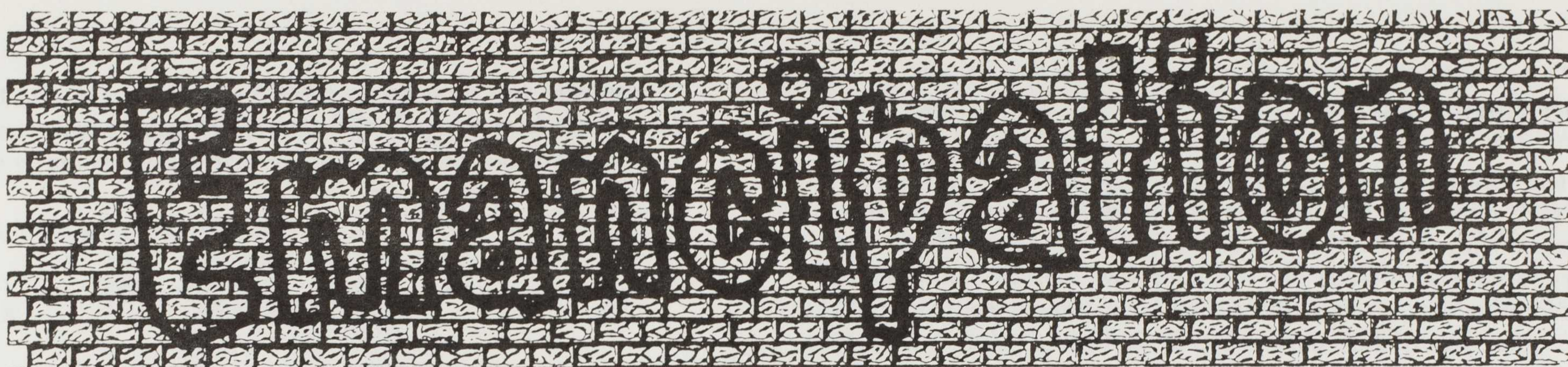




Published by the Anarchist Association Of The Americas

HANDS OFF LATIN AMERICA!

The people of Latin America are caught in a vice created by greed, stupidity, and U.S. imperialism. It appears Ronald Reagan and Alexander Haig are determined to assure that this condition does not change. They are convinced of the need for their own war-of-glory, one to be fueled by the bodies of Latin America's innocent peoples.

The White House is now seeking \$8.7 billion in new military aid to El Salvador, Chile, Guatemala, and Argentina—all butchers of their own people—and has turned loose the CIA to destabilize the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. The Reagan-Haig plan is not only reactionary but is plainly a crime against humanity, a crime equal to any the U.S. has committed in this century—which is saying a great deal.



The control of El Salvador is the task immediately at hand for Reagan and Haig and the vicious leaders of capitalism who keep the pressure on the upper reaches of the Republican administration. And so El Salvador must be the immediate task of the progressive left within the United States. Every effort at agitation must be made within the United States and the more democratic Latin American countries to change the course of U.S. policy toward El Salvador and end the military aid program to the insanely repressive dictatorships of the Latin countries.

As anarchists we support the peoples' desire for freedom, peace, and bread, and see the hope for such gains only in the unfolding of a social revolution built on class solidarity and the economic and social needs of the communities within that nation. This is, of course, easy to say, but class solidarity following centuries of murder and oppression can only emerge once an atmosphere of freedom is achieved. Certainly this will not come under a puppet government of the "moderate" Jose Napoleon Duarte; nor is it likely to come under any form of Marxist-Leninist regime, always composed of bourgeois intellectuals with a firing squad close at hand.

The only acceptable course for U.S. policy in El Salvador or Guatemala is to permit the people of these tiny agricultural countries to evolve and shape their own manner of governance and their own self-reliant and self-sufficient economy. Considering the current development of the war in El Salvador, the U.S. should accept and sponsor the Mexican-French initiatives seeking a cease-fire and a negotiated transition to popular administration. This must allow for international guidance in aid, genuine land reform, and the development of basic literacy and technical skills. Such a plan must include the protection of the people from the military and its death squads.

The U.S. owes El Salvador, and the rest of Latin America, a fair beginning for a decent future, having done such harm already. Haig's fear that unless stopped soon, revolutionary guerrillas of the left will suddenly appear in Arkansas or North Hollywood, may well be fulfilled unless we stop our criminal adventure abroad.

El Salvador has always been a nation divided between masters and slaves. Today a poor peasantry continues in its subservient role wedged between two ideological factions, neither truly needed by a people who possess their own genius for living in intelligent harmony. This condition has been largely of U.S. doing and must now be changed by a policy and popular action of untypical sanity.

Michael Cordres