

## Panama Report by Carlos Wesley

### Contras to aid U.S. military move?

*Panama has good reason to fear that the Nicaraguan forces will be put to a new use by Rockefeller's minions.*

**P**anama's President Manuel Solís Palma warned Feb. 20 that he feared a military invasion against his country by the United States using Nicaraguan Contra forces. Solís Palma issued his warning in Mexico, where he met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, during a stopover on his way to Japan to attend the funeral of former Emperor Hirohito.

"We think that the United States knows that through elections it cannot impose upon us anyone beholden to them, and that is why a military invasion is possible," said Solís Palma. Elements of the Contras, he said, could be organized into a mercenary army and used in "the very possible case of an armed invasion by the United States in its refusal to return the Canal and the strategic military installations there."

Recent developments indicate that Solís Palma's fears are well founded. The collapse of the U.S. Contra policy leaves thousands of armed Nicaraguans roaming through Central America with no place to go. The U.S. certainly is not willing to take them in. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Feb. 21 that those Contras that get into the U.S. will be sent back to join the electoral opposition inside Nicaragua—not at all an attractive option.

A virtual concentration camp has been set up in the middle of the Texas desert to process the more than 100,000 Central American refugees, many of them Nicaraguan Contras, who are expected to seek asylum in the United States this year. Most of them will be sent back.

"The idea of moving 60,000 illiterate peasants to the United States is beyond my imagination," said one administration official about the erstwhile Nicaraguan "freedom fighters," reported the *Miami Herald* Feb. 16. Not surprisingly, many Contras are refusing to hand over their weapons and now threaten to become an army of mercenaries. One Contra leader in Honduras, with 650 soldiers under his command, said, "We may leave this place but we will not hand over our arms," reported the same paper two days later.

It would also appear that the United States is determined to keep its military installations in Panama and retain effective sovereignty over the Panama Canal, in violation of the treaties. On Feb. 7, Rep. Phil Crane (R-Ill.) introduced a House Joint Resolution, co-sponsored by 26 others, to express "the sense of the Congress that the President or the Congress should abrogate the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977 and the Neutrality Treaty."

At an ad hoc congressional hearing the next day, co-sponsored by Crane and Adm. Thomas Moorer's International Freedom Council, several of those testifying said that to openly move to abrogate the treaties at this time would be impolitic. A more viable option, they said, would be for the U.S. to seek a way to retain the bases, while granting Panama nominal control of the canal.

As one put it: "The only practical move now is to seek a Status-of-Forces type agreement with Panama that will maintain the presence of U.S. Forces there after 1999." "However," he

added, "this is going to require some skillful diplomacy and possibly the use of military force."

Such a violation of the Carter-Torrijos treaties, which require the United States to withdraw from Panama by the year 2000, would be in keeping with the understanding being worked out with the Soviet Union by Henry Kissinger, under which Latin America is slated to become a satrapy of David Rockefeller. Rockefeller himself, during a meeting of his Americas Society in Caracas, Venezuela Feb. 14-15, said that the world is realigning into regional super blocs, such as Europe 1992 and the Asian "feline economies" (referring to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan). "It appears opportune that in our hemisphere we begin to create, perhaps not yet a totally free trade zone, but at least a freer zone," said Rockefeller.

He then proposed the creation of a united America to be used by the United States "as a center of relations between Asia and Europe." That is to say, that the countries of the region become providers of cheap raw materials and labor in a new colonial relation with the U.S. to benefit Rockefeller and his fellow bankers.

Since the Ibero-American countries are unlikely to submit voluntarily to this bankers' scheme, military force will be necessary, and the only U.S. bases available for this purpose are on the isthmus of Panama. Gen. Fred Woerner, head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, said in a speech to the American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America Feb. 17, that so far no country in Ibero-America has offered to take in the U.S. military when it leaves Panama, "and the U.S. is afraid to ask other countries in Latin America to accept the Southern Command, because we would be creating a problem for any government that decided to say yes."