September 20, 1988

Dear Friend:

You've probably noticed the lack of news recently on the war in El Salvador. "Winning Democracy"--a national coalition of peace and religious groups concerned with El Salvador--has noticed too. With the presidential elections approaching, Winning democracy is calling for national elections to reassert U.S. policy in Central America as a national issue.

We have come together as a committee to respond to the coalition's call for actions in October around El Salvador. Our specific plans are three- fold:

1.) leading a 9-mile walk-a-thon through Newport on Saturday, October 15, designed to be simultaneously a fund-raiser for the Salvadorian Medical Relief Fund, a tool for community outreach and education, and a visible, media-worthy event.

Walkers will gather at noon at Washington Square (the park next to courthouse).

2.) holding a rally at Washington Sq. Newport at 4pm.

3.) sending a bus-load of Rhode Islanders to Washington, D.C. to join Winning Democracy's national action at the Pentagon on Monday, October 17. Planing meeting for everyone intending to go will be at Amos House on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30pm. 272-0220; 331-7838.

Our objectives with these actions are likewise three-fold. Our most immediate concern is re-focusing national attention on U.S. policy in Central America, and making it a presidential campaign issue. In the process, we need also to educate our own communities to the realities of El Salvador, so that they can better interpret campaign rhetoric. But while US politicians debate, Salvadorians die--so we need to raise and to send immediate relief aid. We hope that the process of collecting pledges for our walk-a-thon will give us the opportunity to raise these issues with our friends, family and neighbours at the same time that we are raising funds, and that all of our efforts will be multiplied by media attention.

Please help us make this campaign a success. There are many ways you can participate: you can hike in the walk-a-thon, attend the rally or join the trip to the Pentagon. If you cannot participate so directly, please consider sponsoring someone else in the walk (you can phone in your pledge at 273-4650 and leave your name, address), or distributing pledge forms and information about the Washington trip to others who might be interested.

We look forward to seeing you on October 15 or 17. For more pledge forms or information, please contact: Jim, Suzanne, or Phil at Amos House; 415 Friendship St. Providence. 02907. Telephone: 272-0220; 331-7838.

Thank you for your support!

R.I. Winning Democracy Campaign