

The real threat in Central America: Kirkpatrick, Sharon, & Company

by Gretchen Small

British and Israeli fanatics have pumped the weapons, propaganda, and funds into Central America to whip up a war in which the United States is supposed to emerge the big loser. Caught sabotaging American interests are the Reagan administration's U.N. ambassador, Jeane Kirkpatrick; the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, John Negroponte; his British oligarchic wife, Diana Villiers; a group of anthropologists run by "former" Nazis; and the dope-pushing, gun-running Mosad renegades backing Ariel Sharon.

This group wants to enmire the United States in a "conventional" Vietnam-style war, to put the brakes on the Reagan administration's revolution in American strategic defense doctrine, and discredit the President as a bloodthirsty bungler. The Sharon faction in Israel hopes that getting the U.S. military pinned down in Central America will give them a free hand in the Middle East. At present, American- and Israeli-trained "freedom fighters" continue to cross into Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica, and Honduras and Nicaragua appear locked on a course toward a war into which outside forces could rapidly be drawn.

The "case officer" inside the administration for the Central American operations is reported widely to be Kirkpatrick. Working with Secretary George Shultz and Luigi Einaudi at the State Department, and William Casey and Constantine Menges at the CIA, Kirkpatrick is said to have sold the White House on a strategy to "pin" Nicaragua down with "internal uprisings," covertly supplied by American funds and forces. The argument was that internal turmoil would stop Nicaragua from supplying arms to El Salvador's guerrillas.

In February, Kirkpatrick paid an official visit to Panama, Venezuela, and other Ibero-American countries to tell those governments that their efforts to end the continuous rounds of fighting in Central America were viewed in Washington as "anti-American." In Panama, Kirkpatrick ordered opposition leaders to prepare to become the next government on behalf of "U.S." interests.

In mid-March, the go-ahead was given to begin action. The first of some several thousand "freedom fighters," armed and trained over the course of the past year-and-a-half in camps lining Nicaragua's two borders, began entering Nicaragua.

The "freedom fighters" whom Kirkpatrick et al. are promoting are a quarreling assortment of adherents of the Socialist International who follow Jesuit-trained Eden Pastora (nicknamed "Commander Zero"), ousted dictator Somoza's National Guardsmen, a contingent from the smuggling-based Miskito Indian tribe, and mercenaries seeking "action."

Israeli gun-runners are currently supplying both sides—Sandinistas and anti-Sandinistas.

Honduras and Costa Rica, the current bases of operation for this new "Bay of Pigs," have become major assets of Israeli influence in the past year. Through the Israeli wife of Costa Rican President Luís Alberto Monge, himself a Social Democrat who has taken orders from the Lane Kirkland-Jeane Kirkpatrick "right-wing social democratic" crowd at the AFL-CIO for decades, Costa Rica has become a major base of Israeli gun-running for all of Central America, sources in Mexico report.

The Sharon operation

Last December, Ariel Sharon, the renegade former Israeli Defense Minister condemned for his role in Lebanese massacres, paid a high-profile visit to Honduras and Costa Rica to consolidate his faction's influence. Sharon's trip was to arrange arms transfers to those countries and the step-up of Israeli training of the Honduran Armed Forces; sources in Washington and the Middle East reported that Sharon was sent to restructure the massive arms-for-drugs traffic in the area. Central American sources reported the first week in April that Sharon is expected to visit Honduras again shortly.

A Norwegian paper, *Dagbladet*, reported this month that a "former" Nazi, Ole Christian Olstad, who had been fighting with the Israeli-backed militias of Major Saad Haddad in Southern Lebanon, has announced his plans to travel with several other mercenaries to Costa Rica to join the anti-Sandinista forces.

The Miskito Indians have been assets of the British Crown since the tribe first signed a formal treaty with the British in 1687 which established a "Miskito Kingdom"—replete with Crown-appointed King—with the responsibility of guarding British interests on the east coast of Central America. During the two centuries that treaty existed, the Miskitos captured and sold into slavery the rest of the Indian population in the

area.

