

THE MONTHLY PLANET

September 1987

Volume 3, Number 7



U.S. Foreign Policy ...

OUT OF CONTROL

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c/o Nuclear Weapons Freeze
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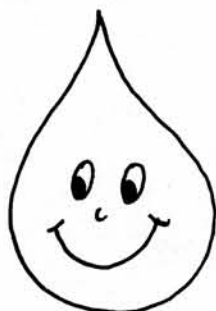
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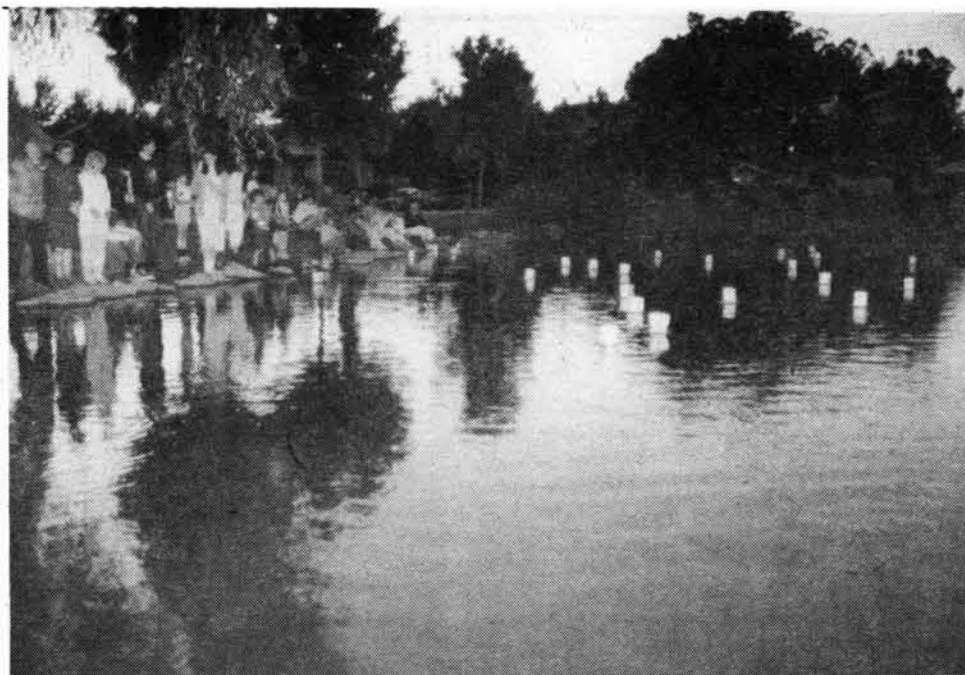
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ELLEN HODGES

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A group of Santa Cruz citizens commemorated the 42nd anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki with floating lanterns at Westlake Park.

PAT KITSON

Deadlines

for the October *Monthly Planet*

Publication date
Thursday, October 1

Poetry submissions
Monday, September 14

Letters to the Freeze
Tuesday, September 22, 5 p.m.

Calendar listings
Tuesday, September 22, 5 p.m.
(no phone calls, please)

Display ads
Friday, September 25, 5 p.m.
(call Risa at 427-3405)

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The *Monthly Planet* is published at the beginning of every month (except January) by the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze, 320-G Cedar Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (408) 429-8755. The *Planet* is mailed free to all Santa Cruz County Freeze members. Memberships are available at \$15 for one year (\$10 low income). The views expressed in the *Planet* are those of the authors and are not necessarily the official views of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Articles, calendar items, and letters should be typed, double spaced, and sent to the above address. Letters must be signed and not more than two pages in length. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. Call for deadlines and advertising rates.

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign had its beginning in late 1979 when Randall Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, drafted a paper—the Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race. National organizations and hundreds of regional and local groups and individuals endorsed the Freeze proposal and its goal of calling the U.S. and U.S.S.R. to stop the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons.

Since 1981, when the national campaign began, support for the Freeze has broadened and deepened. In the fall of 1982, more than thirty percent of the American public had a chance to vote on the Freeze. Overall, sixty percent of those voting favored the Freeze. In 1983, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Freeze resolution by almost a two-to-one victory.

In December, 1986, the National Conference of the Freeze adopted the current long-term goal of the Campaign: Enactment of a bilateral, comprehensive Freeze as an essential verifiable step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war; and the phased mutual reductions of nuclear weapons, beginning with U.S and Soviet ballistic missiles. These goals are concrete steps toward a vision of a world without nuclear weapons by the year 2000. Achieving the elimination of nuclear arsenals should be accompanied by an end to the cold war, sharp mutual reductions in conventional forces, conversion to a peace economy, and establishment of common security among the nations of the world.

The Freeze Campaign is now active in all fifty states. It is broad-based and non-partisan. Through the Freeze, American citizens are demanding that the nuclear arms race be stopped and then reversed.

From The Grassroots



Letters to the Freeze must be **typed, double spaced**, and not more than two pages in length. We reserve the right to edit for brevity and clarity. *Handwritten letters are now O.K., too. (But please be legible.)*

What's Wrong With Congress?

I want to commend a few members on the Select Committee of the Contragate Hearings on their statements following the questioning of North and Poindexter. These include Representatives Hamilton and Stokes and Senator Sarbanes whose concluding remarks soberly spelled out the acts perpetrated by North and Poindexter that were immoral and damaging to the image of the democratic process we treasure.

However, I am puzzled. The men (there is a notable lack of women on the panel) who interrogated North and Poindexter avoided some hard questions. These questions, raised by the Christic Institute and other investigators of the secret government activity by the National Security Council (NSC) have gone unanswered as this shadowy government emerges from the Contragate Hearings.

Did North have any involvement in the La Penca bombing in Nicaragua that killed eight

international newspeople and seriously wounded many others at this Pastora meeting? What about the drug traffic that enters the United States via the Hull Ranch in Costa Rica owned by an American? What about the military weapons that have been paid for by the sale of these drugs?

Why are these arrogant NSC actors in the hearings allowed to turn lying into a national virtue, law breaking into the national vehicle for foreign policy? Why is Congress silent instead of outraged? Why has Congress failed to publicly condemn lying and lawbreaking, thus, by omission, making them accessories to the "Olliemanian" that elevates criminal activity into national patriotism?

Why? Answers to these questions need to be heard by "We the people."

Sincerely,
Ruth Hunter
Santa Cruz

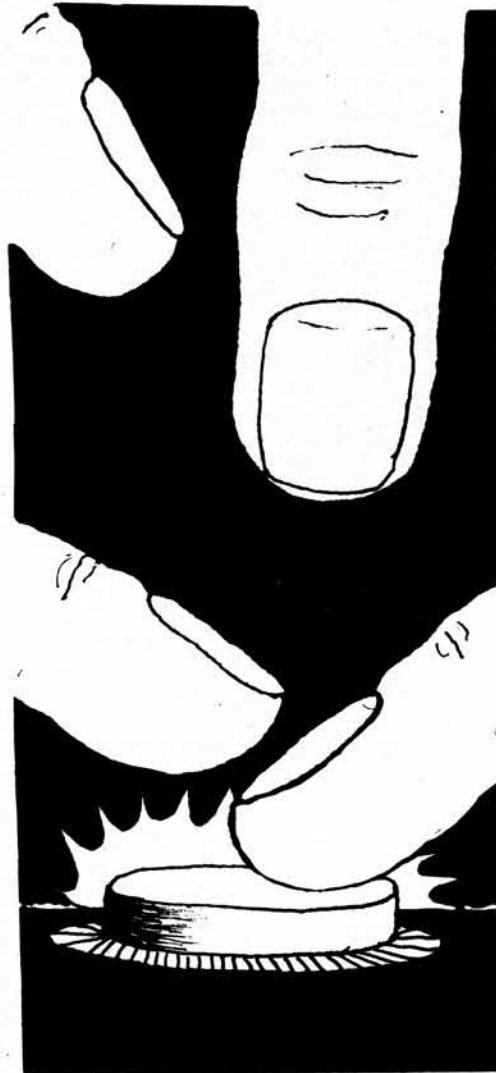
Who Can Push The Button?

I wish you would do an article on the nuclear "red button"—who besides the President can activate it? Who outside the Presidential Succession Act of 1947? How many red button pushers were in the Iran-contra Scam?

Is it possible for any of 15 or more men to push the nuclear button at any one time? Even if mentally disabled?

Thank you for your excellent paper.

Sincerely,
Ms. Ellen Trufatt
Aptos



Gift Subscriptions

I became acquainted with *The Monthly Planet* over a period of three years, when I spent nearly every weekend in Santa Cruz—I always picked up a copy and read it from cover to cover. Needless to say, your staff has put together a great publication.

A month ago, I married the woman I had been commuting to Santa Cruz to see every weekend. So I subscribed to *The Monthly Planet*, and at the same time I purchased a gift subscription for the high school that I attended back in the late '60s.

I'd like to order two more subscriptions: one for Napa Community College and one for Sonoma State University.

At the same time, I'd like to suggest a program to increase your subscriptions and reach many readers.

Why don't you devote a page advertising a program to solicit gift subscriptions to be mailed to high school and college libraries, (and possibly public libraries)? Such a program would allow you to reach many young people who could be influenced towards progressive politics. Perhaps the subscription donor's name could appear on the mailing label (say instead of "Remember Hiroshima" to read "donated by Mike Smith, class of '72"). A form letter could be mailed to the school librarian introducing *The Monthly Planet* and its goals before the first issue was sent, or accompanying the first issue. (Also, the one page ad should list libraries already receiving *The Monthly Planet*.)

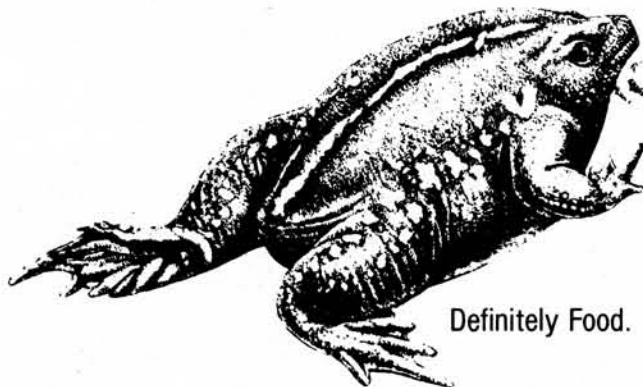
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Another Earth Flag

While in Santa Cruz recently I was interested to read the letter in *The Monthly Planet* from reader Ann Heil regarding the Earth Flag (July issue) and your reply (August issue). The following information might also be of interest to your readers.

Here in Davis there is a "Whole Earth Festival" each May, and I clipped an article out of the local newspaper after interest had been expressed in the Festival Earth Flag, which may or may not be the same as the one seen at the Nevada Mother's Day Action. The article states that the flag is available from Humphrey's Flag Company, 239 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 / (215) 922-0510. (Not the same company as given by *The Planet*.) Perhaps their catalog would be worth a look.

The same article also mentions The Flag Store, 1047 Polk Street, S.F., CA 94109 / (415) 474-3965. (I've been past this location and it looks great but I've never had the time to go in!) Among others, they can provide The Earth, World, Co-operative Movement, Racial Co-operation, United Nations, Whole Earth Festival, Olympic Games and Rainbow Flags.

I send you this information as I'm fascinated by flags. Really(!) Well, it seems to me a far healthier means of self-expression than a fast car or the latest designer clothing. I'm travelling around the U.S. for a year or so and when I get my VW Camper (hopefully in the near future) I want to fly several flags from the radio aerial!

Yours in peace and solidarity,

Nick Hands
Davis (from Britain)

Religion And Politics

I receive *The Monthly Planet* and read it with much interest. In my opinion, you folks are on the correct track all the way with regard to nuclear information, and its use in politics.

However, there is one thing that is not brought up because of our programmed taboos (i.e. "don't discuss politics and religion"). We never see articles about the impact organized religions (organized superstition) have with their wealth on our foreign policy, such as Pat Robertson's backing of the contras with about a \$10 million donation.

I'm aware that some universities and religious organizations were pressured into pulling some of their investments out of South Africa. However, we are not aware of just how much wealth the organized superstitions take out of the U.S. economy (would you believe approximately \$200 billion a year). They promote organized superstition, thereby mucking up people's minds for the rest of their lives with programmed guilt feelings, in order to bilk them out of their money and material wealth.

Religious wars are as deadly as any other kind, fought in the name of the fictitious gods conjured up by medieval minds of people that want to control every facet of other people's minds.

Is there anyone in your audience interested in starting a "tax the churches" organization? I'd be happy to communicate with them. Enclosed is a copy of "Church Wealth and Clerical Power" by C. Stanley Lowell Rev. I have copies available for anyone interested.

Sincerely,

Drew Kovaly
Rohnert Park



KAREN STACKPOLE

The Pledge of Resistance
is calling a
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Hot Flashes

by Bradley David Neily

Calling A Bluff

The Reagan administration has dropped its insistence that any arms control treaty must include verification provisions allowing for broad on-site inspections of weapons facilities. This shift, an abrupt change from long-standing policy, appears to have been caused by pressure from the intelligence community.

The CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency and the Department of Energy became alarmed at the possibility of having Soviet inspectors stationed on sensitive military installations around the

country. These agencies are especially upset with a proposed "challenge" provision which would give either side the right to demand an inspection without prior notice if a treaty violation is suspected. When the Soviet Union surprised the administration by agreeing to such verification methods in chemical warfare treaty negotiations, intelligence officials became concerned.

It has been rumored that the administration had insisted on the on-site inspection demand because they didn't think the Soviets would accept such stringent conditions.

Smart Rocks Knocked

A report has been issued by top weapons experts at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory that adds further doubt to the Reagan administration's plan to deploy "kinetic kill" vehicles as the first phase of Star Wars. Dubbed "smart rocks" by critics, the kinetic vehicles would simply attempt to smash into incoming missiles to destroy them.

"We are very skeptical of the wisdom of relying on the first generation of kinetic kill vehicles to provide any real protection," said Christopher T. Cunningham, group leader for strategic defense systems studies at Livermore Lab. The report estimated that it would take almost 100,000 of the smart rock vehicles placed in continuous orbit around the earth to overcome the current Soviet missile force.

The study supports the growing conclusion among many of the nation's top physicists, weapons scientists and national security analysts that the Star Wars defense system championed by the Pentagon and the Reagan administration simply is not technologically feasible. George H. Miller, the assistant director for defense systems at Livermore, testified at a Senate defense appropriations subcommittee that "the country is not yet in a position technically to begin installation of a major space-based defensive system." Sidney Drell, a physicist and co-director of the Center for International Security and Arms Control at Stanford University, said in response to the Livermore report that "this means analysts all the way across the spectrum found early deployment with kinetic kill vehicles won't work" and added that "the study means, in essence, that kinetic kill vehicles won't do any damn good."

Sanity Plea

Gillam Kerley, who refused to register for the military draft in 1982, was recently convicted and sentenced to serve three years at Leavenworth Prison. The sentence, the harshest ever given to a draft resister in 15 years, was given by Judge John Shabaz, a Reagan appointee known as "the hanging judge of Madison." Judge Shabaz also levied a \$10,000 fine, telling Kerley that his parents could afford to pay it because his parents had helped him financially while he enjoyed the "luxury of being underemployed." Judge Shabaz also remarked that Kerley was a paid staff employee of "the resistance," a reference to Kerley's work as Executive Director of CARD, the Coalition Against Registration and the Draft.

Kerley pled "not guilty by reason of sanity" when he was indicted in September of 1982. He is now appealing the verdict because of Judge Shabaz's biased comments and a sentence that was designed to make an example out of Kerley and intimidate other people from resisting the draft by exercising their rights of free speech through nonviolent civil disobedience.

Competing For Nuclear Waste

The small desert towns of Needles, Baker and Trona located in Southern California are in hot pursuit of the privilege of becoming the site for a low-level radioactive waste dump. The competition began with the passage of federal legislation requiring each state to come up with a method, by 1993, to handle the low-level radioactive waste that it produces. In California alone that amounts to 2.7 million cubic feet of waste each year.

U.S. Ecology, a waste management company, recently completed a statewide survey that deemed the three towns the most suitable for the dump site because of their isolation and desert environment. The promise of at least forty jobs and the related economic benefits of a steady paycheck seem to have won over most of the respective town residents and chambers of commerce officials despite the unknown environmental dangers of living close to a nuclear waste site.

U.S. Sues MX Contractor

The U.S. Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against Northrop Corporation for fraud after the Air Force revealed that Northrop, a major contractor for the Pentagon, had furnished falsified test data for the MX missile guidance equipment. The equipment in question was a heat exchanger that Northrop said it had tested. Northrop billed the Pentagon for the fictitious tests, but, after a heat exchanger blew up during a test conducted by the Air Force, an investigation revealed that Northrop did not even own the testing equipment to perform the tests.

