

[1983]

REAGAN WANTS TO ESCALATE THE WAR IN EL SALVADOR

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12

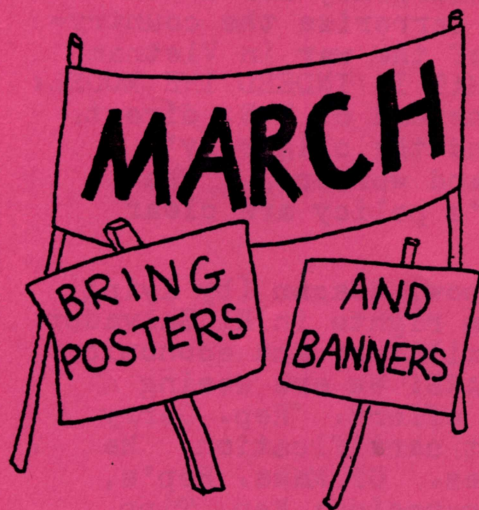
SAY NO!

TO ANOTHER VIETNAM

RALLY → AMHERST COMMON

IN CASE OF RAIN
Congregational Church, Main St.
Amherst

1:30 PM, SAT MAR 12



northampton ★ amherst

Meet near Pulaski ★ Assemble at
Park at 12 noon, ★ Umass Student
MARCH through ★ Union at 12:30
town, then carpool ★ then **MARCH** to
to Amherst Common ★ the Town Common

ENDORISING GROUPS: Northampton Committee on Central America (NCOCA) • W. Mass. Latin American Solidarity Committee (WMLASC) • Gay and Lesbian Activists (GALA) • Radical Student Union (RSU) • Students Against Militarism (SAM) • Venceremos Brigade • Computer Collective • District 1199/A. N. H. • Amherst Disarmament Coalition • 3rd World Womens Task Force • Hamp. Col. Womens Center • I. W. W. / W. Mass. • Food for Thought Books • Nat'l. Lawyers Guild / W. Mass. • UAW 65 / W. Mass. Organizing Com. • Collective Copies • A. F. S. C.

United States aid to Central America

(fiscal years, in millions of dollars)

	1981	1982	1983*	1984**
El Salvador				
Military	35.495	82.002	26.300	86.300
Economic	104.500	186.190	204.960	195.480
Costa Rica				
Military	0.035	2.058	1.125	2.150
Economic	13.300	50.590	160.360	105.040
Guatemala				
Military	0.003	0	0.200	10.250
Economic	16.700	13.520	38.120	64.480
Honduras				
Military	8.938	31.275	20.300	41.000
Economic	36.100	78.090	58.770	83.200
Nicaragua				
Military	0.004	0	0	0
Economic	59.600	6.150	0.330	0.350
Panama				
Military	0.383	5.401	5.450	5.500
Economic	10.500	13.060	12.340	13.320

* approved to date ** requested by the Administration

Nicaragua's economic aid figures for 1983 and 1984 represent funds allocated to the World Food Program.

Source: State Department

WHY THE ESCALATION? Three battalions (5,000 troops) of the Salvadoran army are U.S. trained and are considered to be "effective" fighting units. Shuttled from one remote combat zone to another in response to guerrilla attacks, they are worn and beaten. Last month the guerrillas routed the "elite" Ramon Bellosco battalion from the strategic town of Perquin, only seventy-five miles from the capital. The rest of the ragtag army is undisciplined and unmotivated. Patrols will not go out at night for fear of ambush, and those units that are sent out during the day often slip into the countryside and never return.

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE ESCALATION? Reagan is seeking: 1) from \$60 to \$110 million for the Salvadoran military in addition to unspecified amounts of "economic aid" which allows the dictatorship to release funds to the military; 2) an increase in the number of U.S. military advisors from 55 to 100; and 3) the removal of restrictions which ostensibly have prevented U.S. advisors from carrying weapons into the field (combat areas).

HOW WILL THE ESCALATION BE IMPLEMENTED? Reagan can seek money from one or a combination of the following: 1) He can shift already appropriated funds (from S. Africa or Chile for example) - this must be approved by the House Appropriation Committee where Rep Conte would become Reagan's key Republican; 2) he can seek through the normal congressional appropriation process (both chambers of Congress - this will most likely happen when Congress stipulates "elections" as a necessary condition) or 3) he can spend money from an emergency fund without getting specific congressional approval (the most damaging politically for Reagan - he would have to justify the claim of an "unforeseen emergency").

THE LIKELY OUTCOME Our struggle is for the long term. Unfortunately, Reagan is likely to prevail this time. This means that the U.S. will offer the Salvadoran dictatorship counterinsurgency training and high-tech weaponry. One likely scenario calls for the Salvadoran Army to "abandon" and "retreat" from the mountainous provinces of Morazan, Cananas and Chalatenango, and embark on an air war against the village populations there. That would require beefing up the modest Salvadoran Air Force with attack planes, pilots and bases. The U.S. might try to widen the war by involving Honduras, which has the largest air force in Central America, stocked and trained by Israel. OR IT MIGHT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE AIR CAMPAIGN.

THE REASON FOR MORAL OUTRAGE On the ground, the counterinsurgency war would employ the traditional methods used by commando bands to terrorize the countryside: murder, torture, arson. If it sounds reminiscent of the war in Vietnam or Somoza's war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua - THAT IS INDEED THE MODEL: OUR MONEY IS USED TO CHANGE THE COLOR OF THE CORPSES. Instead of U.S. direct involvement, people of color (coffee plantation owners and the oligarchy's hired guns) violently oppress people of color (peasants and workers). The racist aspects and aspects of class domination of Reagan's policy are clear and mirror his domestic policies here in the U.S.

REMEMBER REAGAN'S RE-CERTIFICATION IN JANUARY? As you know, Reagan (by lying) certified in January the progress was being made on human rights in El Salvador and therefore made possible the appropriation of future military and economic "aid" to Salvador, roughly ONE QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS! We are seeing some of that money being appropriated in this escalation effort. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass) has introduced a resolution STOPPING that certification. He has nearly 100 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. Of Mass. Rep's, only three have thus far refused to help Studds end the genocide: Rep. Tipp O'Neil (D-Boston), Rep. Ed Boland (D-Springfield) and Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Pittsfield). By coming to the rally, you can help us educate these "leaders" (on Saturday 12 March at the Amherst Commons - 1:30 PM)

(compiled from several sources, particularly from The Nation 12 March)