3 percent, while energy prices rose by 0.7 percent. Excluding food and energy, consumer prices rose by 0.5 percent, the same as last month.

The recent inflation figures show that inflation can rise to a bothersome rate long before the economy reaches full utilization of capacity. I hope that the moderating pace of the recovery in the months ahead will permit the inflation rate to stabilize or decline.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1983

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Price Index for October

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Labor Department will release the CPI figures for October.

Inflation continues at about the same pace as last month, rising at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.3 percent between September and October. The Labor Department will state this as a one month increase of 0.4 percent between September and October. Without the volatile food and energy prices, the increase is 0.5 percent.

The recent inflation figures represent a significant increase since earlier this year. Inflation for the past 12 months has only been 2.9 percent and for the year to date has only been 3.9 percent.

It would obviously not be good to see any further increase in inflation. The Fed obviously has to be careful in this situation to avoid actions that could raise inflation or even the fear of greater inflation. I am sorry to see that Jack Kemp and some other House Republicans have been calling for faster money growth policy that could easily lead to even higher rates of inflation.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1983

Eyes Only

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*

SUBJECT: Consumer Price Index for November

*(seasonally adjusted)  
published, rounded  
figure per BLS*

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Department of Labor will release the Consumer Price Index for November.

Consumer prices rose a very modest 0.3 percent between October and November. This is very good news. It makes the November 1983 level of the CPI only 3.2 percent above the November 1982 level.

Food prices rose only 0.1 percent and energy prices remained unchanged.

*change in the  
unadjusted level*

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1984

Eyes Only

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARTIN FELDSTEIN *MF*  
SUBJECT: Consumer Price Index for December

*based on figure  
published by BLS;  
rounded off.  
Actual unpublished  
figure is 0.263%*

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. the Department of Labor will release the Consumer Price Index for December.

The news is very good. The CPI rose only 0.3 percent in December, an annual rate of 3.2 percent.

In the past 12 months, the CPI has risen only 3.8 percent, the smallest calendar year rise since 1972.

*based on an  
unpublished number*

*based on  
unadjusted  
change from  
Dec '82 to  
Dec '83*



UNITED STATES SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.  
TENNESSEE

January 26, 1983

Dear Mr. President,

As I have said both publicly and privately, I am ready to assist in your re-election in any way I can. If you will pardon my presumption, I would especially prize the opportunity to re-nominate you formally at our national convention in Dallas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Howard".

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

*f school Prayer*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE DEEVER

FROM: PAM BAILEY *PB*

SUBJECT: School Prayer Communications Activities

Faith Whittlesey asked me to participate in an in-house meeting this morning on school prayer strategy.

While it is possible some Senate vote may be taken this week on the issue, the first cloture vote will probably be Wednesday, March 6 -- the day following RR's address to the evangelicals.

It was the sense of the group that until agreement can be reached with Senator Baker on amendment wording (hopefully later this week) that communications activities should focus on the issue in general, not specific amendment language.

Communications activities that we can initiate immediately include the following. If you agree, I'll work with the relevant parties on implementation.

*1st half done*

- Mailing to editorial page editors nationwide and to specialized press. Would include RR's school prayer radio address, basic questions and answers, RR letter to 500 religious leaders and selected supportive op-eds and editorials from around the country.

(Action: Small 2/28)

*Done*

- School prayer talking points distributed to Administration spokesmen in conjunction with RR Cabinet meeting discussion.

(Action: Baroody 2/28)

*working*

- Administration spokesman op-ed distributed to major media markets.

(Action: Galebach/Small 2/29)

*today*

- RR meets with black athletes supporting school prayer.

(Action: Whittlesey 3/1)

*person will be brought in to handle*

- Major media market and homestates of key Senators targetted for drive-time and talk show radio programs. Wed., Thurs., Friday

(Action: *small* Reilly asap)

*no word yet*

- Possible RR meeting with ecumenical group of black, Hispanic, and white clergy supporting school prayer.

(Action: Reilly asap)

- Faith Whittlesey and/or others brief press (Thursday, March 2?) on agreed upon amendment wording.

(Action: Reilly 3/2)

- Administration spokesmen on a.m. t.v. shows immediately prior to key vote.

(Action: Speakes t.b.d.)

- Analysis of religious media and efforts to date with follow-up plan to utilize all possible communications opportunities. Maximize distribution of RR's Columbus speech.

(Action: Bailey, Reilly, Small --asap)

cc: Mike McManus

*Not fw*  
*Also coord*  
*by person*  
*brought*  
*on*

hardcopy

--More--

*JAB*

*Why do we have  
to put up with  
this?*

Group accuses White House aide of "religious bigotry"

By DAVID E. ANDERSON

UPI Religion Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) A church-state separation group asked President Reagan Friday to publicly repudiate a "call for religious bigotry" made by a White House aide last week at a meeting of religious broadcasters.