The heat exchanger is a crucial part of the MX missile guidance system. It exchanges heat generated by the electronic parts within the missile's inertial measurement unit (IMU). Any defect in the IMU will cause the missile to go off course and strike the wrong target.

No Loitering

Supporters of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze, unhappy with Senator Pete Wilson's position on nuclear testing, recently attempted to deliver petitions carrying 17,000 signatures urging Wilson's support for a nuclear test ban treaty. Instead of meeting Wilson, thirteen of them were arrested and unexpectedly charged with loitering at the senator's San Francisco office.

Twelve defendants have chosen to fight the charges according to L. Stephen Turer, an attorney representing the defendants. "Literally, all they were doing is trying to talk to their representative," said Turer. "The definition of loitering is to be in a place without any purpose. There was no law broken, because individuals have the legal right to petition their representatives and they were there for that purpose," said Turer before U.S. Magistrate Wayne Brazil.



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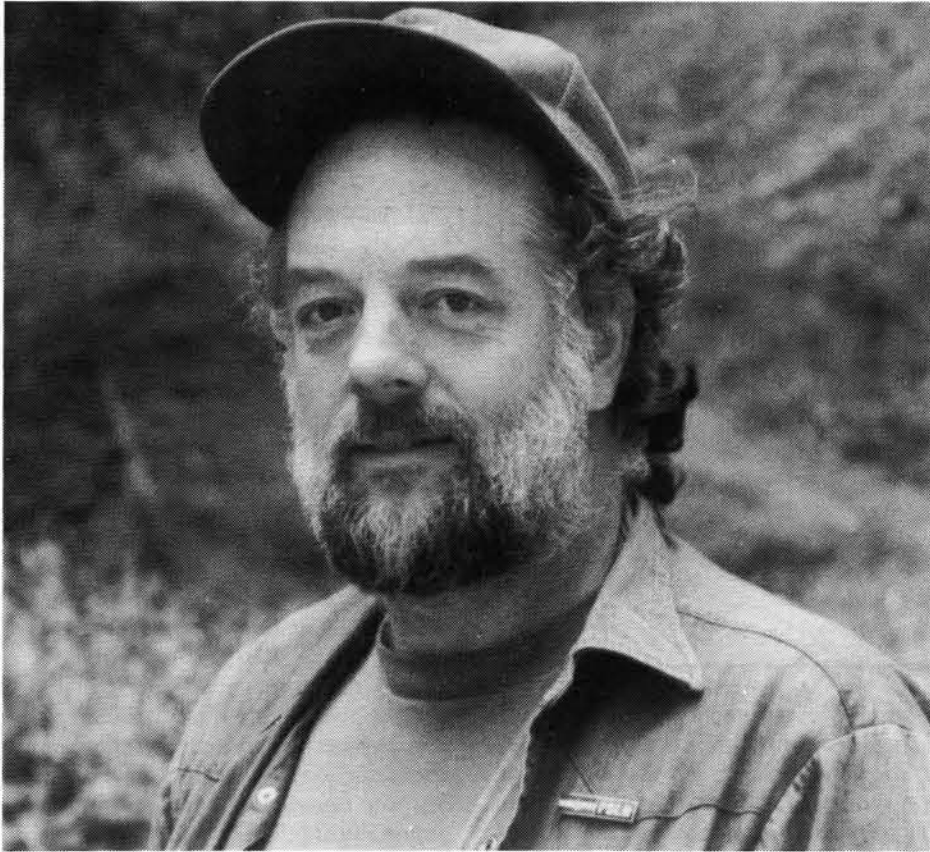
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Stop Contra Aid

If you're working for peace in Central America, you might get the impression that the government is out to get you. The mutilation of Vietnam veteran Brian Willson by a weapons train at the Concord Naval Base is the latest in a series of escalating actions on the part of the federal government, aimed at suppressing opposition to the U.S.-sponsored war in Central America.

Willson, 47, a resident of San Rafael, gained national attention last year when he and three other Vietnam veterans engaged in a public fast on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. He was one of several protesters blocking the train which carries weapons and munitions that will eventually be shipped to Central America. Press reports indicated that the train approached from a distance at a speed of approximately 5 miles per hour. Unlike previous times, the train did not stop. As it came close, other protesters jumped out of the way. Brian Willson did not. He was struck and dragged 25 feet. Willson is now listed in serious condition suffering from massive injuries including the loss of both legs.

As we go to press, the Navy has issued no comment other than to say that it was a "tragic accident." Tragic indeed. But it is our opinion that it was no accident.

The war engulfing El Salvador and Nicaragua is tragic too, but it is no accident that the weapons and gun powder used to fuel that war are shipped daily to Central America.

Ronald Reagan is hell-bent on obliterating the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. In its own words, his administration has characterized the Managua government as "a cancer that must be removed." Since 1981, the U.S. has embarked on a systematic campaign to discredit and destabilize the government of Nicaragua, principally by funding, arming and training the counterrevolutionary forces based in Honduras.

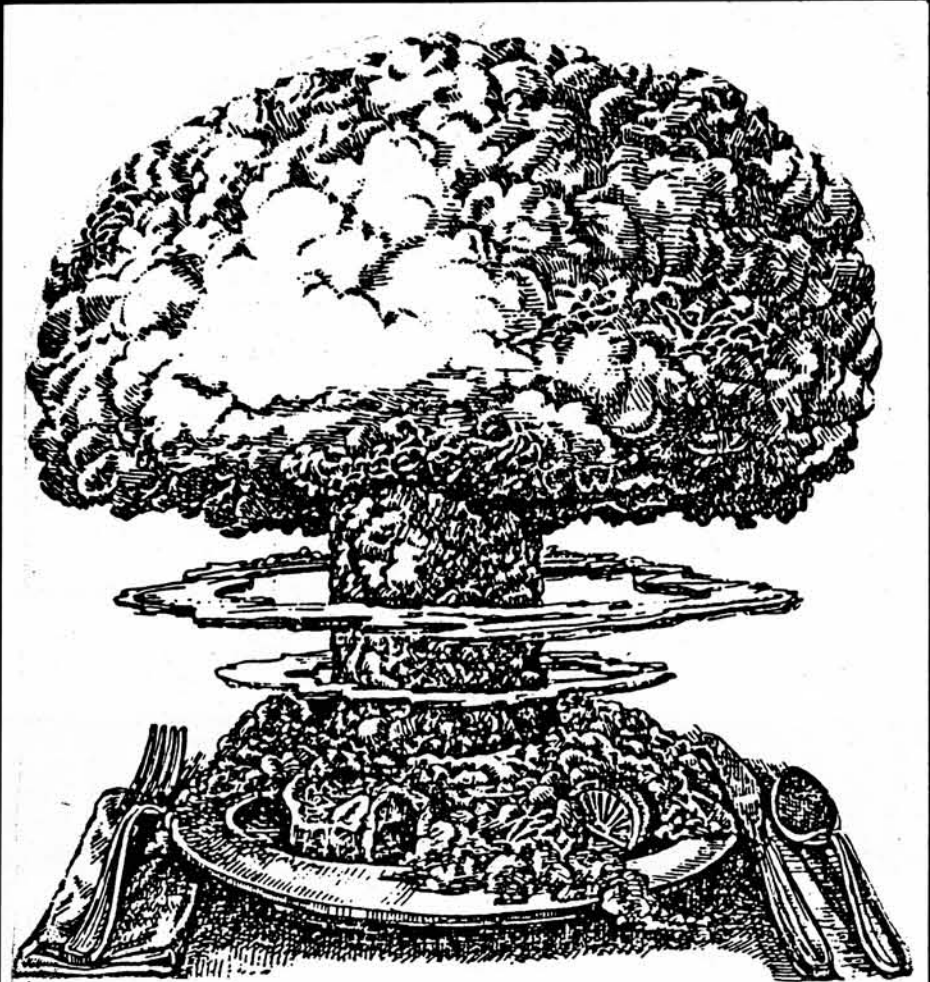
In recent years, Reagan's obsession with destroying the Nicaraguan government has expanded to include those opposed to his war policies. U.S. citizens who have participated in delegations to Central America have found FBI agents on their doorsteps asking questions. Sanctuary workers have been harassed, jailed, wiretapped, their offices broken into. American engineer Ben Linder was shot and killed at close range by contra forces in Nicaragua, in what many feel was a deliberate and selective killing. This month, the Senate will take up a bill that, if passed, will severely limit the ability of U.S. citizens to travel to Central America.

If Congress votes to approve any request by the Reagan administration to fund the Nicaraguan contras, it will mark a deeper commitment to wage war against Nicaragua, a war that is unwinnable without direct U.S. military intervention.

Every single person reading this should get involved in some way during the next 30 days. Write and call your congressmembers, attend community meetings to plan how to fight contra aid, spread the word to others. Our message to Congress is clear: stop funding the war in Central America.

The Department of Energy has a solution to the Problem of Radioactive Waste.

You're Going to Eat It

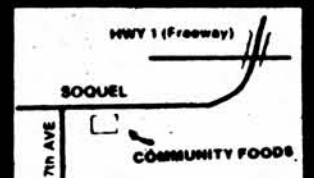


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Where It Comes From, Where It Goes

This column is dedicated to the memory of Earl Palmer, a socially aware cat in whose name people have recently made contributions totaling \$50 to the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Earl is gone, but his awareness lives on through these generous bequests to a cause he believed in.

Most of our contributions do not come from cat bequests. Our members provide the largest chunk of our funding. Forty-three percent of our income so far this year came from membership dues and small donations (averaging \$15 each) from members. Members (we have about 2,500 at this writing) give not once, not twice, but often three and four times per year.

The next largest portion of our income is from the business community. Advertising sales for *The Monthly Planet* and business memberships make up roughly 25 percent of our funding base. You can see evidence of the growing business support each month when you read the *Planet*. (By the way, you can help keep it growing by patronizing businesses who support the Freeze and telling them that's why you're there.)

Fundraising events—"Dance Your Nukes Off," the walk-a-thon, and concerts such as Ancient Future—provided

Where The Money Comes From

43%	Membership dues and small donations
28%	Business memberships, advertising and subscriptions to <i>The Monthly Planet</i>
20%	Fundraising events
6%	Sustainers
3%	Literature and merchandise sales
100%	

Where The Money Goes

32%	<i>Monthly Planet</i> production and distribution
31%	Outreach and direct action
16%	Fundraising
16%	Administrative staff and expenses
5%	Exported resources
100%	

20 percent of our income so far this year. Dance-a-thons and walk-a-thons are especially lucrative because each participant raises funds from people who probably haven't given before. This helps give our members a rest and builds our list of donors to ask for future contributions and memberships.

Sustainers, people who give us money each month or quarter, represent six percent of our funding base. We rely on sustainers to give money on a regular

basis so we can spend less time fundraising and more time organizing.

The remainder of our income comes from literature sales to other Freeze chapters and merchandise sales at events and literature tables.

Now that you know where the money comes from, you are probably wondering where it all goes. Most people about to give us money ask what we plan to do with it. That's certainly a reasonable question, yet it takes some explaining to answer. Our financial reports are set up to show what we spend on a particular account, such as Kinko's or the phone company. For example, some phone calls are fundraising calls, others are providing educational information and others involve planning meetings for events. Some copies at Kinko's are busi-

ness memos, and some are literature or petitions. So, it was a challenging task to break down our expenditures in a such a way as to reflect our activities and spending priorities. Here's what I came up with.

Producing and distributing *The Monthly Planet* takes 32 percent of our total income. From the chart, you can see that the *Planet* creates 28 percent of that income. So, just five percent of non-*Planet* income goes to produce and distribute the *Planet*.

I clumped all outreach and direct action activities together to get 31 percent of expenditures. These include our outreach staff of tabling coordinator, canvass coordinator and door-to-door canvassers. It also includes money spent on publicizing actions at the Nevada Test Site as well as transporting people from Santa Cruz to the site. And, it includes our support of the First Strike Prevention Project which educates the public about nuclear first-strike issues and helps organize nonviolent direct actions, both nationally and locally, aimed at preventing development of first-strike weapons.

A note about the canvass: it does not fit neatly into any one category. I included canvass staff and expenses under outreach because the door-to-door canvass is our most extensive outreach program. It is also a fundraiser for us. The canvass in Santa Cruz County this year has recruited nearly 800 new members for the Freeze. Furthermore, our canvass is now recruiting members for the Monterey Freeze and will start soon in Santa Clara County.

Fundraising staff and expenses, not including the canvass, comprise 16 percent of expenditures. This includes temporary fundraising staff for the walk-a-thon and Ancient Future concert. It also includes the additional expense of making these events happen—printing, postage, hall rental, etc.

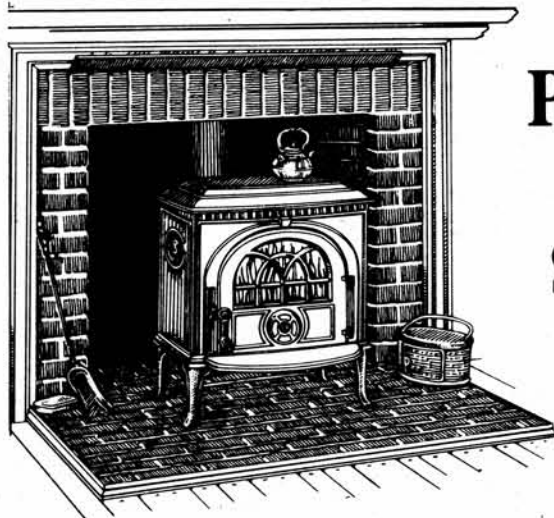
Another 16 percent is spent on what I'm calling administrative staff and expenses, including the executive director's salary, bookkeeping expenses, phone bills, rent, utilities, postage, copying and printing, office supplies and miscellaneous expenses. Many of these expenses are really hidden educational and outreach costs which are difficult to extract from the overall expenditures. For instance, as director, I spend much of my time running the office and overseeing the budget. But I also help organize outreach activities. For two months I spent about half my time doing press and publicity for the Mother's Day Action at the Nevada Test Site.

Now that you know where the money goes, don't wait until a socially aware cat passes on before making a contribution.

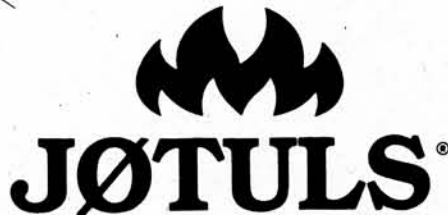
(Next month, I will discuss the various resources—in addition to money—that are used in the effort to end the nuclear arms race.)

Terry Teitelbaum is the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze and a cat lover.

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A New People's Yellow Pages To Be Produced

The Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN) is currently developing the 5th edition of the People's Yellow Pages, a county-wide community resource directory.

The People's Yellow Pages will contain extensive listings of human care, and social service agencies, along with hundreds of community clubs, and organizations.

The People's Yellow Pages will be an excellent resource directory for county residents, and a very good way for community clubs, agencies and organizations to reach prospective members or interested individuals. SCAN must receive listing information by September 15.

Community organizations will be listed free of charge. The directory will be available in bookstores throughout Santa Cruz county, and by mail-order on November 15. To ensure that your group is listed in the People's Yellow Pages call SCAN, at 458-9425.

We the People...

