In memory of John Hoagland (1947-1984)

John Hoagland took his last photo on March 16th. An American-made bullet punctured his lung during a fire fight between guerrillas and government troops in El Salvador. On assignment from NEWSWEEK, he had been leading a column of journalists down a road near the town of Suchitoto when they came under fire. According to the official story, John was killed by a stray bullet of a government soldier.

Hoagie, as he was fondly called by his friends, had made El Salvador his home and had plans to wed a Salvadorian. Crisscrossing Central America since 1979, he was bent on his personal mission to record the social revolutions of that fiery isthmus. Wielding his camera artistically, he had made a name for himself as a photojournalist—having photos on two recent NEWSWEEK covers.

John had also made another kind of name for himself, the kind that appears on right-wing death lists. Despite pleas from his Californian friends, he stayed on to cover the fighting.

John was both an artist and a rebel. Born and raised in San Diego, he became politicized as a student at UCSD and was involved in the anti-Vietnam war movement. Never one for long meetings or debates, John had a particular attachment to San Diego's "underground" newspapers.

Always a man of action, John left his former life as an ironworker in San Francisco and part-time turquoise miner, and with his sympathies with the Sandinistas and his camera in hand, journeyed south to record the conflict. He ended up doing what he loved best.

Associated Press

Hoagland's untimely death has affected many of us deeply, and forces those who knew and loved him to feel a hundred-fold more mortal. Like a mirror, his death allows us to examine our own lives. And his photos and our memories will keep him alive for a long time.

I heard sirens and saw nothing. A few hours later we learned John was dead.

Obituary on the Evening News

There were no sirens in El Salvador
the day they shot John Hoagland
through the lung;
it doesn't matter who supplied the
guns,
our point man isn't out there
anymore.
His photographs are part of it, the
line
that led him on, and sent home truth
in scenes.
The rest of him is memory, his
dreams,
and what belongs to those who stay
behind.

We heard a siren pass, no ambulance
appeared. We watched the highway
and the sky,
Two thousand miles away, that
morning, chance,
a stupid altercation. War's still hell,
but Hoagie won't be back to tell
the facts about what happened when
he died.

richard astle
brooke neilson
3/16-17/84

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***The Whole Damn Pie Shop* is a project of the Borderlands Education Committee. As a forum, signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the staff.**

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What Do We Do Now?

INTRODUCTION

1984 has brought a renewed sense of urgency to the activism of the American left and to the progressive movements for social change. Much of this is due to the dangers that another 4 years of Ronald Reagan would bring to the country and the world.

Believing that the left and progressive people need to discuss and debate strategies and tactics, "The Whole Damn Pie Shop" is attempting to deepen the discussion with this issue of our publication.

A number of organizations and individuals were asked to submit papers on the topic 'Left and progressive strategy for 1984' in the hopes of generating increased dialog. Those that made our deadline are printed below. For the future, our pages remain open to the continuation of this dialog.

Readers are encouraged to respond to the following statements. (Please submit articles or letters to our P.O. Box 7904 by the middle of May.)

CISPES STRATEGY FOR 1984

FMLN Strength and U.S. Elections

by Susan Norwood

CISPES strategy for 1984 is based on an analysis of the current situation and of situations which can be expected to develop in the coming year.

The two situations which CISPES considers to be of the greatest importance for Central American work in 1984 are the growing strength of the FMLN-FDR in El Salvador (and the growing weakness of the government army), and the presidential elections in the U.S.

In February 1984, following a series of crushing defeats of the Salvadoran armed forces, the FMLN-FDR proposed the foundation of a provisional government in which all sectors could take part. This proposal takes into account the increasing organization and unification of the many local governments presently operating in areas controlled by the FMLN, as well as of popular organizations, religious groups, and labor unions, operating in all of the country. Thus, in a very real sense, it marks the creation of a concrete alternative to the U.S.-backed government in San Salvador. However, this proposal is not likely to bring about the end of the war in El Salvador; on the contrary, we can expect that the Reagan administration will increase its military involvement as the FMLN grows stronger. It does, however, mean that the "hot spot" in Central America in the coming months will be El Salvador; the focus has shifted, if only temporarily, away from Nicaragua.

No one in the U.S. can doubt the importance of the upcoming presidential elections; if Reagan is given four more years in which to "finish the job," working people, minorities, and women will face conditions of repression and exploitation perhaps unknown in this country since the turn of the century. The re-election of Ronald Reagan will not necessarily mean the immediate invasion of Central America, but the odds are overwhelming in favor of a major escalation of U.S. intervention, either directly or by means of the Guatemalan and Honduran armies. On the other hand, the election of any of the Democratic candidates (except possibly Jesse Jackson) is hardly an automatic guarantee that an invasion will not take place; but it is safe to say that a Democratic victory would decrease the probability of a major increase in U.S. intervention by a significant amount.

Taking these two important situations into account, CISPES has decided on the following strategies for 1984:

Legislative/Electoral

1. Initiate an ongoing program of grassroots pressure on Congress to oppose Reagan's supplemental aid request for Central America.

2. Put pressure on the Democratic Party; attempt to raise the issue of Central America on the floor of the National Convention while organizing a major demonstration outside.

3. Work with the Jackson campaign; CISPES did not endorse Jackson nationally, but local committees are encouraged to work with local Rainbow Coalitions.

Direct Action

1. Respond to step-by-step escalations with a variety of tactics, including civil disobedience.

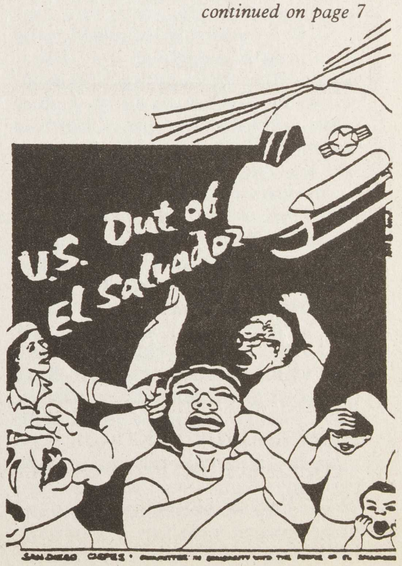
2. Organize, in coalitions with other groups, major demonstrations at the Democratic and Republican convention, and at the Olympics.

People to People Exchange

1. Gather material aid for El Salvador (as a priority, but also aid to Nicaragua and Guatemala).

2. Organize tours around key dates, such as the Salvadoran elections.

Emergency Response Network

In San Diego in particular, we have set priorities on the formation of an Emergency Response Network to oppose legislative and military moves escalating U.S. intervention, the creation of a broad anti-intervention front including peace groups, religious groups, and Chicano groups, and grassroots outreach (bumper-stickering and slide shows).

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