Minutes
Arlington Central America Committee
Monthly meeting May 2, 1988

There were 18 people attending the meeting chaired by Cindy Silver. Nina Brew took notes and will chair the June meeting.

The first item on the agenda was a short presentation by Joanne Sunshower on the VETERANS PEACE CONVOY to NICARAGUA. The effort is being sponsored & coordinated by the Veterans for Peace and the Let Nicaragua Live Campaign. The purpose of the convoy is both symbolic and practical - it will provide true humanitarian aid to the people (children in particular) of Nicaragua in a highly visible manner. The convoy will depart from Maine on May 21st and be in Boston on the 22nd. CASA & the other groups are planning a rally on the Common; also they will send trucks to outlying communities to pick up donations. Joanne suggested three ways ACAC could participate: raise $ for purchasing the oats, or for convoy expenses, and collecting clothing for children. Those present agreed to endorse the convoy; to contribute $100 from the treasury and also to engage in raising funds & doing a clothing drive. Mary Meghson will coordinate it; Helena Halprin's house can be used as a drop off point. A sign up sheet was passed around for those willing to participate on the 22nd.

Cindy received a request for funding from N.E.S.T. and other organizations regarding a trip Mario Davila, Holly Grant & 5 others are making to El Salvador next week to help with repopulation efforts. They are soliciting contributions from Boston area affinity groups. Helena Halprin requested that all funding requests be considered at once during the meeting rather than piecemeal and it was agreed to vote on all budget items at the end of the meeting. (Jim Roettger suggested it would be valuable to report all contributions in the Newsletter so donors could see where their money went.)

Ted Sanger made a brief report on the Patriot's Day Parade - we had a large turn-out, and thanks go to Betty Howard for the banners and to Helena Halprin for hosting the brunch afterward.

Robert Hoffman reported on the Winning Democracy Project. Helena, Cindy, Judi & Robert attended a meeting in April with representatives from a dozen other affinity groups to form a coalition to raise awareness about the situation in El Salvador. Robert circulated notes from the meeting and discussed ways Arlington could be involved, including distributing materials during Saturday tabling, using our phone tree for