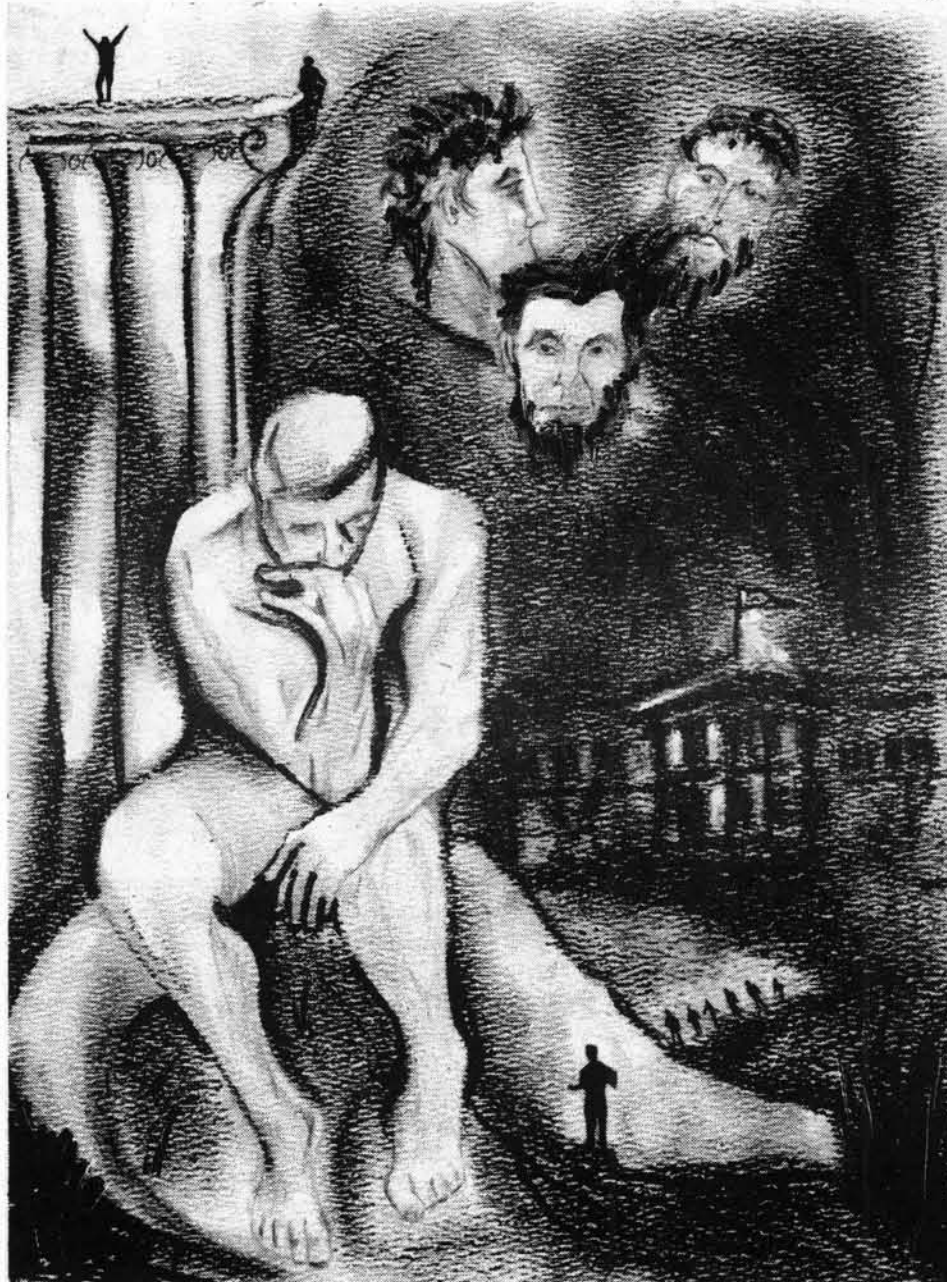
In *The Gettysburg Address* Lincoln raised again the question our founding fathers had constantly on their minds as they set up the new republic: can a nation so constituted endure? The political wisdom of the Enlightenment, as of the classical political thinkers of ancient democratic Greece, was that democracy is the most fragile, if preferable, form of government. It has a tendency to change into demagogic tyranny or to government by aristocratic clique. The larger and the richer the republic, the more the danger.

The Reagan administration seems to have combined the two most basic forms of decay into government by demagogic clique, also not a new thing under the sun. And recently, the Contragate hearings have demonstrated both the extreme fragility and strength of democracy in terms of how some of the *people* act. The apparently desperate moral and intellectual condition of an American "democracy" which can reportedly perceive Oliver North as a hero has been laid bare before the eyes of the world.

Is it really true that most Americans, who started voting for their class presidents in grade school, do not understand the crucial importance of the democratic rule of law and of the Constitution? Of the importance of open deliberation and joint decision making? And where are the reports of the numbers of the *other* letters and calls to the president and Congress *disclaiming* a favorable view of Colonel North? Is the problem in the press, the poll takers, in the people or somewhere else? The people are also reported by poll makers to be roundly against an American *invasion* of Nicaragua.

During the hearings Colonel North knew where he stood and he said it loud and clear. He knew he had freedom of speech. He was protected by the very political structure his actions violated. We may not agree with his position, but we could certainly tolerate it, if he had not also broken the law by his actions. Secretly.

Secrecy and the lying it breeds are the most serious enemies of democratic structure. Above all, it is the secrecy of admin-



ELLEN HODGES

istration plans and initiatives which poses the greatest risk to our way of life. Reports of secret plans for a "quick and dirty" early deployment of a primitive Star Wars system should surprise no one at this point.

Ironically enough, people liked Oliver North for being forthright. Large numbers of people in America work in huge, non-democratically structured institutions

where *they* cannot speak their minds for fear of losing their jobs. They must keep their real views, if not their actions, secret. They, too, would like to take matters into their own hands.

In the Nicaraguan situation, most of the American people have never heard more than that the Sandinistas are communists and the contras freedom fighters. We fought for our democracy, so it

must be good for someone to fight for it in Nicaragua, goes this line of reasoning. Actual Nicaraguans, that is. Even admirers of Colonel North do not seem eager to go ashore themselves. Maybe we *did* learn something in Vietnam.

The nature of general public understanding of what has really been happening to us, the Americans, as we got involved in Nicaragua, reminds me of the days before the Freeze idea gave Americans the vehicle with which to voice disapproval of nuclear weapons. A new level of public education about the real issues in our involvement in Central America, and in *all* our national problems, can only improve the general climate of political self-awareness and empowerment in our country. A change of this type is needed to help move the nuclear issue forward as well, beyond the band-aid stage of the current Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces negotiations.

For this reason, the signing of a treaty by the five Central American nations is a great step in *our* history as well as theirs, because it is a direct challenge to us to practice what we preach. These five Central American nations have now agreed among themselves on how to handle the regional conflict. Historically, we have acted as the bully against many of them individually. In some respects, we have been to Latin America what the U.S.S.R. has been to Eastern Europe—we *preached* democracy and practiced subversion and armed intervention.

In the last several years, there has been a worldwide movement from tyranny to democracy by popular demand, typified by Argentina, the Philippines, and most recently Korea. To my knowledge, we have not armed any nuns, widows, Buddhist priests or students in those countries. The people can do it themselves, if no one sends in any guns to arm their adversaries. And maybe we too can do it ourselves. If as a people we can stop being hypocrites in Central America, maybe as a people we can also take a stronger, less ambivalent stand about nuclear weapons and stop the nuclear arms race cold.

Susan Strong chairs the Northern California Freeze Campaign.

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Fate Of Central American Peace Plan May Hinge On Contra Aid Vote

President Reagan is expected to lay to rest any remaining hopes that his administration wants peace in Central America when he approaches Congress for aid to the Nicaraguan contras on or before September 30. No dollar amount has been decided upon as of yet, but White House officials have suggested that it might be as high as \$140 million. If approved, it would violate a key provision of the newly signed Central American peace plan, which asks that outside nations refrain from funding armed insurgencies; it would also send an

unmistakable signal that the U.S. wants war with the people of Nicaragua.

It is likely that the administration will seek what it terms "provisional" funding, some of which might be earmarked for food, clothing and medical supplies for the contras and the rest held as "insurance" that the Sandinista government fulfills the terms of the accord in a speedy fashion. The Central American plan provides for a series of evaluations of the progress being made, the first of which is slated for November 7. President Reagan would like to give it until October 1, which is when the current year's funding for the contras expires. Responded Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn), "It took longer to negotiate the mortgage on my house than the administration is giving the Sandinistas."

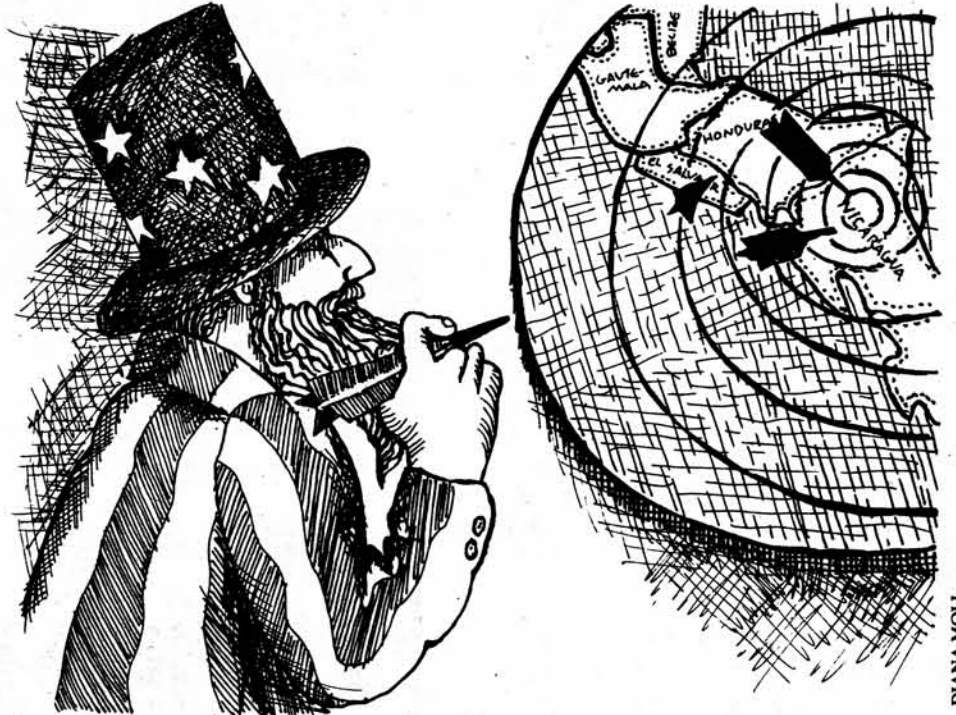
Congress, then, will become the key component in what is probably the most important foreign policy vote in years. Despite Contragate, despite documentation of contra atrocities, despite the fact that by a two-to-one ratio the American people do not support contra funding, there is still no clear indication which way the vote will fall. The Democratic leadership of Congress still does not want to be characterized by the administration as soft on communism with regard to this issue. Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) will apply his own patriotic litmus test to Congress as soon as it returns from summer recess by proposing a \$210 million funding measure with the statement that "we should go for an up-or-down vote and find out whether the liberal wing of the Democratic Party and [House Speaker] Jim Wright are willing to allow a Soviet base in our hemisphere."

In the vein of can-you-top-this, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) may propose a \$300 million amount, and former White House communications director Patrick Buchanan has called for the President to "demand \$500 million and send it irrespective of the approval of Congress."

The only aid permitted under the terms of the Central American peace plan is for relocation and repatriation of guerrilla forces. It is important that members of Congress understand that a vote for contra aid is a vote against the Central American peace plan, and that the two cannot coexist.

ACTION: Your representatives are in town until September 6. Make an appointment to see them by calling the office nearest to you. Also call or write House Speaker Jim Wright (202) 225-5071 and Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (202) 224-3954. Tell them to vote against any and all attempts to fund the contras, and to take vocal and public leadership on the issue, urging their colleagues to vote likewise. Look for notices of public meetings and other activities in your area, and get involved. The efforts of every individual are needed.

In a related matter, a companion piece



DIANA MOLL

to the Walker-Smith amendment will be introduced in the Senate in early September. The Walker amendment was attached to the State Department Authorization Bill, and forbids travel by U.S. citizens to Nicaragua for the purpose of "providing service or assistance to the military operations of the Nicaraguan government"; it also prohibits travel to any other country in Central America for the purpose of providing assistance or services to any group or organization

designated as communist by the president. The measure passed on the floor of the House by an astounding vote of 213-201.

If the measure passes in the Senate, it will have a profound impact on the ability of U.S. citizens to travel in Central America. It is a thinly disguised attempt to restrict direct access by Americans to the political realities of the region, and will likely be used to interfere with the various work brigades and delegations of

Contact Your Representatives Today!



Hotlines

To keep you abreast of late-breaking events on peace and arms control issues, the following organizations run regularly-updated taped messages:

American Peace Test Hotline
(up-to-date information on all testing activities at the Nevada Test Site)
702-363-7780

Nuclear Arms Control Hotline
(Council for a Liveable World)
202-543-0006

S.O.S.—Save Outer Space Alert
202-462-0777

Central America Legislative Hotline
202-543-0664

Witness for Peace Hotline
(religious activists in Nicaragua)
202-332-9230

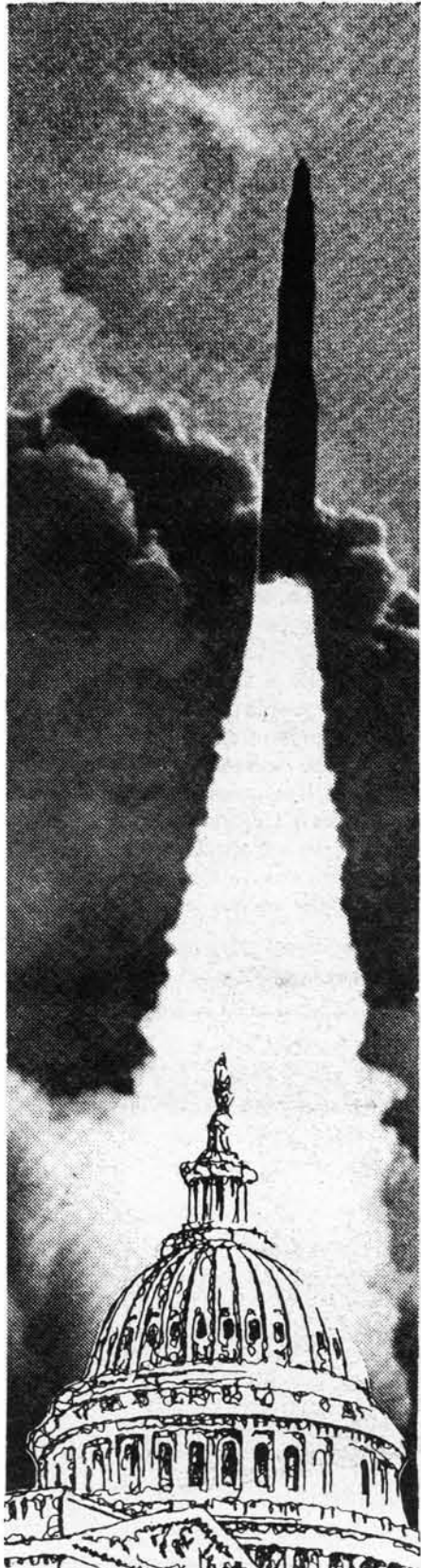
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414

Senator Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3553

Senator Pete Wilson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841

Congressmember Leon Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2861/local: 429-1976
(Sixteenth Congressional District)

Congressmember Ernest Konnyu
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5411/local 257-7051
(Twelfth Congressional District)



U.S. citizens that frequent the area. Central America activists might view this as a backhanded compliment to the effectiveness of their work.

ACTION: Contact Senators Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston and tell them to oppose any companion measure to the Walker-Smith amendment on the grounds that it is a violation of American civil liberties to travel.

Finally, the Moakley-DeConcini bill was approved by the House on a vote of 237-181 and will be heard in the Senate sometime in September. The bill grants extended voluntary departure status to Salvadoran refugees, allowing them to remain in the United States until the political situation in their homeland becomes stabilized. Until last month the measure had been stalled in committee for almost three years. Passage of the bill will put an end to the daily deportations of hundreds of Salvadorans.

ACTION: Contact Senators Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston and tell them to support the Moakley-DeConcini bill when it comes before the Senate this month.

Arms Control

There is still a slim chance that the Fiscal Year 1988 Defense Authorizations Bill will be debated and voted on when Congress reconvenes this month, but it is highly unlikely. This is because conservative senators have vowed to continue a filibuster aimed at preventing a vote on

a measure requiring the president to adhere to a strict interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. The ABM Treaty specifically forbids the testing and deployment of space-based sys-

so, the Democratic leadership in the Senate has been unsuccessful in its many attempts to garner the necessary 60 votes to invoke cloture and end the filibuster. Since the fiscal year ends September

Recent history indicates that when this kind of pressure is on, Congress is more willing to forego arms control initiatives in the interest of finalizing the federal budget. At stake this year are amendments on nuclear weapons testing, mandatory SALT II limits, a ban on anti-satellite testing, and a reduction of funding for Star Wars. The House has already passed these measures, but they will be lost if they can't get through the Senate.

ACTION: Call or write Senators Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston and tell them you want to see these arms control measures included in the defense bill this year. Ask Senator Cranston to take leadership by urging his colleagues to vote to end the Senate filibuster and to take up these arm control amendments.

Shelly D'Amour is the Legislative Editor of The Monthly Planet.

"It took longer to negotiate the mortgage on my house than the administration is giving the Sandinistas."

