

EIR Special Report

Central American trap set for the Reagan administration

by Dennis Small



The *Executive Intelligence Review* has uncovered a sophisticated plot to set up the incoming Reagan administration within days of its taking office, through staging a bloodbath in the tiny Central American nation of El Salvador.

A top Salvadorean guerrilla leader, using friendly journalist channels at the *New York Times*, announced this week that Salvadorean rebels are now beginning a "final offensive" against that country's Christian Democratic government, and that "the situation in El Salvador will be red hot by the time Mr. Reagan arrives" in the White House on Jan. 20, 1981. "The situation is irreversible," he confided.

Those responsible for placing this ticking time-bomb on Reagan's doorstep are:

- **The Jesuits**, whose leftist wing runs the "Theology of Liberation" movement in Latin America's Catholic Church. They have given their blessing to the guerrillas' call for insurrection, and are organizing popular support for the revolt.

- **The Socialist International**, whose leaders, like Willy Brandt and Felipe González, have publicly bragged that they are funding and arming insurrectionary movements across Central America.

- **Fidel Castro** and other Cuban proponents of Third World "wars of liberation," who are calling for an alliance with the Jesuits and the Socialist International. They are backed up by a powerful faction inside the Soviet Union which favors a strategy of "confrontation" with the capitalist West.

- **The Christian Democracy**, whose international networks run the current Salvadorean civilian-military Junta, and which has deliberately polarized the Salvadorean situation in order to have it blow up in Reagan's face. This oligarchic faction in the Christian Democracy is synonymous with the "right wing" of the Jesuit order.

- **The Heritage Foundation** in Washington, D.C., a "right-wing" think tank infested with KGB "moles" who are encouraging Reagan to get involved in the Central American quagmire, siding with "right-wing" Jesuits in their contrived war against "left-wing" Jesuits. Heritage "moles" like Stuart Butler boast that they will foist the Socialist International's program of deindustrialization on America, under a conservative label.

The combination of these forces is now fully activated on both the "right" and "left" sides of this scenario. Their immediate objective in lighting the fuse on El Salvador is to wreck the talks between Reagan and Mexican President José López Portillo scheduled for Jan. 5, 1981.

The meeting at the border town of Ciudad Juarez offers President-elect Reagan a unique opportunity to improve U.S.-Mexican relations—both economically

and politically—as quickly as Jimmy Carter has destroyed them, by establishing a bilateral accord to trade Mexican oil for American advanced technology and capital goods. More than simply improving relations with Mexico, such an agreement would signal the Reagan administration's commitment to stabilizing the developing sector in general through joint industrial development programs. What the Heritage Foundation and its Jesuit friends most fear is that Reagan will in fact adopt such an enlightened approach to the "North-South" problem in his first 100 days in office, which would go a long way toward cooling out the world's worst hot spots.

To prevent this, they are working day and night to manipulate Reagan into a hardline anticommunist response in El Salvador, escalating toward direct U.S. military involvement against the guerrillas. Just as large an effort is being mounted by the Socialist International—in particular through their top asset, Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda—to enroll Mexico on the side of the Jesuit "left."

The specific tactic is to try to get Mexico to grant diplomatic recognition to an "opposition government" in El Salvador that would have its seat in one or two guerrilla-controlled towns.

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Contributions in memory of slain guerrilla leaders are solicited by a Salvador church in December.

Spengler/Sigma



At a 1976 Eurosocialist conference in Madrid. Standing: Felipe Gonzalez. To his left: British Labour Party leftist Michael Foot. To his right: Willy Brandt, chairman of the West German Social Democracy.

With the Reagan and López Portillo governments thus lined up on opposite sides of the Salvadorean civil war, the plan is to then force that divisive issue to the top of the agenda at the Ciudad Juarez meeting.

In separate conversations made available to *EIR*, top spokesmen of the “left” and “right” sides of this plot made clear how they expect the gameplan to work. A leading U.S. Jesuit charged with monitoring El Salvador, Father Simon Smith, S.J., confided that “I have every reason to believe that the new [guerrilla] offensive will occur shortly before the inauguration” of Reagan. Father Smith chuckled that Reagan’s “advisers are incapable of giving him any but the most knee-jerk anticommunist advice,” and that if Reagan is stupid enough to fall into the trap by supporting intervention, “then the U.S. will have made itself a laughingstock.”

Working the other side of the same street is Cleto DiGiovanni, the author of the Central America section of the Heritage Foundation’s recent 3,000-page policy study for the Reagan administration. DiGiovanni states that Reagan would do well to get the U.S. militarily involved in El Salvador.