The group said White House public liaison assistant Carolyn Sundseth, in commenting to a National Religious Broadcasters meeting about the departure of presidential aide Edwin Meese, declared, "Saved Christians don't have anyone at the top anymore.

"If you want to know how to pray for the president, pray that anyone directly around him gets saved or gets out."

Ms. Sundseth declined comment on the group's charge. "Officially, there will be no comment on it," her press spokesman said.

W. Melvin Adams, interim executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in the letter to Reagan that he and others attending the broadcasters meeting were "shocked by a blatant call for religious bigotry from one of your staff."

Adams and others in the audience reported Ms. Sundseth made the controversial statements in commenting on Reagan's nomination of Meese, the White House counselor, to be the new attorney general.

Adams said in the letter to Reagan the Constitution "prohibits religious tests for public office."

"While White House positions may not be deemed public in the strictest legal sense, it is essential that your administration be seen as fair-minded and open to all qualified persons irrespective of race, religion, creed or national origin," he said.

"Religious discrimination has no place in American life, least of all in the Executive Branch of our government, where the symbolism of religious prejudice can only damage the entire fabric of our democratic society."

upi 02-10-84 08:18 pes

Comments from: D.NEUMAN (EOP030) Posted: Sat 11-Feb-84 15:57 Sys 64

FYI

David

Disposition:

## COMPARISON OF PRAYER AMENDMENTS

### President's Amendment

Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or by any State to participate in prayer. Neither the United States nor any State shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools.

### Baker's Amendment

Nothing contained in this Constitution shall abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled, in any public building which is supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds, to participate in nondenominational prayer.

### Dirksen Amendment

Nothing contained in this Constitution shall prohibit the authority administering any school, school system, educational institution or other public building supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds from providing for or permitting the voluntary participation by students or others in prayer. Nothing contained in this article shall authorize any such authority to prescribe the form or content of any prayer.

ADC  
PI start a  
school prayer file  
JC

SCHOOL PRAYER SURVEY - S.J. Res. 73

State/Senator	Assistant	Position
ALABAMA		
Denton	Karl Moore	In Favor
R Heflin	Randall Black	In Favor
ALASKA		
Murkowski	Frederic Hahn	Undecided*
Stevens	Maryann Simpson	In Favor
ARIZONA		
Deconcini	Bob Fiedler	In Favor
Goldwater	Terry Emerson	In Favor
ARKANSAS		
R Pryor	Nancy Dair	In Favor
Bumpers	Bill Massey	Undecided**
CALIFORNIA		
Cranston	Gary Aldridge	Opposed
Wilson	Ira Goldman	(In Favor)
COLORADO		
Hart	Judy Beals	Opposed
R Armstrong	Debra Buetner	In Favor
CONNECTICUT		
Dodd	Mike Naylor	Opposed
Weicker	Steve Moore	Opposed
DELAWARE		
R Biden	Chip Reed	(Undecided**)
Roth	Becky McDonald	In Favor
FLORIDA		
Chiles	Connie Hays	In Favor
Hawkins	John Dedinski	In Favor
GEORGIA		
R Nunn	Irene Sanders	In Favor
Mattingly	Woodie Woodward	In Favor
HAWAII		
Inouye	Patrick Delion	Undecided
Matsunaga	Elma Henderson	Opposed
IDAHO		
R McClure	Martha Solodky	In Favor
Symms	Sam Routson	In Favor
ILLINOIS		
Dixon	Sylvia Davis	Undecided**
R Percy	Caroline Ayers	Opposed**
INDIANA		
Lugar	Lynn Daglian	In Favor
Quayle	Jim Wolfe	In Favor
IOWA		
Grassley	John Maxwell	In Favor
R Jepsen	Lilli Hausenfluck	In Favor
KANSAS		
Dole	Sheila Bear	In Favor
R Kassebaum	Elizabeth Lewis	Undecided*
KENTUCKY		
Ford	Dave Leader	In Favor
R Huddleston	Roger LeMaster	In Favor
LOUISIANA		
Long	Lula Davis	Leaning For
R Johnston	Susan Austin	In Favor
MAINE		
Mitchell	Jeff Nathanson	Opposed
R Cohen	Kim Cortell	Undecided
MARYLAND		
Sarbanes	Judy Davidson	Opposed
Mathias	Mike Cooper	Opposed
MASSACHUSETTS		
Tsongas	Brenda Wellburn	Opposed
Kennedy	Robert Shum	Undecided