—Rep. Sam Gejdenson

tems. The president has indicated that he favors a "loose" interpretation of the treaty that would allow for development of the Star Wars program. It seems that while many congressmembers are ambivalent about Star Wars, they do support the ABM Treaty, at least for now. Even

30, Congress will be obliged to pass what is called a continuing resolution (CR), which is one giant spending bill that contains most of the major appropriations bills. The purpose of the CR is to keep the government operating until a final bill can be worked out.

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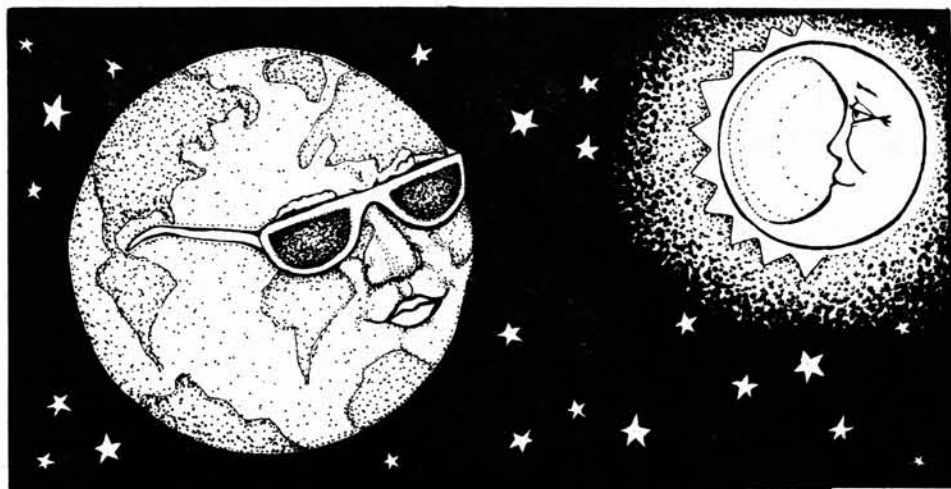
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DIANE RIGOLI

Planet Watch

by Susan Marsh

United Nations U.S. Boycotts Conference

Maintaining disarmament and development are separate issues, the Reagan administration is boycotting the United Nations Conference on Disarmament and Economic Development that began August 24 in New York City. Representatives of more than one hundred other countries, including all U.S. NATO Allies and members of the Warsaw Pact, have convened to examine how money saved under future disarmament agreements could be used to stimulate economic development in Third World countries. Worldwide military spending has reached almost \$1 trillion per year.

Critics within the administration as well as officials from many of the Western nations are perturbed by the administration's decision to boycott because they are afraid of a confrontational, tense meeting where Soviet and nonaligned

countries succeed in presenting an anti-Western forum. More importantly, they are concerned about wide acceptance of the Soviet contention that if the U.S. and its allies would accept Moscow's final proposals, disarmament dividends would finance development. Washington, in the words of one State Department official, "is not interested in scoring points in the U.N. these days." It also rejects the notion that developing nations would automatically receive any freed disarmament expenditures.

Philippines A Nuclear Free Zone?

In a move that would effectively render two of the United States' most important naval bases useless, members of the Philippine Senate filed two laws on August 13 that would ban nuclear weapons from the country. Ten of the Senate's 24 members filed the bills, which call for barring stor-

age of nuclear weapons in the country as well as visits to the Philippines by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships, submarines or aircraft.

The United States maintains a policy of never confirming or denying the presence of nuclear weapons on its ships. The proposed ban would therefore create an insurmountable problem in maintaining the strategic military capability of both the Subic Bay Naval Station and Clark Air Force Base.

While President Corazon C. Aquino has been noncommittal about her position regarding the bases, some senators have indicated the measures could give the Philippines significant leverage in bargaining for economic assistance when the leases expire in 1991.

New Zealand Lange Re-elected

In re-electing Labor's Prime Minister David Lange to a second three-year term, New Zealand voters demonstrated their support for Mr. Lange's anti-nuclear policies. The political contest that was essentially between incumbent Lange and National Party Leader Jim Bolger came to a close on August 15, when the final votes of parliamentary constituencies were in.

While the two chief contestants' main campaign issue centered on their vastly different economic policies, military and nuclear issues also garnered campaign



attention. Mr. Bolger said that, if elected, he would work to make New Zealand an active member of ANZUS and "trust allies to respect New Zealand's aversion to nuclear weapons." Mr. Lange said he would maintain the policy he began in 1984 that disallows nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships to use the country's ports.

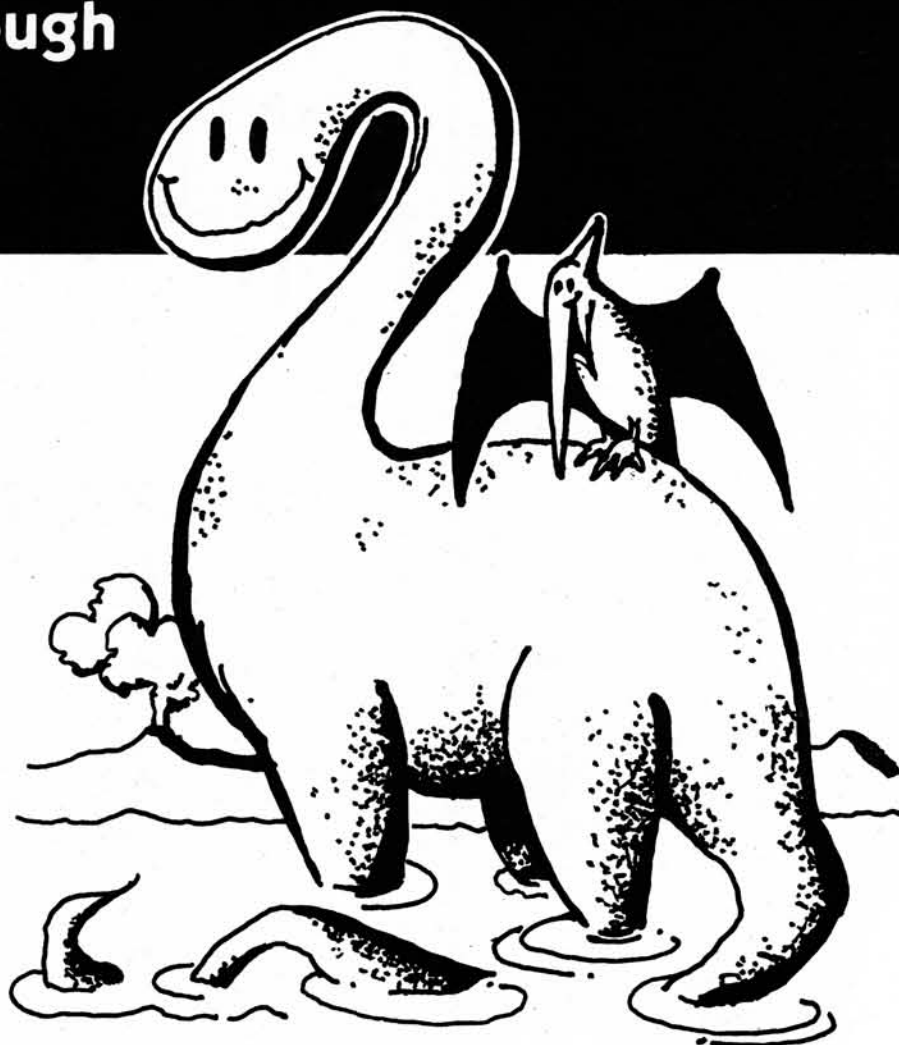
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Soviet Union SS-24s Deployed on Trains

Viktor P. Karpov, head of the Soviet Union's arms control office with the Foreign Ministry, announced at a news conference on August 11 that the Soviet Union is now deploying a new intercontinental ballistic missile, the SS-24. The SS-24 missiles contain 10 independently-targeted warheads and are reportedly being transported by railroad cars, a new concept in weapon transport that may have been borrowed from the United States. (See our December 1986 issue's Hot Flashes section for a story on the plan to base the MX missile on trains.)

The Soviet Union says the missile does not violate the SALT II treaty framework. But United States Senator Jesse Helms, who announced reports of the deployment to the Senate on August 7, claims the missile and the sea trials of a Typhoon missile submarine exceed limits of the treaty. The Reagan administration, in what some say is an attempt to sabotage legislation being sponsored by members of Congress that would force U.S. compliance with the 1979 treaty ceilings, has backed Mr. Helms' reports. The United States has not adhered to the treaty since last year.

Leaky Test

On August 13, the United States charged the Soviet Union with violating the nuclear test ban treaty after receiving reports from Norwegian officials that atmospheric radioactive debris had been detected over Norway, Sweden and Denmark early last month. Charles Redman, a State Department spokesperson, said the increase did not present "calculable health, safety or environmental risk."

On August 15, the Soviet Union formally responded to the charges, stating that a gas leak had occurred but that there was no radioactive fallout. Tass reported the leak resulted from a nuclear test for military purposes on Novaya Zemlya, an island north of the Arctic Circle. Other reports, however, state the leak was due to a type of nuclear explosion used to stimulate the flow of oil and gas from low-permeability, deep lying rock.


The Soviet Union had maintained an 18-month moratorium on nuclear tests, starting in August 1985, which the United States refused to join. Since February of this year, the Soviets have conducted 15 underground nuclear tests, the U.S. 11, the French two, and the Chinese one.



CHRISTOPHER PALERMO

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U.S. Foreign Policy ... OUT OF C

by Joe Palermo

With the conclusion of the Iran-contra hearings, American citizens are now confronted with the task of evaluating the consequences of President Reagan's secret foreign policy apparatus. In his closing state-

Analysis

ment, Senate committee chair Daniel Inouye said that a "junta" within the National Security Council (NSC) had usurped executive power. President Reagan's "privatization" of foreign policy placed unprecedented power in the hands of a cabal of active and former military and intelligence personnel. Coordinating this secret unit from the White House without a semblance of accountability to the law, to Congress, or to the American people was a zealous Marine Lieutenant Colonel named Oliver North. Crucial foreign policy initiatives defining the

A Constitutional Crisis

Two-hundred years ago, the framers of the Constitution constructed a system of government that placed ingenious limits upon the powers of the chief executive. In this system the president can make treaties, but the Senate must ratify them; the president serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, but it is Congress that declares war; and while the president formulates policy, it is up to the Congress to decide whether or not to fund it. Add to this the congressional mechanism for overriding vetoes and the power to impeach, and what emerges is a system of "checks and balances."

Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution states that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury" except by "appropriations made by law." The elaborate network of front companies and Swiss bank accounts utilized by the NSC containing profits from the sale of government property became, in effect, a shadow treasury at the disposal of the chief executive. The

A 95-page study by the American Civil Liberties Union released last month documents several instances where President Reagan clearly violated the law.

parameters of war and peace for the nation were either kept secret or wrapped in a fabric of lies, deception, and misinformation.

This secret team, which Senate counsel Arthur Liman called "a government within a government," possessed its own sources of funding, its own "backchannel" system of worldwide communications, and its own army. It was, as Col. North put it, "the ultimate covert operation."

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall has said that only through "suffering, struggle, and sacrifice" is the Constitution of this country kept alive. And this struggle must continue, for if the 41 days of hearings have shown anything, it is that without constant vigilance on the part of the American people, the Constitution runs the strong risk of being eaten away from within.

president used these monies to pursue a secret foreign policy and to circumvent the congressional power to appropriate funds.

The Constitution also states in Article II, Section 3 that the president must "take care that the Laws be faithfully executed." The Reagan administration turned the NSC into an operational intelligence unit for the express purpose of sidestepping congressional laws and restrictions.

A 95-page study by the American Civil Liberties Union released last month documents several instances where President Reagan clearly violated the law. The president failed to inform oversight committees or key congressional figures of major intelligence activities; he failed to inform Congress in a "timely fashion" of the secret arms sales to Iran (which he admitted to only after they were exposed); and, by allowing the NSC staff to run the contra



resupply operation, he violated the Boland Amendment banning all "lethal" aid to the contras from October 1984 to October 1986.

In addition, President Reagan violated several provisions contained in the Arms Export Control Act, one of which requires a presidential report to Congress when major military equipment is transferred. This law applied to the secret shipments to Iran of the high-tech T.O.W. (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-

guided) anti-tank missiles.

Furthermore, the law also requires the president to submit a waiver to Congress before selling arms to any nation deemed to be supporting "international terrorism." Iran was near the top of the State Department's terrorist nation list. Reagan also violated Pentagon appropriations laws prohibiting the shifting of intelligence money for other purposes without notification to Congress. Finally, even when the White House did not technically violate

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folly of allowing the reigns of government of any Western power to fall into the hands of Socialists or Communists even if it is the will of the majority of their people."

This marked the birth of the Truman Doctrine that simultaneously established the national security state and a global U.S. sphere of influence. This new role as the world's police service, and the "entangling alliances" that accompanied it, ran

gulf states view Iran, with its large population, sophisticated military, and militant Shi'ite ideology, as being the foremost threat in the region. The exposure of the secret U.S.-Iranian arms transfers (40 tractor-trailer loads in less than a year) came as an unwelcome shock to these pro-U.S. sheikdoms.

It had been clear from the start to European and Arab governments that the Reagan administration's story about arms

The Iran-contra hearings should be understood as exposing not an aberration, but a steady state of U.S. foreign policy.

contrary to America's longstanding tradition of isolationism. Thus began the contradiction between a system of government based on informed consent, and the existence of a national security apparatus that relies on secrecy and lies. The Iran-contra hearings should be understood as exposing not an aberration, but a steady state of U.S. foreign policy.

The foreign policy debacle resulting from the Iran-contra affair stems partially from the fact that the United States spoke with a forked tongue. Secretary of State George Shultz consistently harangued Western European governments for even thinking about negotiating with "terrorists." He was also the architect of "Operation Staunch," a U.S. diplomatic initiative designed to prevent nations from selling arms to Iran. Both of these public positions were the exact opposite of what the United States was secretly doing.

At the same time Shultz was chastizing Europe for dealing with "terrorists," the White House secretly negotiated a formula where one hostage equaled \$1 million, and used money from private donors as ransom. While Shultz criticized nations that were selling weapons to Iran, the United States covertly sold spare parts and sophisticated surface-to-air and anti-tank missiles to the Ayatollah.

Before the Iran scandal, America's Arab allies such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman believed that U.S. policy had been "tilting" toward their ally Iraq in the seven-year-old Persian Gulf war. Arab

sales to Iranian "moderates" as a vehicle for a possible reconciliation, was nothing more than an after the fact invention to justify what had been a straight arms-for-hostages swap.

On the Central American side of the operation, it has been the Reagan administration's maniacal obsession with the Nicaraguan contras that has led to the wholesale neglect on the part of the U.S. government of some of the most important forces of change in Latin America. Democratization in Brazil and Argentina, class struggle in Chile, and the pervasive debt crisis have been all but ignored by an administration that still views the region as someone's "backyard."

Whenever a U.S. diplomat recognizes that the contras cannot win, or that the Sandinistas are capable of negotiating in good faith, they seem to fall by the wayside. Former Special Envoy Philip Habib is only the latest casualty for acknowledging the fact that the contras are more popular in Washington than in their own homeland.

Contra atrocities have not earned Reagan's "freedom fighters" a good reputation either. The World Court, usually an accurate barometer of world opinion, ruled 13 to 1 against U.S. aggression in Nicaragua, and opinion polls in the United States have shown since 1981 that contra aid is unpopular. But Nicaragua has unfortunately become the testing ground for the "Reagan Doctrine" of

continued on page 18

the law, it has been contemptuous of the spirit of the law and the intent of Congress.

A Policy Crisis

One highlight of the Iran-contra hearings came when Ellen Garwood, the 83-year-old contra benefactor who donated \$2 million to the cause, invoked the Truman Doctrine to justify her generous contribution. Garwood, whose father served as Under Secretary of State

in the Truman administration, said she feared a communist takeover of the Western Hemisphere if the Sandinistas were allowed to consolidate their rule in Nicaragua.

She recalled Truman's March 1947 speech when he gave rhetorical backing to the National Security Act of the same year, which established the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, and a host of related agencies. Said Truman, "we cannot exercise the

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Out Of Control

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support for anti-communist insurgencies, and the contras have become a *cause celebre* for the American right.

A Legal Crisis

Last spring, professional fund-raiser Carl "Spitz" Channel and an associate pleaded guilty in federal court to charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S. government. They were indicted for illegally funneling millions of dollars through tax-exempt organizations to purchase military equipment for the contras. Both men named Lt. Col. Oliver North as a co-conspirator.

But North's possible criminal conduct goes far beyond the violation of U.S. tax laws. He has admitted to repeatedly lying to Congress; altering or destroying important NSC documents; accepting a \$14,000 security system for his home and then forging billing records to cover it up; and cashing traveler's checks drawn from secret NSC monies for his personal use.

