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The Arlington Advocate

To The Editor

Trouble brews in Central America, resident believes

TO THE EDITOR:

The situation in Central America still goes on. The Hasenfus incident and the Iran-Contra scandal have stayed in the news for the past month or so, but they have not changed what the government is doing.

The latest evidence of this is a recent news item from the Associated Press that says the U.S. Army has sent 3,000 men to Honduras as a part of a continuing series of exercises that started in June 1982.

These people will be improving two airfields near the Nicaraguan border and building a road in the area. An obvious reason for this activity is to provide facilities for the army to airlift large units into the area and deploy them rapidly. This makes it possible for us to have a Vietnam-level involvement in Central America on a very short notice.

We need to look very carefully at where we are going in central America. The Contras seem capable of random terrorism inside

Nicaragua, striking out from a safe haven in Honduras.

President Reagan has stated that the Contra effort cannot succeed by itself, even while he keeps asking for more money for them.

The danger to us is that the Contras can be used to provoke a Tonkin Gulf-type incident, which could then quickly escalate into a large-scale war.

So far, Nicaragua and Honduras have shown the forbearance to avoid such a thing, but if this goes on for a long time there will be a much greater likelihood of our involvement.

We need to reduce the danger of war in Central America, not increase it as our government is presently doing.

John Moore

Kerry's Central America stand wins praise

TO THE EDITOR:

I believe that the foreign policy of the United States in its dealings with Central America is gravely in error.

Instead of supporting the forces of terrorism, torture and privilege for the elite, I believe that we should be supporting the cause of real democracy—human rights for all the people, with social and economic justice. In my judgment only Nicaragua and Costa Rica could be described as showing real concern for the human rights of their people.

In this regard I wish to call attention to Senator John Kerry's work in the U.S. Congress. Mr. Kerry has consistently warned of our support of the Contra terrorist activities in Nicaragua and its neighbors. He has made at least one visit to the region to see for himself the conditions which prevail there.

In recent testimony in Congress, he made Elliott Abrams, the Administration's Central America specialist, admit that even if the U.S. provides the massive public and private aid the administration wants, it is expected that the Contras will not be "successful" without three or four more years of atrocities—and then

they will succeed, he believes, in forcing the legitimate government of Nicaragua to "recognize and negotiate with" them.

Please, Mr. Abrams. I do not believe that you are naive enough to believe that such a resistance movement will result in resolving the conflict. In my judgment it will only heat up the conflict.

I want to publicly thank Mr. Kerry for his courageous support of human rights and justice in Central America. I believe that he is setting a standard for Massachusetts which I hope the rest of our elected officials will follow.

James Valk

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