

'United States can't tell Andropov from Ignatius Loyola'

by Timothy Rush

"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. . . . I can't point to any of his advisers as being capable of giving him any but the most knee-jerk anti-communist advice. If Reagan does intervene in the situation, then the U.S. will have made itself a laughingstock."

—Simon Smith, S.J., Jesuit Chief of Mission for the Third World, December 1980

As the Reagan administration gears up to "keep Central America from going communist," in a campaign which includes a highly unusual joint session of Congress, it is receiving such advice as the following from columnist William Safire, in an April 21 op-ed in the *New York Times*: "Don't waste much time proving again that Castroites and Sandinists are supplied by Moscow; that's a given. Point to the four Libyan planes turned back by the Brazilians. . . . Make the point and move on."

The reason Safire is so reluctant to discuss the facts about Soviet or Cuban control of the Central American insurgencies is that socialist bloc involvement is only a subordinate aspect. Putting the President on television to declare an East-West conflict, however, will go miles to discredit him and his administration—exactly what the Soviets want.

EIR founder Lyndon LaRouche, in a series of Washington meetings the third week in April, outlined Reagan's problem as that of the Malaysian monkey trap. The monkey trap is a jar with a narrow neck, baited with a nut on the inside. The mouth of the jar is sufficiently wide to allow the monkey to reach in to grab the nut—but not sufficiently wide to allow him to pull it out. The greedy monkey, obsessed with a possession it "already has," holds on with his hand in the jar, until the hunters bag him.

Such is the Central American quagmire, where Reagan and his advisers believe they "have" the Cubans and the Soviets, if they just apply enough pressure in "America's back yard." But the Jesuits, the Protestant fundamentalist sects, the Moonies, the Israeli Mafia networks of Ariel Sharon, and the Socialist International assets of Brandt and Palme—all the forces who share the arena with Soviet and Cuban operatives—are ready to finish off a President whose

aspirations to restore American industrial and military greatness they detest.

"The U.S. government cannot tell the difference between Yuri Andropov and Ignatius Loyola," declared LaRouche; the Central American bloodbath is not a superpower proxy conflict but a religious war in the worst sense. LaRouche proposed four points to short-circuit, rather than perpetuate,

The Jesuits and Nicaragua

The following excerpts are taken from a new *EIR Special Report*, "Central America: the New Sources of Instability," issued this April. For more information on the 50-page report, available for \$250.00, contact Peter Ennis, Director of Special Services.

In **Nicaragua**, the Society of Jesus has played a preponderant role in the Sandinista movement from the beginning. The Jesuit-run *cursillo* movement and the schools were the recruiting grounds in the mid-1970s for the bulk of the middle- and upper-class students who swelled the guerrillas' ranks, transforming them from a clique of a few dozen to a force of thousands. Virtually every one of the current Sandinista leaders went through the Jesuit *cursillo* movement—with more specialized training provided during the Somoza period at Solentiname, a "Christian utopian commune" run by **Father Ernesto Cardenal**, a Trappist monk, on an island in the middle of Lake Nicaragua. Cardenal, a radical poet-priest, is today Nicaragua's culture minister.

During the period of the insurrection, liberationist priests,

that war:

1) Cut off Israeli arms traffic in the region, the major supplier of arms to both sides.

2) Clean out the Jesuits and the Jesuit fellow-travelers, the organizers and provocateurs of conflict, again from both sides.

3) See to it that a commission composed of respected figures such as that now forming under the Contadora Group, to be headed by President Belisario Betancur of Colombia, be empowered to arrange a process leading to negotiated settlements, while the superpowers withdraw from the region.

4) Formulate a program of "Great Projects," such as the Second Panama Canal, that can serve as the necessary infrastructure and political focus for a process of building up the nations and people of the region.

A swarm of kooks

The Jesuits said it in December 1980: we will make Reagan the laughingstock of the world, playing on the Reagan circle's kneejerk anti-communism. In the same month Jesuit Father Zweifelhofer, head of Third World Policy coordina-

tion for the Society of Jesus in Munich, West Germany, scoffed at the idea of a role for Castro in the region independent of the Jesuits: "Castro first has to work out a model of cooperation with the Church in Cuba. . . . [We] have a better reading on what is going on there [in Central America] than anyone else."