It was also Col. North who chose to employ an egregious group of private profiteers and former military and intelligence operatives to run the "Iran initiative" and the secret arms pipeline to the contras. Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, who as the "commercial cut-out" ran the day-to-day finances of the operation, resigned from the military in 1983 while under investigation by the Justice Department for his involvement in a company that pleaded guilty to illegally overbilling the Pentagon.

In the same month Secord resigned he went to work for a firm linked to Edwin Wilson. Wilson, a former CIA official, is currently serving a 52-year sentence in a federal penitentiary for illegally selling explosives to Libya, and for plotting to assassinate federal prosecutors. North's secret operations, which were approved by the president, relied heavily on a

retinue of Wilson's former associates.

Meantime, while serving as the NSC's liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), North drafted a "contingency plan" to suspend the Constitution, place the nation under martial law, and install military commanders to head state and local governments. The plan was drafted as an executive order to be signed into law in the event of such "emergencies" as "national opposition to a U.S. military invasion abroad."

Interestingly, contra donor William O'Boyle testified that North showed him two classified plans for a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua. One plan called for the contras to seize a small part of the country and establish a provisional government. The U.S. Navy would then put up a blockade, and a full-scale invasion would follow. Presumably, North's FEMA plan for martial law was in place just in case domestic opposition to such an invasion created a "national emergency."

However, these plans could have been the delusions of a young staff officer. In December 1974, North spent almost a month in Bethesda Naval Hospital after exhibiting bizarre and violent behavior diagnosed as "delayed battle stress." Also, former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane testified that he had repeatedly suggested that "Ollie" be readmitted to Bethesda to escape from the stress of managing the contra war that was obviously taking its toll on North's mental health.

According to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alphonso Chardy, North was assigned for a time to carry the "football" for President Reagan. The "football" is a briefcase containing the necessary codes for launching a nuclear war. North followed the president wherever he went, carrying, in effect, "the button." Policy analysts agree that if the decision to launch nuclear missiles ever occurs it will come from the president and a few close advisors. It seems that North was telling the truth when he told the select committee: "We live in a dangerous world."

Joe Palermo is a staff writer of The Monthly Planet.

U.S. Secret Foreign Policy Goes On Trial

by Joe Palermo

The State Department called it "patently ridiculous." Major General Richard Secord, called it "an outrageous fairy tale." Rob Owen, Oliver North's courier to the contras, called it "absolutely scurrilous." But the Christic Institute lawsuit, which names as defendants many of the principals in the Iran-contra affair, is continuing to gather evidence and will go to trial as early as next spring.

A federal judge has not only denied motions to dismiss the case by Secord, Albert Hakim, and other defendants, but has granted the plaintiffs extraordinary legal powers under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

The Christic Institute, an interfaith public interest law firm that gained notoriety after winning a settlement in the Karen Silkwood case, has been granted authority comparable to that of federal prosecutors. Institute attorneys, referred to as "private attorneys general," have the power to subpoena testimony, as well as bank, travel, and business records.

The lawsuit charges 29 defendants with operating an ongoing criminal enterprise implicated in bombings, assassinations, gun running, drug smuggling, and a host of lesser offenses. Richard Secord, retired General Jack Singlaub, and Thomas Clines are only a few of the Iran-contra figures named in the case, and are charged with managing what Daniel Sheehan, chief counsel for the Institute, calls a "secret team."

The lawsuit's origins lie in the aftermath of the May 30, 1984 terrorist bombing of a press conference in La Penca, Nicaragua. Sandinista hero-turned-contra leader Eden Pastora, who headed a contra group based in Costa Rica, the

Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), held a press conference to denounce both the CIA and the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN) for their heavy-handed attempts at wresting control of ARDE. Although

er evidence that the operatives who opened up the "southern front" in Costa Rica were involved in cocaine smuggling and a plot to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica and blame it on the Sandinistas.

A U.S. citizen who owns several ranches

the U.S. government.

Under the RICO Act, Institute attorneys must prove that defendants in the case participated in a "historical pattern" of criminal activity. This has led to the uncovering of a network of retired and active U.S. military and intelligence personnel who have been linked, since the early 1960s, in assassination plots, drug running, Pentagon arms profits skimming, and secret support of for-profit "anti-communists" on four continents.

In a sloppily-done frame-up last May, Avirgan and Honey were sent a package from Managua containing cocaine and a note purportedly written by Thomas Borge, Nicaragua's Interior Minister, that said: "Sell this for me . . . the commandantes are very happy with your mission." Although no charges have been brought against the two journalists by Costa Rican officials, Avirgan and Honey are barred from leaving the country until any pending legal case is settled. Avirgan was recently stopped at the airport in San Jose, Costa Rica when he attempted to fly to Miami to meet with Christic Institute lawyers. "We feel we are being held prisoners in Costa Rica," said Honey in a recent interview.

In Washington, D.C., meanwhile, congressmembers seem satisfied with the outcome of the select committee hearings, preferring not to expose more than they deem necessary. It appears that the Christic Institute will not be as easily satisfied.

Honey and Avirgan, still detained in Costa Rica, are asking people to send telegrams to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, or that country's ambassador to the United States: Ambassador Guido Fernandez, Costa Rican Embassy, 1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 211, Washington, D.C. 20009.

The lawsuit charges 29 defendants with operating an ongoing criminal enterprise implicated in bombings, assassinations, gun running, drug smuggling, and a host of lesser offenses.

he was fighting the Sandinistas, Pastora despised the FDN because, in his view, it was controlled by the CIA and dominated by former members of Somoza's national guard.

According to Sheehan's affidavit of the case, members of the "secret team" had plotted months earlier to murder Pastora if he continued to refuse to consolidate his group with the FDN.

The "secret team," according to the affidavit, hired a professional assassin to carry out the bombing which left eight dead and 28 seriously wounded. The terrorist, identified as Amac Galil, a right-wing Libyan, used an aluminum camera case stuffed with C-4 plastic explosive which is the most powerful non-nuclear explosive on earth and very difficult to obtain. The \$24-million lawsuit was filed for Tony Avirgan, one of the journalists wounded in the bombing.

Through informants, witnesses, former mercenaries, and Costa Rican government officials, journalists Avirgan and Martha Honey were able to piece together

in northern Costa Rica, John Hull, is named in the suit as the key player on the ground in the contra resupply operation run by the NSC, Oliver North, and the "secret team." The suit charges Hull with running a mercenary training and supply base at his ranch, complete with CIA-built air strips that were used to supply arms to the contras and smuggle cocaine into the United States. Avirgan's and Honey's most important informant, a young Nicaraguan who wanted out of Hull's operation, was kidnapped, taken to Hull's ranch, tortured and killed, according to the affidavit.

Despite the efforts on the part of Hull, Secord (who paid an ex-CIA agent \$100,000 to develop "derogatory" information on Avirgan and Honey), and others to suppress the facts, the Christic Institute has continued to hear testimony, subpoena documents, and, most importantly, bring to the public's attention the existence of an international criminal enterprise that apparently operated with the support of elements within

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What Are We Doing In The Persian Gulf?

by Ronald A. Lampi

Undoubtedly the most dangerous hot spot in the world today where U.S. foreign policy is being put to the test is the Persian Gulf. And a most exacting test it is when we consider this volatile mixture: an ongoing war

Commentary

between Iran and Iraq; rhetorical threats to extend the war to the whole gulf; the possible impact on the world oil market; the tension, contradictions, and religious fanaticism, in the midst of which U.S. military forces have rapidly been gathering. Indeed, our military buildup in and around the Persian Gulf is fast becoming the largest since the Vietnam War; about 40 combat ships and 25,000 military personnel will be stationed in the region by the end of September. The multinational armada there is also thought to be the largest amassing of warships since World War II. We pause a moment, and our first question is the obvious one: What exactly are we doing there?

The Reagan administration has publicly stated that our main intention in the gulf is to protect international shipping, making sure that the shipping lanes and ports for oil to the West remain open. Specifically, our increased presence in the gulf is the result of a request by Kuwait. In the Iran-Iraq war, Kuwait is considered an ally of Iraq; for that reason,



CHRISTOPHER PALERMO

after Iraq extended the war against Iranian tankers, Iran last year decided to begin attacks on Kuwaiti tankers. Kuwait was soon knocking on the doors of both superpowers seeking protection; if the United States would not come in, Kuwait made it known that it would seek the aid of the Soviet Union. This, it has been alleged, is the primary reason for our presence in the gulf—to prevent the Soviets from gaining any significant influence in the region.

As we know, the United States has agreed to aid Kuwait; 11 Kuwaiti tankers have been reflagged under the stars and stripes, with U.S. Navy escorts to protect them. Though Kuwait is pleased with the administration's decision, other Arab states in the gulf are extremely nervous and wonder why such a large military

buildup is taking place.

When the observation is made that the Iran-Iraq war, up to this point, has actually done little to disrupt the flow of oil in the region, the ironies and contradictions of the situation begin to stand out. First of all, of the two countries, the one that has more to lose if the tanker war resumes is Iran. Iraq is not dependent upon the Persian Gulf for its oil exportation, whereas it is Iran's oil artery to the world. And the latest in a series of mixed signals from Tehran is that it no longer opposes the U.S. escort of Kuwaiti tankers.

Though Iran has been named the number one threat in the gulf, ironically enough, keeping the shipping lanes of the gulf open can only be to Iran's benefit. Again, it was Iraq which started the tanker war as an effective way of crippling Iran's economy and had to be persuaded by other Arab states in the region, all more or less siding with Iraq, to stop, given that Iran, in retaliation, threatened to attack them all. It would naturally be to Iraq's advantage to resume the tanker

ment publication entitled "U.S. Policy in the Persian Gulf" there is a telltale omission: no assessment is given of what might happen if this powder keg goes off. Is this another oversight? Is the danger purposely being downplayed?

More than one hundred members of Congress view the situation as so volatile that they have filed suit to invoke the War Powers Act, which President Reagan has so far failed to do. The act, passed in 1973 as a result of the Vietnam War, states that a president must submit a report to Congress within two days of American troops being sent into a situation of "imminent danger." The troops can only remain in the area for 60 days unless Congress authorizes an extension. Representative Mike Lowry (D-Wash.), chairperson of the House Democratic Caucus, has said that "this is exactly the sort of a situation the War Powers Act was designed to deal with." Under the Constitution, only Congress can declare war, and the War Powers Act has the purpose of preventing Congress from

More than one hundred members of Congress view the situation as so volatile that they have filed suit to invoke the War Powers Act.

attacks, and yet our Navy is obviously not in the gulf to protect Iranian shipping.

The Persian Gulf puzzle grows more bizarre. This last May, the U.S. frigate Stark was hit by an Iraqi jet fighter, which was passed off as an embarrassing accident, bringing an increased focus on Iran as the region's real threat. But where does the threat lie? Is it a threat to the free flow of oil, or is the real threat Iran's revolutionary fanaticism? Is that, too, our purpose there, to check Iran's influence? But, then, another piece in this puzzle shows up a telling aberration in U.S. foreign policy. Moderate Arab states in the region, which count on the United States as an ally, are fearful of the spread of Iran's revolution. Yet, the Iran-contra scandal revealed an administration willing to sell, secretly, arms to Iran. Obviously, if a larger conflict erupts in the gulf, these same arms will be used not only against our moderate Arab allies, but also against our own forces.

That the Persian Gulf is a powder keg is apparent. Yet, in a recent State Depart-

being dragged into a war it hasn't willingly authorized.

The question remains: Has the administration been clear about U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf? Has the administration even a policy worth defending? At this point, as so many news commentators are reminding us, there is no broad public or congressional support for the administration's recent decisions. One congressional report concludes, "The current military threat to the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf in general, or to Kuwaiti tankers in particular, is in no way sufficiently serious to require armed escort by United States or any other forces." Yet, the same report notes that the United States may now be locked into its commitment to Kuwait. As in Beirut, the lack of a coherent, informed, and strongly supported policy in the Persian Gulf may bring us more trouble—and tragedy—than good.

Ronald A. Lampi is a Santa Cruz writer and the Poetry Editor of The Monthly Planet.

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How The U.S. Has Undermined Peace In Central America

by Dan Ringer

The history of U.S. responses to eight years of diplomatic and peace initiatives in Central America can be summed up in one word: war. In its reactions to Nicaraguan initiatives, to the Contadora process, and to the evolving Arias plan, the Reagan administration has been single-minded. In each case, it has tried to impose its own desires on the region through military and economic blackmail.

Nicaraguan peace initiatives

Since the first days of its new government in July 1979, Nicaragua has sought healthy diplomatic relations with the U.S. During those first six months, the Carter administration seemed prepared to establish helpful, respectful relations. The 1980 Republican Party platform, however, signalled an opposite intention, declaring the interests of the U.S. incompatible with the existence of the new government of Nicaragua.

By 1981 the Reagan administration had put its intention into action and begun the contra war. Nicaragua, despite this aggression, has consistently attempted to negotiate with the U.S.

The Contadora Group

In January 1983, the foreign ministers of Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Mexico met on the Panamanian island of Contadora to design a plan for peace in Central America. After extensive negotiations with the governments of the five Central American countries involved—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica—this group drafted a plan.

On September 7, 1984 the Contadora group presented the plan to the Central American countries for approval. This treaty would have limited arms, armies,

and military bases, ended support for insurgent groups, and promoted democratic political systems. Nicaragua made extensive concessions on all these points. The Contadora group had taken great care to meet the legitimate concerns of each country. U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz praised the treaty, noting Nicaragua's hesitance and the treaty's tentative acceptance by the other countries.

struggle forward. In March 1985 the Contadora group publicly reaffirmed the need for a peaceful solution in Central America and declared the Contadora process an appropriate forum for meeting that need. In June 1985, the U.S. Congress approved contra aid. In July, the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay formed a political support group for Contadora. By this time, governments supporting Contadora

The Reagan administration has tried to impose its own desires on the region through military and economic blackmail.

On September 21, 1984 Nicaragua announced its willingness to sign the treaty as it stood. Peace seemed likely to break out; the U.S. was shocked and alarmed. The treaty's resolution of the issues of arms reductions and military maneuvers and bases, although apparently acceptable to the five Central American states, seemed to the U.S. to overly restrict its control in the region. During the following month, the U.S. held "intensive consultations" with El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras. Then, on October 20, these countries reopened the supposedly closed negotiations with a revised proposal. The new proposal directly reflected U.S. concerns and included provisions known to be unacceptable to Nicaragua. This was neither a coincidence nor an expression of Central American will—a National Security Council report leaked to the *Washington Post* that November confirmed that strong U.S. pressure had intentionally sabotaged the Contadora peace process.

Contadora nevertheless continued to

represented 85 percent of Latin America's population.

In September, the *Washington Post* was again leaked a revealing document. According to the report's State Department authors, "The (Contadora) support group . . . may breathe new life into the process. We need to develop an active diplomacy now to head off efforts at Latin solidarity . . ." That same month, Nicaragua rejected all new drafts as unacceptable concessions to U.S. intimidation and said that the treaty must contain a bilateral pact of non-aggression with the U.S. By December, Contadora negotiations were suspended.

1986 saw some revival of the process, including increasing recognition that the U.S. must be involved in any plan for peace. But U.S. involvement was no longer enough. Nicaragua's concessions had been so extensive that it could not promise to abide by the treaty before U.S. aggression stopped. The U.S., for its part, has consistently refused to sign a protocol—a separate agreement that



would commit it to respecting the provisions of a Central American treaty. Given the Reagan administration's overt policy of attempting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, it was unlikely that the U.S. would agree to end its aggression.

The Arias/Guatemala Plan

The final draft of the Arias plan is the document signed by the five Central American presidents last month in Guatemala. The first Arias plan is believed to have originated at a meeting between Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams and Costa Rica's foreign minister. Costa Rican president Oscar Arias presented the plan in February 1986 at a meeting of four Central American presidents. Nicaragua had not been invited. The plan, however, was not what Abrams had envisioned; it did not portray Nicaragua as the region's principle obstacle to peace.

Show Your Support For Brian Willson

As we go to press, Vietnam veteran S. Brian Willson, a member of Bill Motto VFW Post 5888 in Santa Cruz, and the Veterans Peace Action Team, was struck and run over by a munitions train at the U.S. Naval Weapons Station in Concord while protesting the shipment of arms to Central America. Both of Willson's legs were amputated, he suffered a skull fracture, and remained in serious condition at press time.

Willson, a resident of San Rafael, was about to start a 40-day Veterans/Citizens Fast for Life and Peace, marking the anniversary of last year's Veterans Fast for Life on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

People interested in carpooling to a demonstration at the Concord weapons facility on Saturday, September 5, to protest this outrageous act and show their solidarity with Willson and the people of Central America, will meet at the County Building, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call the Veterans Peace Action Team at 426-7822.