A policy of genocide

Beyond the short-term goal of sabotaging the Rea-

gan-López Portillo summit, the strategic purpose of the El Salvador plotters is to place the United States and the developing sector as a whole on an irreversible collision course. The Jesuits and their Cuban foot-soldiers are arguing that, in the face of the “right-wing” Reagan administration, the developing sector must opt for suicidal insurrection and wars of liberation against the developed North. The Socialist International, meanwhile, is complementing this with an economic policy designed by the Brandt Commission, whose basic tenet is that the South must liberate itself by “delinking” its economy from the capital and technology of the North.

The combined effect of these two facets will be to launch of a wave of genocidal wars in the developing sector, which will plunge the entire area into an Iran-style new Dark Age. This is precisely what is already occurring in El Salvador, where during 1980 alone the carnage claimed the lives of 12,000 people—and this before the full “final offensive” had occurred.

That this is the *deliberate* policy of the Jesuit-Heritage axis was made clear by Michael Novak, a Jesuit-linked policy-maker who works at the “conservative” American Enterprise Institute. “Central America and the Caribbean,” he told a caller, “will be what Iran and Afghanistan have been.”

DiGiovanni on the right

Cleto DiGiovanni, a controversial intimate of many of Reagan's Latin American advisers and the author of the Central American section of the Heritage Foundation's bluebook on the State Department, made the following comments in an interview this week:

Q: Is there collaboration between Carter officials in Central America and the Socialist International?

A: There certainly is. It's a public relations effort, but also a substantive one, and their objective is to foreclose options for the Reagan administration. They're having some success with this. It has me so worried that I've just banged out a piece which may come out in a few days.

Q: What does the fighting look like in El Salvador?

A: It's difficult to tell. Remember that the 1,500 guerrillas [reputedly involved in a post-Christmas offensive] were not killed, they escaped. If the guerrillas launch dispersed but coordinated attacks, I don't think the military could hold without pulling out troops from the top five cities. It's the kind of situation which can't wait, it could go bad in the near term.

Q: What role will the Christian Democrats play?

A: You should remember that the Copeyanos [members of the Venezuelan Christian Democratic party, Copei—ed.] are a far cry from the CD in El Salvador. There's some reality in Venezuelan thinking, that will make itself felt in under-the-table influence.

Q: But I thought Duarte [the Christian Democratic president of El Salvador—ed.] was very close to the Venezuelans.

A: He is. He was there for seven years or so. But he set up ties to both the Adecos [the Acción Democrática social-democratic party] and the Copeyanos.

Q: What about the role of Mexico? Will it support the left?

A: If there's anyone pushing López Portillo [in that direction], it's his foreign minister [Castañeda].

Q: So what's the way out in El Salvador now?

A: The parameters are not very flexible for even a short-term solution in El Salvador. Carter has buried the fact that there's a shooting war going on there. The guerrillas are increasingly well trained and equipped, while the military forces are constantly less so.

I have a three-point program for what has to be done. First, the U.S. must put in strong military support for the government, at least with credits if not with the arms themselves. Second, the private sector has to be brought back into the fold. These are the guys with the skills, the capital, the clout in the international money markets. And third, we have to recognize the reforms are here to stay, but based on law, not whim. The land confiscated in phase one of the reforms may not be returnable. But you can give the owners realistic compensation. . . .

Q: Will Duarte be pushed into the background?

A: There's a real advantage in keeping Duarte on, in the short term. The international image question comes in here. The private sector is not well organized, but it's learning rapidly.

Father Smith on the left

Father Simon Smith, S.J., the Jesuit chief of mission for the Third World who is currently working out of the Jesuit Conference in Washington, D.C., and is known in leftist Christian circles as "the man who knows most about El Salvador," commented on the situation.

There is no doubt in my mind that the guerrilla forces are planning to launch a major offensive soon [in El Salvador]. The liberationists have by no means ceased their activities; it's really a question of timing. Remember that statement by their leader that they will present Reagan with a red-hot situation? Well, I have every reason to believe that the new offensive will occur shortly before the inauguration. . . .

I have no way of predicting what Reagan will actually do. I can't point to any of his advisers as being capable of giving him any but the most knee-jerk anticommunist advice. If Reagan does intervene in the situation, then the U.S. will have made itself a laughingstock. . . .

Barring U.S. intervention, I believe that the progressive movement will be successful—the [Salvadorean] army simply isn't trained in guerrilla warfare. It's also possible that elements of the army may soon defect to the guerrillas. . . . Look at what we were able to do in Nicaragua; there's no reason why we can't accomplish the same thing in El Salvador. . . .

The Socialist International's help has been of tremendous importance to the liberationist forces. When Willy Brandt went on national television to declare the Socialist International's support for us, it had a tremendous moralizing effect on the revolutionary forces. . . . The Jesuits are coordinating closely with the Socialist International forces in El Salvador.