

Pledge cont'd.

the area to act as coordinating centers: St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Fifth and Nutmeg near Balboa Park, and in North County, the Pilgrim Congregational Church at 2020 Chestnut Avenue in Carlsbad.

On the day following an invasion or escalation, a peaceful vigil will be established at each of the local offices of Congressman Hunter, Packard and Lowery—Jim Bates has already signed the Pledge, and of Senator Pete Wilson. Each of these offices will be nonviolently occupied until that Congressperson votes to end the invasion.

A Trainers Collective has been formed and is offering weekly seminars on nonviolent direct action. Those who plan to join in the peaceful occupations are asked to take the nonviolence training beforehand. There'll also be last minute emergency trainings offered at the churches on the night of an invasion. We'll be offering trainings the night before our action at St. Paul's," trainer Scott Kessler told us. "Several hundred people have already expressed

interest in the C.D. training," he added. Anyone planning to participate or for more information about San Diego's actions, should call the Ballast Point Organizing Project at (619) 233-8826.

The network trainers are encouraging those who plan to participate in the actions to organize themselves around an affinity group structure. This type of organization allows people to take action collectively while maintaining their autonomy.

Here in San Diego, the network is a broad-based coalition of religious and community groups, spearheaded by the Inter-Faith Taskforce on Central America, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Chicanos in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and the Friends of Nicaraguan Culture. On the national level, the effort is being led by such groups as the Witness for Peace, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Fellowship of Reconciliation, American Friends Service Committee, SANE and Sojourners magazine.

Some have criticized this campaign for focusing energy on an event that may never take place, while atrocities rage throughout Central America. However, a continuum of resistance is being established through the network, both nationally and locally. On two occasions recently, several hundred pledge signers in San Diego participated in public demonstrations against the escalated air war in El Salvador and in support of sanctuary workers following their indictment by the Federal government.

Thanks to many dedicated people, there now exists the infrastructure and beginnings of a national and local network to aid the effort to stop U.S. militarism in Central America. For more information on local activities, call the San Diego Emergency Response Network (231-4984, 235-6057, or 459-4650, and in North County, 433-7349 or 729-6311). An emergency 24 hour hotline has been established by Witness for Peace in Washington, DC at (202) 332-9230.

Perspective cont'd.

not be in office. We must hold government officials accountable for women's rights. To do this we need to organize PACs for reproductive rights legislation; we need to maintain our Clinic Defense Funds; we need to broaden the struggle to include labor, people of color, and lesbians and gay men, who are also under attack, and we need to coordinate efforts among these different groups. The movement for reproductive rights is a movement for women to have control of their bodies and their lives. This includes taking back the slogan 'Right to Life' to mean 'Right to Live.'"



FOR THE CHILDREN OF EL SALVADOR

Interview cont'd.

would still have a lot of insurgency on their hands throughout the region and then they'd have to roll it back to Cuba. They keep going back to the wrong source, the source of the insurgency. The source you gotta go back to is the campesino who in Chalatenango makes \$150 per year and can't keep his family alive.

Meanwhile, the more immediate possibility seems to be the search for a pretext in Washington. But we can't get the Sandinistas to make any mistakes. They have 1000 Americans living in Nicaragua, but they're not hostages — they're friends of the Sandinistas. Crates arrive and they're supposed to be MIGs, but they're not. If we could bring in some MIGs, we'd bomb the airfields and that might provoke the Sandinista commandants on the northern border with Honduras to go in and take out the Contra camps. Then we can label that as an invasion and respond with intervention of our own.

So the scenarios are being searched out, scenarios for intervention. But the scenarios have to take into account a rationale the American public will accept. It's not that the Reagan administration has given up on a military solution in Central America, they just haven't found the pretext to justify it.

Hope cont'd.

economic status decline. Poverty is becoming a sex-linked trait, as the fastest growing institution in our society is the female-headed household, most of which are poor. Even among males economic affluence has not trickled down very far. The decline of the so-called middle class has been through the elimination of moderately well-paying blue collar jobs. The most important socio-political fact of the last decade is that America's class structure is becoming bifurcated. While Republican propaganda may paint a picture of a brave new high tech world staffed by engineers and venture capitalists, the truth is that the America of the next few decades will be one of janitors, sales clerks, and service workers.

This is social dynamite, and is the raw material of the next wave of leftist activism. It is the guarantee that the missing character on the American stage — the Left — will not be gone long. Until those institutions that produce this condition disappear there will always be hope for the Left, and with hope we will always be a force to contend with.