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As in 1984, when the U.S. praised the Contadora treaty until Nicaragua agreed to sign it, the U.S. began raising objections to the Arias plan when Nicaragua seemed more likely to accept it. The U.S. protested that the plan did not require Nicaragua to negotiate directly with the contras and that it did require an end to contra aid before "democratization" would begin. Yet there seemed to be almost universal support for the plan. On March 13, the U.S. Senate voted 97-1 to ask the Reagan administration to give the Arias plan serious consideration. That same week, both the Contadora and Support Groups expressed satisfaction with the plan. And yet by mid-May the administration was saying outright that the plan would be a severe limitation on U.S. ability to "pressure" Nicaragua. In April, according to a Costa Rican legislator, the Reagan team was leaning on President Arias to cut the insistence on an end to contra aid.

A mid-June tour by then-Special Envoy Philip Habib to meet with the four presidents, and a meeting by Abrams with Duarte and Azcona (Honduras got 12 F-5E fighter jets during Abrams' visit), yielded a call by El Salvador and Honduras for postponement of the proposed June summit. Habib's meeting with Arias, however, had been tense and apparently unsuccessful while Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama called the postponement an escalation of tension and another U.S. attempt to block a settlement.

On June 17, President Arias was summoned to the White House. Reagan, Bush, NSC chief Carlucci, Chief of Staff Baker, Abrams, Habib, and Deputy Secre-

tary of State Whitehead "discussed" the proposal with Arias for an hour in a meeting described as "sharp, tense, and blunt." But Arias held firm; he announced later that contra aid and his peace plan were incompatible.

Throughout July the U.S. continued to pressure Central American and Contadora countries to modify the Arias plan. Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd—attempting to counter Reagan's maneuvers—warned vacillating countries that Congress too sets foreign aid levels, not just the President. Until the moment the final version of the Arias plan was signed in Guatemala City, no one was sure whether Central American or U.S. interests would prevail.

Even now, as of this writing, Honduras seems again to be bowing to U.S. intimidation, insisting that Nicaragua implement reforms while U.S. support for the contras continues. Honduras even persists in upholding the fiction that "there are no contra camps in Honduras." Nevertheless, the document agreed to represents a serious setback for those in the U.S. government who would subjugate the peace and welfare of Central America to U.S. dominance. More importantly, it is an unprecedented assertion of sovereignty by the Central American countries. The "dangerous" example of Nicaragua's independence seems to have been "exported" and may finally be taking hold.

Dan Ringer is a member of the coordinating committee of the Coalition for Nicaragua and is on the editorial board of the Coalition's newsletter. He plays music for a living.

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Guatemala Accord Offers New Hope For Central America

by Dan Ringer

The signing of the Guatemala accord by the five Central American presidents is an unprecedented and historic step. It offers the best hope in years for peace in the region. But questions remain. What do the provi-

Analysis

sions of the accord mean to the governments and the insurgent groups in the various countries? Are the intentions of the signers matched by the will and the means to end decades of war and injustice? Does the agreement offer any real solution to the region's historic problem of an extreme imbalance of wealth and power—an imbalance that forms the root of most of Central America's violence? What does this mean for the other peace processes that were in the works? Will the accord stop U.S. aggression against Nicaragua? Will it stop U.S. manipulation of the other countries of the region? If the accord were to restrict U.S. control, would the U.S. in fact allow it to be carried out?

In its barest outlines, the Guatemala accord represents a genuine effort to end U.S. aggression against Nicaragua while meeting the U.S.'s stated concerns for political pluralism and democracy inside of Nicaragua. The U.S. of course, is not required to abide by the decisions of the Latin American diplomats—it is not a signer of the accord. But one of the accord's most hopeful attributes is that it confronts the U.S. with a unified Latin America that has solid international support.

Nicaragua

Most of the actions to which Nicaragua is bound by the accord are things it has

long declared itself anxious to do—as soon as the U.S. stops attacking its people and destroying its economy. The demand for amnesty applies least to Nicaragua; Nicaragua has had a fully functional amnesty law for over three years. The accord does not require Nicaragua to negotiate with the contras—something that Nicaraguans, of course, would never agree to do. They rightly insist on direct negotiations with the U.S. The contras, they point out, are the same National Guards who were overthrown by the people of Nicaragua in the revolutionary war of 1979 and who now exist only as a mercenary force hired by the Reagan administration.

As for the restoration of freedom of the media and civil rights, when President Daniel Ortega declared the state of emergency in 1985, he said that it would be lifted and all freedoms and rights would be fully restored the day their country was no longer under attack from the U.S. This is in accord with U.N. and other international decrees that deal with wartime measures.

The only point that might work to Nicaragua's disadvantage is the provision for reductions in arms and armed forces. The formula to be used to figure levels allowable and adequate for self-defense is based on a country's population, gross national product, and security needs. The commission charged with making these calculations could de-emphasize security needs as a factor or could include community militias in its definition of armed forces. In either case Nicaragua—with its small population, war-weakened economy, and armed populace—would stand to suffer more drastic military cuts than any other country.

What it leaves out

But it is what the Guatemala accord does not say that leaves Nicaragua's

position, as well as the region's, uncertain. Although the accord is explicitly set up "within the Contadora framework," it ignores some fundamental issues that Contadora addresses. It contains no ban on the huge U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras, does not close foreign military bases in the region, demands no withdrawal of foreign military advisers, imposes no ban on arms imports, makes no strong statement in favor of national self-determination, and avoids any explicit mention of the U.S. role in the region. The draft of the



KAREN STACKPOLE

U.N., the Organization of American States, and other countries, for verifying that the provisions of the agreement are carried out; 2) it sets up a strict timetable. The U.S. has long been isolated internationally in its policy against Nicaragua,

One thing the accord clearly intends to accomplish is to deactivate and delegitimize the major tool of U.S. terror in the region, the contras

Contadora treaty does all of these things.

The Guatemala accord does have some advantages over Contadora. By making equal—if vague—demands on each of the five Central American countries, the accord avoids singling out Nicaragua with special requirements regarding its internal affairs. The accord also asks that the U.S. cease its aggression to allow Nicaragua to implement reforms, rather than demand that Nicaragua step back from a wartime posture while under attack. This was deemed acceptable by all the signers due to the strict timetable set up for fulfillment of all obligations.

But can the accord really change U.S. behavior in the region? Again, there are two things that make the plan effective: 1) it sets up a clear structure, involving the Central American states, the Contadora group, the Support group, the

but never has that isolation been so embarrassingly highlighted by such solid international support for an alternative policy. One thing the accord clearly intends to accomplish is to deactivate and delegitimize the major tool of U.S. terror in the region, the contras.

The other four countries

The accord does seem to offer a way to end overt U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. It does not, however, seem capable of significantly reducing U.S. dominance of the other four countries of Central America. Guatemala and Costa Rica are not so tightly bound to U.S. policy decisions, but El Salvador and Honduras are more addicted to U.S. aid than ever. In the eight years since the people of Nicaragua overthrew the Somoza dictatorship, Pentagon dollars have radically altered both the economy and the internal politics of Honduras. In El Salvador, the precarious Duarte government would not last a week without its million-dollar-a-day infusion from Washington. The Guatemala accord changes none of that. Although it eloquently invokes a spirit of Central American sovereignty, it leaves untouched the implements of U.S. intervention—arms imports, military bases, military maneuvers, and unfair foreign debt. The accord does at least commit its signers to seeking broader international assistance for both development and democracy.

The generalized language of the accord comes to mean very different things when applied to the radically divergent internal situation of each country. El Salvador is a case in point. While the accord allows the popular will to surface once again in Nicaragua by disarming the contras, in El Salvador the insurgents who will be disarmed are the FMLN. The FMLN is a genuinely popular movement fighting a military/oligarchic infrastructure—an infrastructure over which the feeble Duarte government has little

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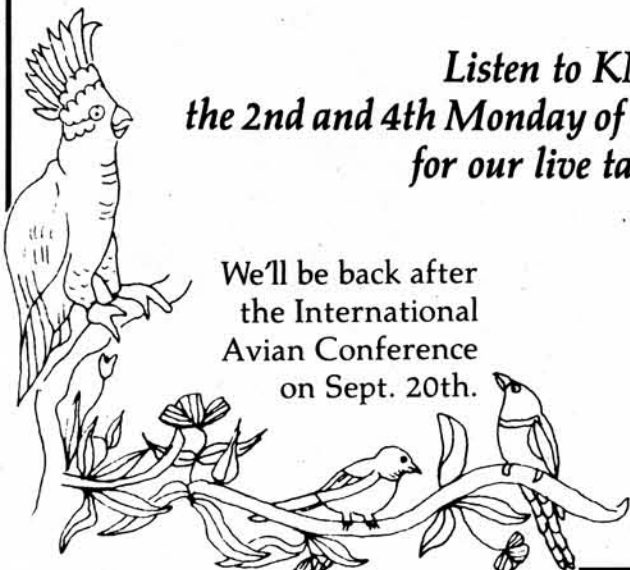
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The Peace Plan's Main Points

by Dan Ringer

Below are the main points of the "Procedure for the Establishment of a Strong and Lasting Peace in Central America" signed August 7, 1987 in Guatemala City by Presidents Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica, Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo of Guatemala, Jose Azcona Hoyo of Honduras, and Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua.

1. Amnesty and Internal Dialogue—All five countries agree to grant amnesty for all political crimes and to require simultaneously that the armed opposition release its prisoners.

All five governments will initiate a dialogue with unarmed internal opposition groups.

2. Cease-fire—A cease-fire with insurgent groups is to be declared by the governments themselves, details to be worked out according to their constitutions.

3. Democratization—All the countries are committed to creating or improving representative democracy through freedom of the press, radio, and television, freedom of speech and opinion, and an end to any state of emergency or restriction of civil rights currently declared.

4. Free Elections—In 1988, all five countries will hold free elections for the creation of a Central American parliament. Internal elections will be held according to the constitution of each country. Pluralism and equal access will be guaranteed by the supervision of the U.N., the Organization of American States (OAS), and third countries.

5. National Reconciliation Commission—A diverse and pluralistic commission will be set up in each country to oversee and verify the fulfillment of the above responsibilities and the full exercise of all civil and political rights.

6. Suspension of Military Aid to Guerrilla Groups—The Central Amer-

ican countries request all governments, whether of the region or elsewhere, to stop providing any kind of aid to irregular or insurrectionist forces. This does not prohibit assistance in repatriating or reintegrating members of those forces into society.

7. Non-use of Territory to Invade Other States—All five countries commit to preventing the use of their territory to support the destabilization of other Central American countries.

8. Security, Verification, Control and Limitation of Armaments—Negotiations on these points will continue within the framework of the Contadora peace process.

9. Refugees and Displaced Persons—All five countries commit to giving urgent attention to the needs of these victims of the regional crisis, particularly in the areas of education, health, work, and security.

10. Verification—A follow-up committee composed of secretaries-general of the U.N. and OAS and the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support groups will have access to all necessary facilities in the five countries to verify compliance with these provisions.

11. Calendar for Implementation of Agreements—A strict timeline has been set up for the completion of each of the provisions. In six months, the presidents will meet to hear from the international verification committee and to evaluate their own progress.

12. Democracy, Peace, and Development—All the provisions of the plan form a harmonious and inseparable whole. All five signing countries acknowledge both that freedom and democracy are only possible in an egalitarian, poverty-free, and economically and socially just society and, conversely, that the development necessary to achieve such a society depends on the consolidation of democracy.

power. The war in El Salvador, unlike that in Nicaragua, is recognized by international law as civil war. No matter how much the Reagan administration would like to portray them as the Soviet-Cuban version of contras, the FMLN combatants are not a mercenary force doing the dirty work of a foreign power.

Similarly, although the accord's provision on refugees and displaced persons gives Nicaragua support for rebuilding its war-ravaged economy, the requirement that each government provide for the health, education, and security needs of its displaced population has a different meaning in El Salvador. There are over a half-million people homeless in Salvador and another half-million soon to be expelled from the U.S. under the new

immigration law. These people's normal lives were disrupted by the Salvadoran military's war on the civilian population of the countryside and by the lack of any significant official response to the recent earthquake in the capital. Thus the accord prescribes a set of remedies for a situation that the Salvadoran government has helped create and has neither the means nor the intention of changing.

Three things are evident here. First, an accord clearly intended to force an end to the U.S. war on Nicaragua turns out to address the internal problems of the rest of Central America rather poorly. Second, because the other countries committed themselves to the accord, we can be sure that the Reagan administration will exaggerate any difficulties Nica-



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ragua might have in complying with the accord and will gloss over the failures of the countries more subservient to the U.S. And third, the U.S. will now exert pressure on Honduras and El Salvador to force them to derail the treaty process. The clear responsibilities of U.S. citizens and media are to seek and demand universal compliance with the accord and, just as importantly, to challenge the Reagan administration's slanted analysis.

Real hope

Still, with the Guatemala accord's extensive provisions for international verification, it will be harder for Reagan to lie convincingly. Even the East/West analysis the Reaganites so painstakingly try to impose on the region seems

destined to vanish as the verification teams expose the "Soviet-Cuban bloc" theory to inspection. Central America has called the Reagan bluff. It has laid out a clear plan for the fulfillment of U.S. demands—illegal or absurd though they may be—while maintaining at least the basics of Central American sovereignty and self-determination.

The accord does not go far enough in redressing historical wrong or speaking for the rights of the powerless, but it keeps the U.S. at bay. No doubt the Washington contras have another thousand dirty tricks up their sleeves, but a genuine Central American movement towards peace has begun. We should support this peace process in every way we can.

Nuclear Reactions

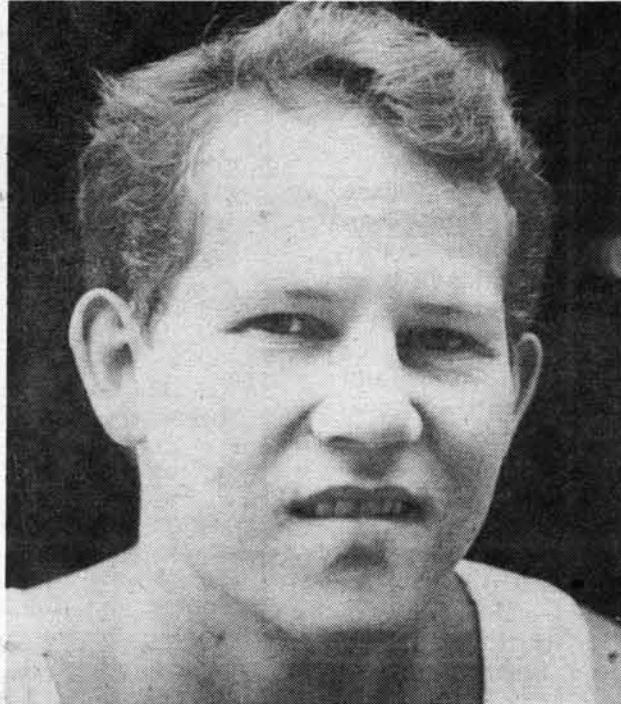
by Greg Martin photos by Pat Kitson

"What Are The Lessons To Be Learned From The Iran-contra Scandal?"



Catherine Bucknam
retired
Palm Springs

America is on the wrong track and we, as a nation, need to wake up to the realities. All the money wrongly spent, the power craziness and the people catering to the rich has got to stop. If our founding fathers looked back they wouldn't even recognize us as a democracy.



John Hanses
student
Santa Cruz

We see how the military can operate with covert actions and how it justifies lying to the people. Either we live with those lies or we change the basic structure.