British control over the Miskitos continues today. A network of British-trained anthropologists associated with the Society for Endangered Peoples, a European-based group headed by former Nazis, organized the flight of the Miskitos into Honduras over a year ago as a defense of "Indian rights." Once in Honduras, the Miskitos were herded into refugee camps. Access to these camps, the anthropologists report, is controlled by Diana Villiers, the former British Conservative Party leader now married to U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte. Negroponte has been called more Commander in Chief of the Honduran Armed Forces than President Suazo, because of his close relationship with Army Chief General Alvaréz.

What next?

Not since the United States supported the British in the Malvinas War against Argentina has a U.S. policy threatened such a rupture with its southern neighbors.

In speech after speech at the United Nations during the recent Security Council debate on Central America, Ibero-American governments tried to steer the United States off the Kirkpatrick line, warning that U.S. arms shipments and backing for the insurgents would only make matters worse. This is a "conflict which, if sharpened, could have . . . extra-continental implications," Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations stated.

Support for the standing offer by Mexico and Venezuela to provide their good offices as mediators of the Honduran-Nicaraguan dispute has come from most governments in the region. During a visit to the United States at the beginning of April, Brazilian Air Force Minister Jardim de Mattos told the press Brazil backs Mexico and Venezuela's initiatives for a peace, adding that Brazil will not enter the Central American conflict in support of the United States. Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, Victor Tinoco, likewise issued an urgent appeal for a heads of state meeting to take place between Honduras and Nicaragua, with the Mexican and Venezuelan presidents present as "witnesses of good faith."

If a political approach is not adopted, the most radical faction inside Nicaragua, which argues that Nicaragua should stop negotiations and turn to "friends" like Libya, Bulgaria, and South Yemen for defense, may increase its power. On March 28, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi announced that he has offered Nicaragua the Libyan armed forces to help them fight "imperialism."

The Kirkpatrick group is attempting to use the crisis to restore the old pattern of brinkmanship-cum-crisis-management between the superpowers which President Reagan superseded as of his March 23 defense policy speech. The recently formed Linowitz Commission on "Latin American-U.S. dialogue," which includes Cyrus Vance and Robert McNamara, just issued a 82-page report demanding that the United States and the Soviet Union jointly negotiate over Central America in a crisis-management mode, "similar to

the agreement ending the Cuban missile crisis of 1962."

Though paying lip service to bringing other regional powers such as Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia into the discussions, the report insists on a basic East-West confrontation mode in which, according to a summary printed in the *Journal of Commerce*, "both the American and the Soviet-Cuban sides would have to give up something in any such accommodation for long-range stability."

Colombia's Betancur on emergency mission

Colombian President Belisario Betancur will undertake an emergency tour to stabilize the Central American region, it was announced simultaneously April 5 in Bogotá, Caracas, Panama City, and Mexico City. Betancur will confer with Venezuelan President Herrera Campins; continue to the Mexican resort of Cancún on April 9, where Betancur will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid; and conclude on April 10 in Panama, in a meeting with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, Costa Rican President Alberto Monge, and perhaps Herrera Campins as well. According to press reports, Betancur will also discuss urgent economic issues.

The Betancur initiative raises to the level of presidents the coordination among Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama that began at the foreign minister level in early January. At that time the four foreign ministers constituted themselves as a body to assume responsibility for keeping the lid on the Central American conflicts, and urged all major powers, including the United States, to stay out.

EIR has recommended that during these consultations, two urgent steps be taken to open the maneuvering room for further reduction of tension:

- 1) that the Israeli involvement in the region be eliminated, including Ariel Sharon's arms- and gun-running operations in Honduras and Guatemala, the Sharon faction's work with the controllers of Ríos Montt on the Temple Mount Project, and the substantial Israeli control over Costa Rican President Monge;

- 2) that the presidents of the region extend overtures, privately and publicly, for consultations with the White House that would give Reagan room to act "in concert with other presidents" and thus have an insurance policy against the Watergating operations now in motion against him on the issue of Central America.

These measures would not eliminate the conflicts in the region, but would go a long way to beginning to solve them.