ARLINGTON CENTRAL AMERICA COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 311 • Arlingon, MA • 02174

Arlington/Teosinte Sister City Project

MARCH/APRIL 1991

MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 7:30 P.M.
Pleasant Street Church
(75 Pleasant St.)

Special Guests:

Mario Davila of the American Friends Service Committee in Cambridge will give us an update on El Salvador.

Prof. Gary Zabel of UMass, Boston, Law and Justice Project, will speak and lead a discussion on the Persian Gulf War.

Everyone invited. It is likely to be a lively and provocative evening!

A townwide commemoration of the death of Archbishop Romero will be observed on Saturday, March 23. Save the date, More details as plans develop.

National Sister Cities Conference Four Arlington delegates attended the National Conference of U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities at Emmanual College, Boston on January 19-20. Jim Roettger, Sally Rogers, Ted Sanger and Cindy Silver joined delegates from local Sister Cities as Belmont, Cambridge and Watertown, along with those from Phila., Berkeley, L.A., Boise, Madison, plus other states for a total of 13 delegations. Updates on El Salvador's political situation, current U.S. policies, and progress on the repopulation projects were discussed. Workshops enabled those present to share information and strategies on long range planning and fundraising. There are now a total of 19 U.S. Sister Cities.

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LETTER FROM VILLAGERS IN TEOSINTE

In a recent letter from Teosinte, governing council leaders Nicolas Gevara and Rafael Buardado reported on developments in the village and expressed an appeal for more communication with the citizens of Arlington.

"We are deeply grateful for all that we have received and for all your mobilization for our community, and for the project that you support in general which is: seeing El Salvador with peace, liberty and respect for human rights. This is what we, the Salvadorans hope for, in order to attain a bette development," they write.

Teosinte now consists of roughly 80 hous holds. They are raising corn, beans, vegetables and corn fodder which is used to feed the 15 milk cows and other livestock. A number of small businesses under way - a tailoring shop shoe repair, carpentry and a general store. Many of these services are being provided to other villages in the region as well.

There are 157 students from preschool to 4th grade, being taught by 10 teachers. The needs in the area of education are tremendous the school has little equipment of furniture, few educational materials, no teacher trainin programs. For Teosinte, education is very reliant on financial help from the solidarity movement.

In spite of the great progress they have made, the townspeople still have much to worry about. Of great concern is that their soil appears to be infertile and they have not had adequate harvests to feed the village. And the assistance from the church for items like sugar, oil, matches, gas and lime, were suspended February 1990. They also lost their only means of transportation in an accident early in October and this severly hampers their ability to transport the sick and buy items from San Salvador.

The letter closed with appreciation for the recent donation of shirts, shoes, letters and financial assistance, and a greeting:

"Long live the Sister City of Arlington"