The Jesuits at the time had formidable assets in the newly installed Sandinista government of Nicaragua to capitalize on. But they were hardly less entrenched—on both sides of the conflict—in El Salvador, Guatemala, and the other hot spots of the region.

Now, two years later, the Society of Jesus is poised to finish what they started in the months before Reagan took office. Jesuit Father Johann Baptist Metz of the University of Münster, a ringleader of European support networks for Nicaragua, and a close friend of both "Red Bishop" Sergio Méndez Arceo in Mexico and Father Ernesto Cardenal in Nicaragua, helped bring together the West German Green Party and the Brandt wing of the Social Democratic Party to publish a full-page April 23 advertisement of support for Nicaragua against Reagan, in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

nuns and lay people organized popular rural support for the Sandinistas through the *comunidades de base*—the Jesuits' grassroots communities, also known as the "People's Church." The fundamentalist orientation of this movement was underlined by Ernesto Cardenal in an April 1979 pilgrimage he made to Khomeini's Iran. Cardenal met privately with the Ayatollah a number of times, and then went on Iranian radio to proclaim the identity of the Sandinista and Iranian fundamentalist causes, because both had shown that "piety still has a role to play in the modern world."

The role of **Father Alvaro Arguello, S.J.**, the head of the Institute of Historical Research at the Managua branch of the Jesuit University of Central America, exemplifies the day-to-day direction of the Sandinistas by the Jesuits since well before they seized power. Maintaining extensive files on the insurrectionary movement, Father Arguello reportedly centralized all Sandinista communications in his university offices throughout the years of clandestine guerrilla operations.

Jesuits and allied liberationists took a series of top posts in the government: **Xavier Gorostiaga, S.J.**, for example, became deputy planning minister; **Father Miguel D'Escoto**, a Maryknoll priest, became foreign minister; and Ernesto Cardenal became culture minister.

Father Fernando Cardenal, S.J., however, has been identified by knowledgeable Nicaraguans as the controlling power within the Sandinistas today. The more-powerful brother of better-known Ernesto, Fernando Cardenal headed the government's literacy program, and now plays a leading role in the youth movement. He maintains excellent relations

with all factions of the Sandinistas, placing him in a decisive mediating role. Cardenal and the Secretary of the Junta, who is also a Jesuit, report nightly to the head of the Jesuit Order in Nicaragua, according to reliable sources.

The power of this "People's Church" faction was nowhere better demonstrated than in the now-famous defiance of the Pope during his March 5 visit to Nicaragua. Not only did Ernesto Cardenal confront the Pope directly at the airport as the Pontiff arrived, but "People's Church" leaders drowned out the Pope with Sandinista slogans at several points during the subsequent open-air mass.

El Salvador has been a similar experimental testing ground for the Jesuits since at least the mid-1960s, when the Order took a 180-degree turn and, ostensibly abandoning its long-standing alliance with the ruling local oligarchy, embraced radical Liberation Theology. Raising the banner of "land reform," scores of Jesuits and Jesuit-trained Maryknolls, Capuchins, Diocesans, and others were deployed to organize or take over existing peasant groupings; the Christian Democratic Party; the social-democratic National Revolutionary Movement (MNR); and the student groups that spawned the guerrillas. The takeover of the mass institutions was facilitated by the Jesuit monopoly on the leading educational institutions. The San Salvador branch of the Jesuit University of Central America included **Guillermo Ungo** on its faculty before his brief entrance into the governing junta and subsequent exit to head the negotiating arm of the guerrillas, the FDR. Fellow junta member at the time **Ramón Mayorga** was no less than the head of the university.

Metz revealed that his good friend François Houtart, S.J., of Belgium's Louvain University, will sponsor a mid-May conference of Jesuits and fellow "liberationists" at Louvain to "examine the Central American situation." Houtart is hardly an objective social scientist. In the 1960s, he achieved notoriety for indoctrinating several generations of Latin American "dissident" priests in outright terrorism, as in the case of Colombian padre Camilo Torres. A speaker at the conference is to be Nicaragua's Maryknoll priest-turned-foreign minister, Miguel d'Escotto.

Metz also indicated that he worked closely with the head of the Nicaraguan Information Bureau in West Germany, one Herr Schultz. Schultz told investigators April 20 that "there is no way the U.S. administration can overthrow the Sandinista government. As soon as they start deploying troops, we will send 5,000 youngsters to fight in Central America. The Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Mexican [sic] guerrillas will all join in a region-wide war." His information office, Shultz reports, has launched a mobilization which will begin at the end of April in 30 European cities.