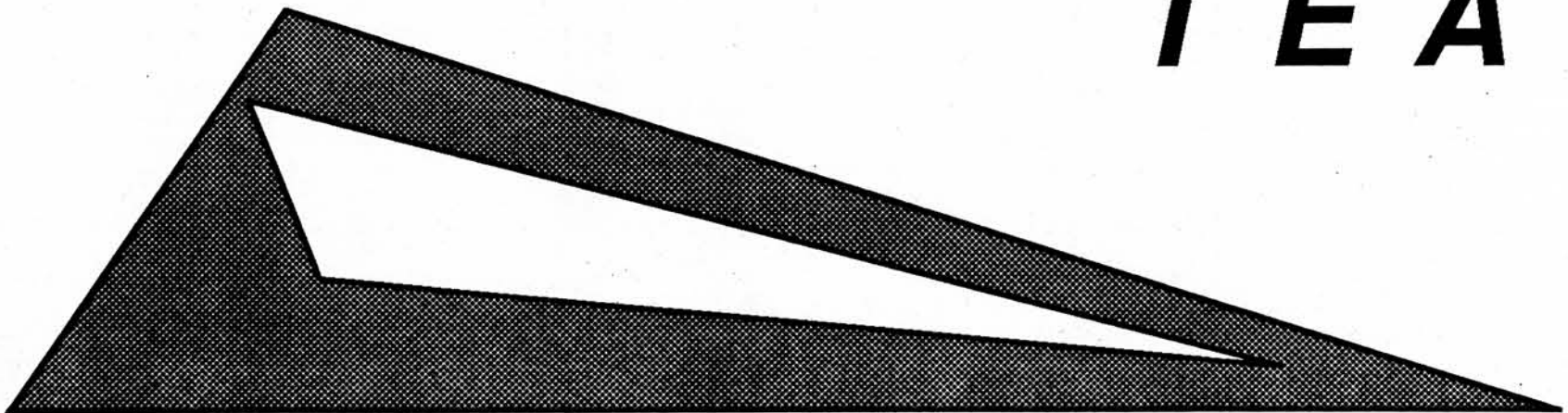


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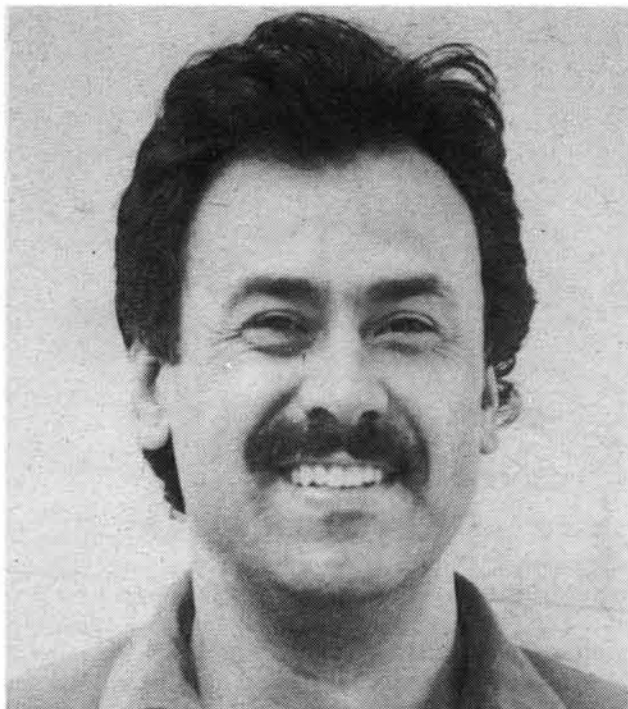
We see that we have a pretty messed-up government and that Americans like the whole military concept enough to make a man like Oliver North a hero.

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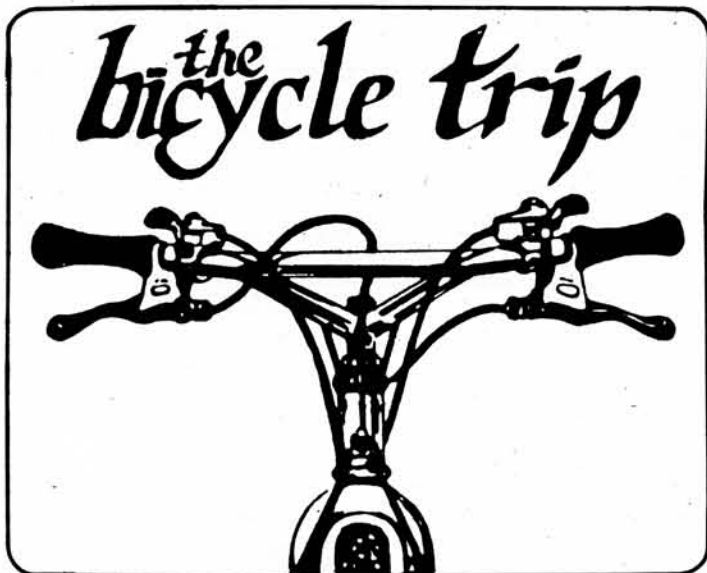


Scott Maddox
sushi chef
Santa Cruz

I think these actions will repeat themselves, and while the peace activists are learning more about the government's actions, the politicians are learning how not to get exposed.

The president is incompetent and doesn't really know what is going on. And if people like Oliver North are making their own decisions, they should go somewhere else.

It shows the dangers of compartmentalizing our covert agencies and that the people in power are not allowed to see the full picture of what's happening, therefore unable to make intelligent decisions. Watching the hearings showed us how powerless our Congress is to take action against these power fiends.



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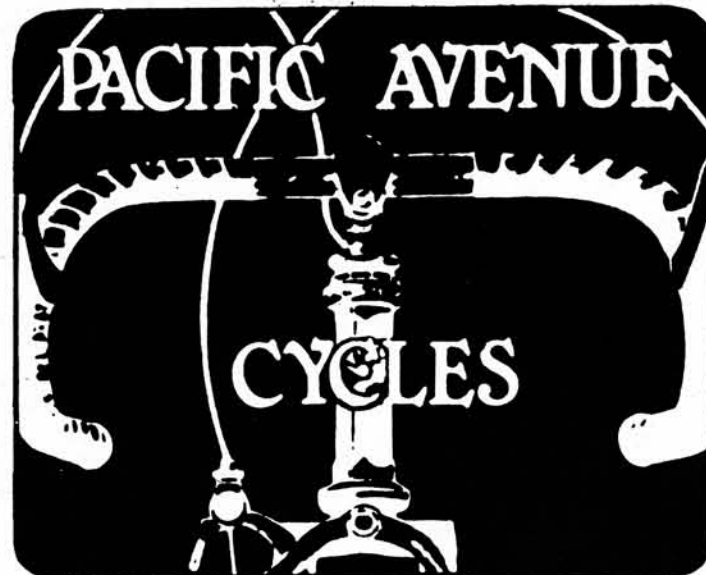
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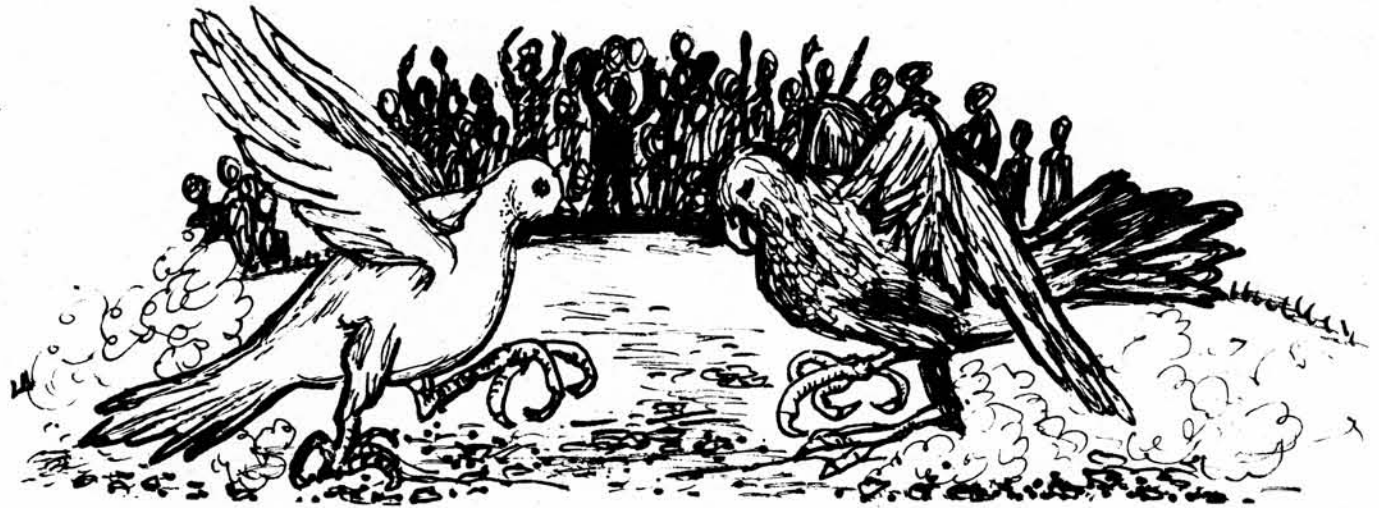
How Central America Legislation Moves Through Congress

by Shelly D'Amour

Editor's note: As our way of honoring the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, The Monthly Planet is publishing a series of articles on "How Congress Works." One of the first steps in making government more responsive to its citizens is for citizens to learn the legislative process.

Foreign policy is not a subject that most Americans have an in-depth understanding of, or particularly feel that they have any significant voice in. Although it is the role of the president and his administration to articulate and implement U.S. foreign policy, Congress can influence such policy through its legislative and budgetary powers. U.S. citizens then, through concerted grassroots pressure on their elected officials, can make an impact on the direction of our nation's involvement in the affairs of other countries.

Over the past three years, Americans have consistently opposed aid to the Nicaraguan contras by large margins. However, Congress continues to fund the contras, first with "humanitarian" aid and now with military aid. This fall, President Reagan is expected to request an unprecedented \$140 million for the contras, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars in economic and military aid for



other Central American countries.

In this, the second of a series of articles on the U.S. Congress, we will examine the primary legislative vehicles through which Congress shapes and funds our foreign policy in Central America.

The Budget Process

In most cases, funding requests for specific Central America programs are made annually as part of the budgetary process. At least four of the 13 federal spending bills deal with some aspect of funding the U.S. presence in Central America. These are: Foreign Aid, Intelligence, the State Department and the

Department of Defense.

Foreign Aid deals with all economic and military aid to countries for which the administration has requested assistance, including aid to the contras. The Intelligence bill funds all CIA activities, both overt and covert, in Central America and elsewhere. The State Department may impose restrictions on Americans' freedom to travel to certain countries. The Department of Defense funds U.S. military operations in Central America, including the construction of military bases, airstrips, barracks, and the training of U.S. troops on foreign soil.

Each spring, various congressional subcommittees examine funding requests for specific line items and make recommendations to Congress. These budgetary recommendations are incorporated into

have completed all budgetary action by then. However, this almost never happens, and Congress must then pass a series of stop-gap spending measures called continuing resolutions, which keep the government funded temporarily until the new budget can be approved.

It is decidedly in the interest of Congress to present a bill to the president that he is likely to sign. One fact is clear about the current Democratic leadership of Congress: they choose their battles with the president carefully, and they are not inclined to hold out for an issue unless they are confident of a two-thirds override majority or unless there is a massive groundswell of public opinion on which to rest their case.

Proponents of peace in Central America have several key opportunities to

Proponents of peace in Central America have several key opportunities to impact legislation.

authorizations spending bills, which set spending ceilings on line items. Congress debates and votes on each of the 13 spending bills individually. Once a particular bill reaches the congressional floor, any member of Congress may propose amendments to delete, limit or restrict use of funding. Such an amendment needs only a simple majority in order to pass. The House and Senate each pass a separate version of the same bill, and significant differences are resolved in a House-Senate conference committee, which then issues a conference report for a final vote of Congress. If Congress passes the conference report, it goes to the president for his signature or veto. If the president vetoes the bill, Congress must come up with a two-thirds majority to override the veto. Barring this, the bill goes back to the conference committee for re-working and another vote of Congress. In the fall, the process repeats itself as Congress comes to grips with various appropriations bills. Appropriations grants the check-writing power for the items that were authorized in the preceding spring. The fiscal year begins October 1, and theoretically Congress needs to

impact legislation during this process. One place is in the subcommittee, where sympathetic committee members may try to alter the content of the bill before it goes before the full Congress. A much more likely place, however, is on the floor of the House and Senate, where any member of Congress may offer amendments which are debated and voted upon individually.

Frequently, these congressmembers and their staffs are in touch with national organizations that are working for peace in Central America, and advise them well in advance of amendments that will be offered. These organizations can then mobilize their membership to write letters, make phone calls, and visit their representatives.

Legislation can also be enacted apart from the budgetary process, although this approach can take much longer. For example, the Moakley-DeConcini bill, which grants temporary asylum to Salvadoran refugees living in the United States, was stuck in the House Judiciary Committee for approximately three years before it was finally voted on last month.

Through the purse strings which it

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A Legislative Flowchart

• **To follow military and economic aid to Central America:**

Foreign Aid Authorizations bill:

- House Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs → House Foreign Affairs Committee → House floor action
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee → Senate floor action.

Foreign Aid Appropriations bill:

- House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations → House Appropriations Committee → House floor action
- Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations → Senate Appropriations Committee → Senate floor action

• **To follow funding for CIA activities in Central America:**

Intelligence Authorizations Bill:

- House Intelligence Committee → House floor action
- Senate Intelligence Committee → Senate floor action

Department of Defense Appropriations:

- House Subcommittee on Defense → House Appropriations Committee → House floor action
- Senate Subcommittee on Defense → Senate Appropriations Committee → Senate floor action

• **To follow military maneuvers, military construction and commitment of troops to Central America:**

Department of Defense Authorizations Bill:

- House Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities and the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation → House Armed Services Committee → House floor action
- Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction and the Senate Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel → Senate Armed Services Committee → Senate floor action

Department of Defense Appropriations Bill:

- House Subcommittee on Defense and the House Subcommittee on Military Construction → House Appropriations Committee → House floor action
- Senate Subcommittee on Defense and the Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction → Senate Appropriations Committee → Senate floor action

• **To follow legislation on suspending deportation of Salvadoran refugees:**

- House Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugees → House Judiciary Committee → House floor action
- Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy → Senate Judiciary Committee → Senate floor action

This chart is reprinted, with permission, from The Coalition for a New Foreign Policy.

alone holds, Congress wields a powerful tool for negotiation with the president over the direction of U.S. policy in Central America. Congress may elect to withhold funds, limit them or place restrictions on their use. Unfortunately, Congress has been less than assertive in using these tools to support its proclaimed stance against increased U.S. military involvement in Central America and elsewhere. In recent years, amendments aimed at pulling back U.S. military "advisors" from the Honduran border, deleting funds for barracks and airstrip construction, or re-channelling contra funds to more peaceful purposes have failed miserably on the floor of both the House and the Senate.

Congress has been able to impose certain restrictions on aid to El Salvador and Guatemala by releasing the aid in installments, and requiring the president to certify that the human rights records of these countries have improved before the release of each installment. The flaw in

this system seems to be glaring to everybody but Congress.

Occasionally, the House Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs holds hearings on subjects pertinent to aid to Central America. This is an excellent vehicle for those concerned about the issue. By organizing their constituencies to send letters and phone calls to the committee chair, and in some cases by providing key witnesses to the congressional panel, activists have been able to get their message across to Congress and to the wider public through the national news media which covers these hearings.

Although the legislative process is intricate and often confusing, it is an indispensable part of any strategy to change the direction of U.S. foreign policy and end the war in Central America.

Next month: a look at how Congress works through committees.

Shelly D'Amour is the Legislative Editor of The Monthly Planet.