State/Senator	Assistant	Position
MICHIGAN		
R Riegle	Cindy Jurciukonis	
R Levin	John Sheridan	Opposed
MINNESOTA		
R Durenberger	Tom Horner	In Favor
R Boschwitz	Barbie Thompson	Opposed
MISSISSIPPI		
R Stennis	Jim Kendal	In Favor
R Cochran	Jane Walton	In Favor
MISSOURI		
R Eagleton	Glenn Smith	Opposed
Danforth	Ted Blanton	Opposed**
MONTANA		
R Melcher	Mary Gereau	In Favor
Baucus	Mary Troland	Undecided
NEBRASKA		
R Zorinsky	Dan Fuchs	In Favor
R Exon	Bill Hoppner	In Favor
NEVADA		
R Laxalt	Bill Miller	In Favor
Hecht	Royle Melton	In Favor
NEW HAMPSHIRE		
R Humphrey	David Grey	In Favor
Rudman	Tom Polgar	Leaning Against**
NEW JERSEY		
R Bradley	Marcia Arnoff	Undecided
Lautenberg	Joy Silver	Opposed
NEW MEXICO		
R Domenici	George Romanas	In Favor
Bingaman	Brent Burdowski	Opposed
NEW YORK		
R Moynihan	Debbie Alfred	Opposed
D'Amato	Rick Nasti	In Favor
NORTH CAROLINA		
R East	Tom Bovard	In Favor
R Helms	Tom Ashcraft	In Favor
NORTH DAKOTA		
R Burdick	Leo Wilking	Opposed**
Andrews	Jill Edwards	In Favor
OHIO		
R Glenn	Dan Daugherty	Opposed
Metzenbaum	Cheryl Birdsall	Opposed
OKLAHOMA		
R Boren	David Cox	Undecided*
Nickles	Laura Clay	In Favor
OREGON		
R Hatfield	Tom Getman	Opposed
Packwood	Peggy Walkers	Opposed
PENNSYLVANIA		
R Heinz	Richard Breyers	Undecided**
Specter	Mary Westmoreland	(Opposed)**
RHODE ISLAND		
R Pell	Brad Penny	Opposed
Chafee	Annette Frybourg	Undecided**
SOUTH CAROLINA		
R Hollings	Ashby Thief	In Favor
R Thurmond	Eric Holtman	In Favor
SOUTH DAKOTA		
R Abdnor	Garrett Fuller	In Favor
R Pressler	Diane Swanson	In Favor
TENNESSEE		
R Sasser	Rosemary Warren	In Favor
Baker	Lynne Holmes	In Favor

State/Senator	Assistant	Position
TEXAS		
Bentsen	Marina Weiso	In Favor
Tower	Debra Harnsbarger	In Favor
UTAH		
Garn	Joanne Snow	In Favor
Hatch	Steve Markman	In Favor
VERMONT		
Leahy	Ann Harkins	Opposed
Stafford	Mike Francis	In Favor
VIRGINIA		
R Warner	Travis Singer	In Favor
Trible	David Warnick	In Favor
WASHINGTON		
Evans	Andy McGlocklin	Opposed
Gorton	Maryann McGettigan	Opposed**
WEST VIRGINIA		
Randolph	Ned Massey	In Favor
Byrd	Joan Drummond	In Favor
WISCONSIN		
Proxmire	Morton Schwartz	In Favor
Kasten	Willy Lerkach	In Favor
WYOMING		
R Simpson	Paul Hertz	In Favor
Wallop	Michael Hoon	Undecided*

57 = In Favor

\* = Likely vote yes

\*\* = Major Targets

R = Senators up for reelection in 1984

( ) Favors Hatch Silent Prayer Amendment

SW Border tip.

REEVALUATION AND REORGANIZATION OF EFFORTS  
OF THE  
SOUTHWEST BORDER ACTION GROUP:

"More BANG for the Bucks"

BACKGROUND

In creating the Southwest Border Task Force, and subsequently the Southwest Border Action Group, President Reagan expressed the following concept as a goal for the Group's efforts:

To expedite federal resources into the impacted area based on existing appropriations; and assist in the economic diversification of the region [36 counties along the U.S.-Mexico borders of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California].

In the President's May 5 address at the Cinco de Mayo Ceremonies in San Antonio, he said that a "special interagency working group [had been appointed] to not only investigate but to recommend specific actions to alleviate some of the hardship caused by economic uncertainty on the other side of the border."

This was followed by remarks at the American G.I. Forum convention on August 13 indicating that the U.S. government was "determined to coordinate every government program we can tap to mitigate economic hardship in [the] border regions."

To date, it has been reported that almost \$200 million of Federal assistance in a variety of forms has been provided. There is no doubt that the federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Commerce and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, have been attempting to comply with the President's directive. Further, with a small portion of the area being declared eligible for federal disaster relief due to the December freeze, additional Federal aid has been unleashed.