The fundamentalists' role

The Jesuits are satisfied with the progress of another project they have helped along—the spread of Protestant fundamentalist sects, who hate the Pope almost as much as the Jesuits themselves, and believe that war and butchery herald the day of redemption.

The growth of these sects is extraordinary throughout the region. The ramifications go far beyond the rule of "born-again" genocidal zealot Efraín Ríos Montt in Guatemala.

Take the case of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), a giant "Bible Belt" missionary center which maintains thousands of fundamentalists in remote regions of Central and South America to translate the Bible into local tongues, and sow the basis for "Thirty Years War"-type religious turmoil. The Mexican government threw the SIL out of Mexico in March 1982, after it had been operating with impunity for almost 50 years. "Left" Jesuits had demanded their ouster—and "right" Jesuits, concentrated in Mexico's fascist PAN party, immediately sprang to their defense. If these fundamentalist fanatics are kicked out, claimed PAN deputy Carlos Chavira on April 20, "all religious organizations run the risk of being eliminated little-by little."

The Unification Church Moonies have moved rapidly into this congenial atmosphere. According to sources in Mexico, the Honduran army chief who is overseeing the training and deployment of "contras" against Nicaragua, General Gustavo Alvarez, is a newly inducted member of the Unification Church cult. The wife and daughter of figurehead president Roberto Suazo Córdoba are members of a fundamentalist sect called El Cenáculo.

Swarming across the region in tandem with the Jesuits and the fundamentalists are the mafiosi of "Greater Israel" fanatic Ariel Sharon, selling weapons to all comers and happy to see the conflicts spread. Since President Jimmy Carter

deliberately transferred the arms franchise in the region to Israel in 1977, under a subsidy program for Israel called "human rights U.S. arms cut-off," Israeli arms sales have soared. Standard issue in Ríos Montt's army are Galil rifles; General Alvarez commands an air force in Honduras of Israeli-supplied planes. The Sandinistas, despite loud public squawks over the Israeli role and deepening ties to PLO and Libyan networks, themselves maintain an interface with such Israeli arms merchants as David Marcus Katz through resident Lebanese families.

Finally there is the Brandt/Palme wing of the Socialist International, who in December 1980 first mapped out a campaign to destroy the Reagan administration by hanging it with a "new Vietnam" debacle in Central America (see *EIR*, Jan. 13, 1981). Typical of their dealings was the secret meeting between Henry Kissinger and Pier Shori, number-two man in Palme's foreign ministry, in Sweden at the beginning of April. Shori has been Palme's almost full-time emissary on Central American issues since his participation in the 1980 Socialist International planning session against Reagan in Washington. After the Kissinger-Shori meeting, Swedish and U.S. television blossomed with the face of one Peter Thorbyornsson, a "freelance" Swedish journalist who had just toured Central America and could report all the particulars of growing U.S. involvement in the covert war against Nicaragua.

Depopulation warriors

The predominant faction within the U.S. State Department, which knows better than to follow the "kneejerk" anti-communist reaction of some of Reagan's inner circle, is thoroughly complicit in leading the President's hand to the monkey jar. This is the "Global 2000" faction which shares with the Brandt Socialists, the fundamentalists, and the Jesuits the diseased Malthusian mentality that resources on earth are fixed and that a growing human population, particularly in the developing sector, is overrunning them. Incessant fratricidal conflict is the inevitable way such "overpopulation" is eliminated, lament these Malthusians.

Thomas Ferguson, head of the Latin American desk at the Office of Population Affairs in the State Department, explained the theory and practice of such "population wars" in early 1981: "There is a single theme behind our work—we must reduce population levels. Either the governments will do it our way, through nice, clean methods, or they will get the kinds of mess that we have in El Salvador, or in Iran, or in Beirut. We look at resource and environmental constraints, we look at our strategic needs and we say, that this country must lower its population, or else we will have trouble. So steps are taken. . . . The government of El Salvador failed to use our programs to lower their population. Now they get a civil war because of it. . . . There will be dislocation and food shortages. They still have too many people there."

There has been no change in outlook, only refinement of methods, in the succeeding two years.