

Editorial

Turning point in Central America policy

Early in 1981, *EIR* warned that the civil war in Central America could sabotage the potential of a new, independent and pro-growth policy following Ronald Reagan's 1980 electoral mandate. We also noted that an alliance between the United States and Ibero-America, particularly the Republic of Mexico, was the key to getting back to the "American Century" program of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and reversing the industrial collapse that is leading the world toward nuclear war.

The crisis has ripened to a decisive point.

President Reagan's address to a joint session of Congress on April 27 offered no dramatic new announcements that changed the policy toward Central America. The trap set for the administration on Central American policy remains baited, but the President did not fall into it head over foot. Reagan's enemies, who hoped to nail him with a "new Vietnam" charge based on this speech, went away disappointed.

Congress gave the President a hearing more appropriate to a sporting event than to consideration of American options in the Central American quagmire. The cheering was alternately for "stopping the tide of communism creeping to our doorstep" and "avoiding a new Vietnam—no U.S. soldiers will be sent to do the fighting." Both may be popular, but unless Congress and the President re-assess the faulty "East-West" strategic assumptions underlying the choices presented by the President, the potential for a Vietnam will rapidly grow.

First, Reagan alluded to the issue of the possible stationing of Soviet missiles on Nicaraguan soil, despite repeated and emphatic denials from the Nicaraguan government that it is considering any such course. The President inadvertently underscored why there is special urgency to cooling the Central American crisis quickly. If allowed to fester, it will increasingly overlap the looming strategic crisis over the stationing of Pershing II missiles in Europe.

That stationing is now programmed for the October-December period of 1983. The Soviet Union is threatening countermoves which are unlikely to include

stationing missiles in either Cuba or Nicaragua, but could include positioning submarines in waters adjacent to the United States. The Central American conflict will provide a hotbed for strategic miscalculation, and thus possibly the trigger for nuclear war.

Second, the President attempted to beef up the "bi-partisan" nature of his appeal for more U.S. involvement, by citing the Cold War doctrines of the Truman era. He thus chose to evoke precisely the historical moment when FDR's postwar plans were jettisoned and U.S. foreign policy was tucked back under the wings of the British. A U.S. policy fiasco in Central America is the major British lever for reversing the President's March 23 announcement of a new strategic doctrine based on defensive beam weapons against nuclear missiles. A British insider in the recent Anglo-Soviet Roundtable discussions (see page 30) gloated that the British assured their Moscow counterparts that Reagan's speech "is more a matter of rhetoric than of practical policy." The same spokesman declared his view, shared with the Soviets, that Reagan has gone "over the end" on Central America.

It is for precisely this reason that *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche commissioned the diagnosis and prescription for ailing U.S. Central America policy that appears in this week's Special Report and is circulating to Washington policy makers. It is not lost on the British that LaRouche is the designer of the strategic doctrine behind the beam-weapons policy they and their friends in Moscow want to destroy. It also did not escape their attention—the London *Times* was nearly apoplectic on April 27 about this—that the Presidents of Mexico and Brazil, the most powerful Ibero-American countries, at their recent summit came within inches of embracing the "debtors' cartel" of which Lyndon LaRouche is known internationally as the intellectual author. The two Presidents also pledged to rally unanimous Ibero-American support behind the Contadora group's plan for a regional peace solution in Central America, based on economic development. The enemies of these policies are Reagan's enemies.