Some examples include:

- The Department of Transportation moved over 500,000 pounds of Title I food from U.S. Department of Agriculture storage facilities in Dallas-Fort Worth to McAllen
- The Regional Housing and Urban Development officials in Fort Worth announced that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds -- up to \$50,000 -- could be used to repair leaks and other problems resulting from the freeze

WHAT IS NEEDED

While some progress has been made and dollars utilized, a reevaluation is appropriate on two (2) fronts:

- Are we, in fact, doing everything possible to be of help on a broad basis, i.e. coordinating every program that can be tapped?
- Are we announcing our progress in an effective manner to our border constituents?

The simple answer to each of these questions is "No."

First, HUD has been extremely active both in the Region and at HUD Central, but less progress has been forthcoming from other departments, i.e. until the four counties recently experienced the inclement weather conditions. However, even at HUD, problems exist. During the most recent round of Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) fundings, several quality border projects were passed over due primarily to a new strict computer ranking program.

Second, even though some good deeds are being done, credit is being lost either to Democratic governors, i.e. Mark White of Texas, or through bumbled press releases. EXAMPLE: The major announcement last fall about border aid included UDAG dollars going to North Texas cities; the Department of Transportation loan guarantee to Global Marine for North Atlantic offshore drilling rig construction. We would note that in the latter case if the guarantee had been couched merely in terms of number of jobs saved, the impact would not have been so devastating from a public relations standpoint.

In either event, it is immaterial now why these items were either included or announced in the manner chosen -- perception on the home front is "White 2, Feds 0."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommended improvements for the working of the Group:

- More broad impact of assistance. Aside from HUD, reach for ideas from Health and Human Services and Education. Be creative utilizing the public and private sector, as well as academia where possible.
- Utilize the regional political appointees both on-site, as well as in communicating particular needs to Washington.

- Develop a clear line of communication and a focal point for public release of information.

Senator Tower, who originally recommended to the President, via the Chief of Staff, the need for the Group, could be a link in the improvement of the public perception of the Group. First, his office has the available staff and knowledge (in Texas) to research and work with regional political appointees on new and existing programs within the purview of the Group's goals.

Second, the Senator's press function could release data and information quickly, effectively giving credit to the Administration through both the official release and key telephone calls without the political fallout which might be associated with a White House release.

TIMING IS CRITICAL! In order to avoid the politicization of the assistance, we must "hit the road running" and make significant progress before the summer arrives. Given the President's recent reelection announcement, political overtones will doubtlessly accompany any announcement. However, if effectively communicated, the overtones can be lessened and the focus can be shifted to mitigating the economic hardship that still exists in the area, notwithstanding the general recovery of the economy.

For example, ample lead time can be given on a weekly basis to the Senator's Press operation via Congressional liaison offices. Unfortunately, we are aware of numerous instances where announcements of grants, awards, etc. have been "announced" by lower level bureaucrats rather than via Congressional offices. Perhaps the President, or someone at his direction, should reaffirm his commitment to helping the area at the appropriate level of every department or agency. Technically, final decisions are made at the Assistant Secretary-level or above. Announcements by GS employees are unacceptable. We realize that it is virtually impossible to prohibit this from occurring, yet a stern, reaffirmation by the appropriate supervisor in each case of the "process" could be helpful.

Each participating department or agency could designate one (1) individual who is responsible for implementation and who has virtually unlimited access to final decision-makers, and that individual could keep in weekly contact with the office of Mr. Craig Fuller, Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs and coordinator of the Southwest Border Action Group activity, and one (1) individual in Senator Tower's office, regarding coordination of efforts. Under such a system, when special needs are identified, it would be apparent who must be contacted to provide input.

In short, open and effective lines of communication, coupled with effective press initiatives, would be extremely beneficial in rescuing what has become a floundering effort to assist the Southwest Region of the United States in revitalizing its economy.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 2, 1984

James W. Cicconi, Esquire  
Special Assistant to the President  
and to the Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Urban Development Action Grant Applications  
in the Rio Grande Valley

Dear Jim:

As the economy has improved, the number of quality "deals" has exceeded the supply of dollars in both the small and large cities categories of the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program. In the last small cities round in November, Secretary Pierce indicated that no preference would be given to any part of the country. The applications are ranked by computer ... period. Likewise, he has given the same directive in the current round.

Jim, it is Senator Tower's view that this procedure goes against the President's directive to provide assistance to those areas of the Nation that have been impacted by the peso devaluation. If two quality projects are equal and one is in the Valley or a border area within the parameters of the President's directive, it is our belief that the border application should be funded.

Although the Senator's views have been communicated at the staff level and not directly to the Secretary, it is his request that the Chief of Staff contact the Secretary, re-affirming the Administration's support for the Southwest Border Action Group. Should this course of action continue, we are confident that the Senator will be in contact with the Secretary.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,



J. French Hill  
Special Assistant to the  
Chairman; Senate Sub-  
committee on Housing  
and Urban Affairs



Frederick D. McClure  
Legislative Director  
to Senator Tower