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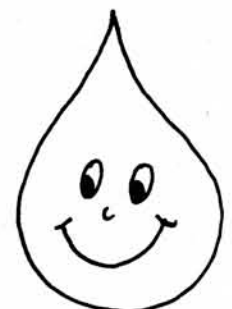
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Peace, Social Justice, & Community Organizations

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Alliance for the Mentally Ill 426-7462 Box 1516, Santa Cruz 95061 Emily Winfree	Familia Center 423-5747 302 Raymond St., Santa Cruz 95060 Lucy Trujillo	Psychiatric Inmates Rights Collective Box 299, Santa Cruz 95061
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) 429-9880 411 Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Robert Taren	First Strike Prevention Project 479-8781 Box 7061, Santa Cruz 95061 Peter Lumsdaine	Rainbow Coalition 476-3426 320-F Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Bob Lissner
Amigas de AMPES 423-5128 Box 467, Santa Cruz 95061 Martha Duenas	Food & Nutrition Services 688-8840 236 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos 95003 Sam Karp	Resource Center for Nonviolence 423-1626 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 Doug Rand
Amnesty International 688-9140 750 Encino Dr., Aptos 95003 Cheryl Bentley	Food Irradiation Response 426-2734 Box 5183, Santa Cruz 95061 Christine Albrecht	St. Francis Catholic Kitchen 425-9223 205 Mora St., Santa Cruz 95060 Peter Carota
Aptos Neighbors 688-3460 Box 1732, Aptos 95001 Peter Smithey	Freedom Song Network 338-7283 Box 559, Felton 95018 Mark Levy	Salud Para la Gente 728-0222 10 Alexander St., Watsonville 95076
Baha'i Faith 425-0993 176 Alta Dr., La Selva Beach 95076 Ann Miller	Friends Committee on National Legislation 423-2605 118 Miles St., Santa Cruz 95060 Herb Foster	San Lorenzo Valley Women's Club 338-4669 Box 574, Ben Lomond 95005 Sherry Witt-Snow
California Grey Bears 479-1055 2710 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz 95062	Friends of Porter-Sesnon 427-3572 106 Buena Vista Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 Vickie Powell-Murray	Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN) 458-9425 320-H Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Glen Schaller
Campus Association for Responsible Development (CARD) 423-2019 A-Frame, UCSC, Santa Cruz 95064 Aaron Peskin	Friends Peace & Social Order Committee 427-2399 217 Marnell Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 Ned Van Valkenburgh	Santa Cruz AIDS Project 458-4999 Box 5142, Santa Cruz 95061
Central Coast Sanctuary 426-4467 511 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 Amber Sumrall	Gray Panthers 423-8091 Box 1015, Santa Cruz 95061 Jacob Litsky	Santa Cruz Community Credit Union 425-7708 512 Front St., Santa Cruz 95060
Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO 475-1335 2920 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz 95062	Green City Program 479-0702 Box 906, Capitola 95010 Theresa Torrent	Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation ... 423-1318 340 Soquel Ave., Suite 110, Santa Cruz 95062 Arnie Fischman
Child Care Switchboard & Studio 476-8585 809-H Bay St., Capitola 95010	Greenpeace 458-3090 1012 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz 95060 Joe Conroy	Santa Cruz Green Alliance 429-8057 Box 7011, Santa Cruz 95061 Birdie Hunter
Children's Creative Response to Conflict 425-3749 509 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060	Harbinger Communications 429-8727 Box 624, Santa Cruz 95061 Bill Leland	Save Our Shores 425-1871 Box 1560, Santa Cruz 95061 Dan Haifley
Chile/Santa Cruz Friendship Committee 425-8493 374 Fairmount Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 Dale Roche	Housing Law Center 458-1086 1522 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz 95060 Mary Thuerwachter	Save Soquel 476-1871 4453 Fairway Dr., Soquel 95073 Judy Parsons
Christic Institute Support Group 724-5526 3015 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville 95076 Bill & Pat Cane	Kolaynu/Santa Cruz New Jewish Agenda 423-7952 219 Peyton St., Santa Cruz 95060 Deena Hurwitz	Seniors Council 688-0400 234 Santa Cruz Ave, Aptos 95003
Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE) 458-5053 1320 Mission St., Santa Cruz 95060 Ralph Stachan	Lavendar Reader 684-1452 Box 7293, Santa Cruz 95061 Michael Perlman	Sierra Club 426-4453 9010 Soquel Dr., Aptos 95003
Coalition for Meaningful Pay (COMP) 662-3633 c/o 10094 Soquel Dr., Aptos 95003 Penny Schantz	League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Box 301, Watsonville 95077	Somos Hermanas 423-5128 Box 467, Santa Cruz 95061 Laurie McKinsie
Coalition for Nicaragua 458-0303 512 Front St., Santa Cruz 95060 Sojeila Maria Silva	Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance 423-7287 Box 7293, Santa Cruz 95061 Jo Kenny	The Sun 429-8033 118 Union St., Santa Cruz 95060
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) 458-3555 Box 1553, Santa Cruz 95061	Lively Connections 458-9425 320-H Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Glen Schaller	UCSC Women's Center 429-2072 UCSC, Santa Cruz 95064 Beatriz Lopes-Florez
Community Resources for the Disabled 429-9969 340 Soquel Ave., Suite 115, Santa Cruz 95062	Matrix Women's News Magazine 429-1238 418 Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060	Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee 684-0506 6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos 95003 David McMillan
Common Cause 425-7474 125-3 Felix St., Santa Cruz 95060 Sylvia Knapton	Media Watch 423-4299 1803-7 Mission St., Santa Cruz 95060 Ann Simonton	VFW Post 5888, Bill Motto 429-8345 Box 664, Santa Cruz 95061 Richard Moran
Communist Party of Santa Cruz 429-9720 Box 7561, Santa Cruz 95061 Jim Brough	Men's Alternatives to Violence 425-5248 Box 2126, Santa Cruz 95061	War Tax Resistance Fund 423-1626 316 King St., Santa Cruz 95060
Community Action Board 662-3616 323-B Spreckles Dr., Aptos 95003 Chris Lyons-Johnson	Migrant Media Education Project 724-2997 101 E. Beach St., Watsonville 95076 Cruz Gomez	Welfare Parents Support Group Box 1735, Santa Cruz 95061
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility 335-7068 Box 7708, Santa Cruz 95061 Mark Fillipak	The Monthly Planet 429-8755 320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 John Govsky	Westside Neighbors 423-4209 123 Liberty St., Santa Cruz 95060 Gill Greensite
Conflict Resolution Program 427-3234 Box 7224, Santa Cruz 95061 Lucy Van Elgort	Native American Support Group 479-0327 Box 8260, Santa Cruz 95061 Abalone Walsh	Witness for Peace 423-3733 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 Frances Wright
Davenport Resource Service Center 425-8115 100 Church St., Davenport 95017 Amy Weiss	Nuclear Weapons Freeze of Santa Cruz Co. 458-9975 320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Terry Teitelbaum	Women Against Rape 426-7273 Box 711, Santa Cruz 95061
Democratic Central Committee 426-4272 Box 7763, Santa Cruz 95061 Don Lane	Pajaro Valley Religious Committee for Peacemaking 722-5691 Box 1160, Watsonville 95076 Roz Reddick	Women for International Peace and Arbitration 427-0278 106 Comstock Lane, Santa Cruz 95060 Jackie Rochelle
Democratic Management Services 425-7478 310 Locust St., Santa Cruz 95060 Laurie Talcott	Peace Day Steering Committee 479-8905 583 Mello Lane, Santa Cruz 95062 Bonita Mugnani	Women's Crisis Support & Shelter Services 425-5525 1025 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060
Democratic Socialists of America 688-3781 516 Humes Ave., Aptos 95003 Rachel Haskell	Peace Education Project 338-7283 Box 559, Felton 95018 Helen Oppenheimer	Women's Health Center 427-3500 250 Locust St., Santa Cruz 95060
Democratic Women's Club 427-2545 137 Los Altos Ct., Santa Cruz 95060 Elsie Beltram	Peace & Freedom Party 688-8692 564 Santa Marguerita, Aptos 95003 Maureen Smith	Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) 438-6094 Box 61, Santa Cruz 95061 Kathleen Tranchina
Earth First! 335-7768 Box 344, Santa Cruz 95061 Karen DeBraul	Peacemakers 423-1626 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 Shelly D'Amour	Women's Space 429-9007 418-C Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 Lucy Van Elgort
Ecology Action of Santa Cruz 476-8088 Box 1188, Santa Cruz 95061 Ron Fahl	People's Democratic Club 688-4235 2020 Wallace Ave., Aptos 95003 Carol Newman	
Educators for Social Responsibility (Cabrillo) ... 429-6302 Box 895, Soquel 95073 Rosmarie Greiner	Physicians for Social Responsibility 422-9066 505 E. Romie Lane, Salinas 93901 Don King	
Educators for Social Responsibility (UCSC) 426-1597 441 High St., Santa Cruz 95060 Sigrid McLaughlin	Planned Parenthood, Santa Cruz 426-5550 212 Laurel St., Santa Cruz 95060	
	Planned Parenthood, Watsonville 724-7525 90 Mariposa Ave., Watsonville 95076	

This list was compiled by the Santa Cruz Action Network for Lively Connections, an informal network of Santa Cruz County peace, social justice, and community organizations. To update information on the Lively Connections list, or to add your organization, call 458-9425.

Peace & Justice Calendar

All events listed are in Santa Cruz, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar items must be typed, double spaced, and sent (along with any photos) to *The Monthly Planet*, 320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Documentary Video about Central America: "Faces of War." Program includes Chris Nauman from Neighbor To Neighbor, a group which is working to translate grassroots support for peace into action with regard to contra aid votes and critical campaigns in the '88 elections. Bring a dish or \$2 for potluck at 6 pm; program at 7 pm. Sponsored by the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County, 6401 Freedom Blvd., Apts. Info: 475-8137 or 684-1401.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Dance For Life, a smoke-free community dance benefit. Spotlights band will be Touch, an 8-piece rhythm and blues, jazz and rock band featuring harmony vocals and saxophone. Opening will be Robby Labovitz leading children's songs and the band Public Domain. Sliding scale donation \$2-\$10 at the door. Benefit for La Familia Center, a health center serving the Hispanic community and community organizations in the Beach Flats. Co-sponsored by the Bill Motto VFW Post 5888. 8 pm to midnight. Vets Hall, 842 Front St. Info: Mary 462-2587 or Robby 479-8183.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Talk on arms control legislation: Mark Mumper will give a talk on test ban legislation and recent related arms control activity in Congress. Sponsored by Mother's Children. 515 Broadway, 7:30 pm. Info: Mark Mumper 426-1924.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Stop First Strike Santa Cruz organizing meeting for October nonviolent resistance action at Lockheed Santa Cruz. Part of nationwide series of actions against first-strike nuclear weaponry. Co-sponsors First Strike Prevention Project, Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze, National Mobilization for Survival, others. 515 Broadway, 7:30 pm. Info: 479-8781 or 426-1924.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Resource Center for Nonviolence Annual Rummage Sale. Bring your treasures to 515 Broadway. We'll accept working appliances, clothes, toys, furniture, books and other saleable items. 10 am-4:30 pm. Volun-

teers are encouraged to help. Info: Roberta 423-1626.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
"Keeping the Peace in Troubled Times"—An International Spacebridge on the United Nations and Conflict Resolution. A two-hour "spacebridge" will highlight the program. Panels of international experts in cities throughout the Soviet Union and in New York will address the question "How can the international community better manage/resolve conflict?" Local participants can address questions to both panels. Workshops will cover a variety of topics including: the Peace Corps, Conflict Resolution Techniques, UN Peacekeeping, the World Health Organization and Ways to Create A More Effective UN. San Francisco State University, Student Union Building, 1650 Holloway Drive, 9 am-3 pm. \$7 students/members of sponsoring groups, \$15 with box lunch, \$10 general public, \$18 with box lunch. Info: UNA-SF (415) 982-6677.

Nonviolence Preparation for October civil disobedience against Trident II missiles at Lockheed Santa Cruz. Call Noel at 336-8960 for time and place.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

National Grandparents' Day—Grandmothers For Peace in a demonstration at the Nevada Test Site in Mercury, Nevada. 9 am. Info: Grandmothers For Peace (916) 444-5080 or American Peace Test (702) 363-7875.

"Block Bork," second in a series of forums sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union and other progressive groups. Four attorneys discuss why Reagan's Supreme Court nominee is beyond the pale. Moraga Hall, 1307 Seabright Ave. 7:30 pm. Info: 458-9425.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Pledge of Resistance is calling a Community Meeting on civil disobedience against contra aid. 7-9 pm, Veterans Hall, 842 Front St. Info: 426-6916.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Veterans Peace Action Teams slide show on Central America. First of a series of monthly slide shows. Depicts VPAT's activity in El Cedro, Nicaragua completing the rebuilding of a medical clinic destroyed by the contras. Room 23 Veterans Hall, 842 Front St. 8 pm, \$3-\$5 donation. Info: 426-7822.

In Celebration Of The Muse presents Adrienne Rich, Deborah Abbott, Barbara Hull and Carol Staudacher. The first of six readings to benefit the Santa Cruz Aids Project. 7:30 pm, Veterans Hall, 842 Front St. \$4 or a series pass may be purchased for \$18 at the door. Info: 335-4084 or 462-1176.



Touch will be the spotlighted band at the Vets Hall on September 5. This "Dance for Life" benefits La Familia Center.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Pageant of Conscience: The Sacred Circle. The Sacred Circle is not a protest; it is not a demonstration. The Sacred Circle creates a holy place to gather in silence and prayer. At the Carmel Mission. Sponsored by the Native American Support Group. Info: 479-0327.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Slide show "First Strike: Approaching Crisis" on Third World intervention, nuclear war, and nonviolent resistance in the '80s and '90s. Accompanied by a talk by Peter Lumsdaine, a former U.S. Department of Energy researcher and current coordinator of the First Strike Prevention Project. Sponsored by Mother's Children. 7:30 pm, 515 Broadway. Info: 479-8781.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Stop First Strike Santa Cruz organizing meeting for October nonviolent resistance action at Lockheed Santa Cruz. See September 10.

Maria Serrano, peasant leader from the war zones of El Salvador, will give a first-hand view of the effects of the war on the people of El Salvador. Proceeds raised on Ms. Serrano's tour will help displaced Salvadorans reclaim their homelands. Sponsored by Amigas de AMPES. 7:30 pm, Calvary Episcopal Church, 532 Center St. \$2-\$5 sliding scale. Info: Kathryn 458-9743 evenings.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Chilean Ensemble ILLAPU, sponsored by the Chile-Santa Cruz Friendship Committee, KUSP 89 fm and KZSC 88.1 fm. Proceeds will benefit community-based food, health, cultural and educational programs in Chile and will help expand and update the Latin American 'New Song' record collections at KUSP and KZSC. 8 pm, Santa Cruz High School Auditorium, 415 Walnut Ave. Advance tickets \$8 at Cymbaline Records in Santa Cruz, Blue Rhythm Records in Capitola, Bread and Roses Bookstore in San Jose and Recycled Records in Monterey. \$10 at the door; under age 13 free of charge; childcare will be provided. Info: Dale 425-8493 or 476-9143.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 and SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

South Bay Mobilization March and Rally: Days of Decision. South Bay demonstrations against aid to the contras and U.S. intervention in Central America. Candlelight Vigil

on Friday, 7:30 pm at Rep. Ernest Konnyu's Office; assemble for March at 11 am on Saturday at Roosevelt Park, corner of 20th & Santa Clara Sts., San Jose. March at noon, rally at 1 pm at Prusch Park, Story & King Rds., San Jose. Info: 293-2902.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Northern California SANE/FREEZE Leadership Training Conference. Practical workshops led by experienced organizers, geared to reach both new or more experienced volunteers. Headlands Institute Conference Center, Sausalito. Register now—late fee after September 4. Info: 458-9975, (415) 621-7770 or (916) 446-3525.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Monterey Bay Pledge of Resistance Central America Peace March. Santa Cruz—Fort Ord—Monterey. Rally in Monterey, Window-on-the-Bay Park 1:30 pm. Speakers: Maria Teresa Tula of Co-Madres and Brian Wilson of Veterans Peace Action Team. Info: 426-6916 or 728-2076.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Nonviolence Preparation for October civil disobedience against Trident II missiles at Lockheed Santa Cruz. All those planning to attend a prep should call Noel at 336-8960. 10 am-5 pm, 515 Broadway.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

In Celebration Of The Muse presents Lynn Luria-Sukenick, Kathleen Guillaume, Candida Lawrence and Rosa Maria Ybarra, featured readers. Benefits the Santa Cruz Aids Project. Vets Hall, 842 Front St., 7:30 pm, \$4. Info: 335-4084 or 462-1176.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30— THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Nonviolence Preparation for October civil disobedience against Trident II missiles at Lockheed Santa Cruz. Two-night prep, 6-10 pm, 515 Broadway. All those planning to attend a prep should call Noel at 336-8960.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

The Freeze is having a special Community Meeting at 515 Broadway in Santa Cruz. 7 pm. Come and find out what the Freeze is planning and how you can plug into the nuclear disarmament movement. Info: 458-9975.



The Chilean Ensemble ILLAPU will appear at the Santa Cruz High School Auditorium on September 25. The show is sponsored by the Chile-Santa Cruz Friendship Committee, KUSP, and KZSC.



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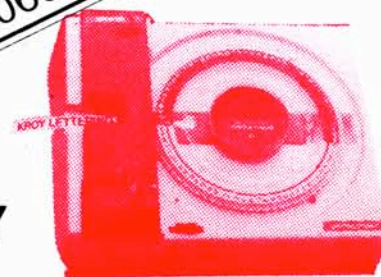
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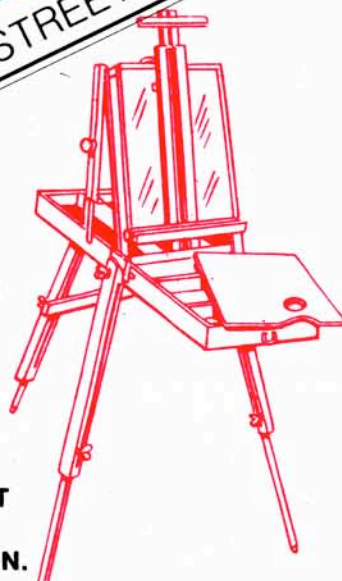
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