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JPRS L/8973

13 March 1980

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 5/80)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

'PRELA' NOTES CUBAN TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTION IN NICARAGUA

PA292232 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1940 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Article by Erasmo Terrero]

[Text] [No dateline given] The help of the Cuban internationalist teachers in Nicaragua made possible the establishment of 558 schools in an equal number of areas which never before had the means for local children to be educated.

According to education ministry statistics, 53 of those 558 rural schools were built by the respective peasant communities. These communities were mobilized by the Farm Workers Association (ATC) with the advice and direct participation of the Cuban teachers.

In addition, 65 buildings were repaired for use as schools, 68 were painted and 21 expanded in an equal number of rural areas.

The 1,200 Cuban teachers who are working in the most isolated regions of Nicaragua's 16 departments, are giving classes to 50,593 elementary school children and, in night classes, to several thousand workers and housewives from the rural areas, most of whom are illiterate.

In compliance with agreements signed by Cuba and Nicaragua, the teachers began to arrive in Managua on 5 November and were assigned by the education ministry to the areas in which there was the greatest shortage of teachers. At present they are living in peasant homes and giving classes free of charge to the people of Augusto Cesar Sandino.

On repeated occasions, educational officials of the Central American country have spoken favorably on the technical competence, the spirit of sacrifice and the internationalist dedication of the Cuban youths.

Recently Carlos Aguirre, director of the Southern Department of Rio San Juan, praised the initiative, discipline and devotion to duty of the Cuban teachers who, he said, are made of "a special wood."

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Although most of the internationalists' students are registered in the first grade, because of the lack of schools, many teach children of different grades in the morning and afternoon, then give classes to adults at night.

Frequently, adults of up to 30 years of age, who have asked to be admitted in order to learn to read and write, can be seen in the elementary school classrooms along with 6-year-old children.

To cite just one example, at the school in Villa Alvarez, in the central municipality of El Almendro, four siblings ranging in age from 6 to 13 years are studying in the first grade during the day, while their parents are taught at night by the same teacher and in the same school.

The Cuban youths do not restrict their activities to the limits of the classroom. Instead, they promote educational excursions with their students, as well as cultural and athletic activities.

In addition, on weekends and during the year-end vacations they have participated in volunteer work in areas doing such things as harvesting coffee, and building schools and health centers, among other things. They have used the pay for this work to purchase teaching materials.

The Cuban teachers are working in the classrooms and in the community to promote hygiene measures and various preventive medicine campaigns.

In this last area, they have worked closely in performing a census of pregnant women and undernourished children. In addition, they help doctors in the vaccination campaigns against poliomyelitis, measles and other illnesses.

They also participated in the illiteracy census carried out recently in preparation for the great national crusade against illiteracy which will begin officially in March.

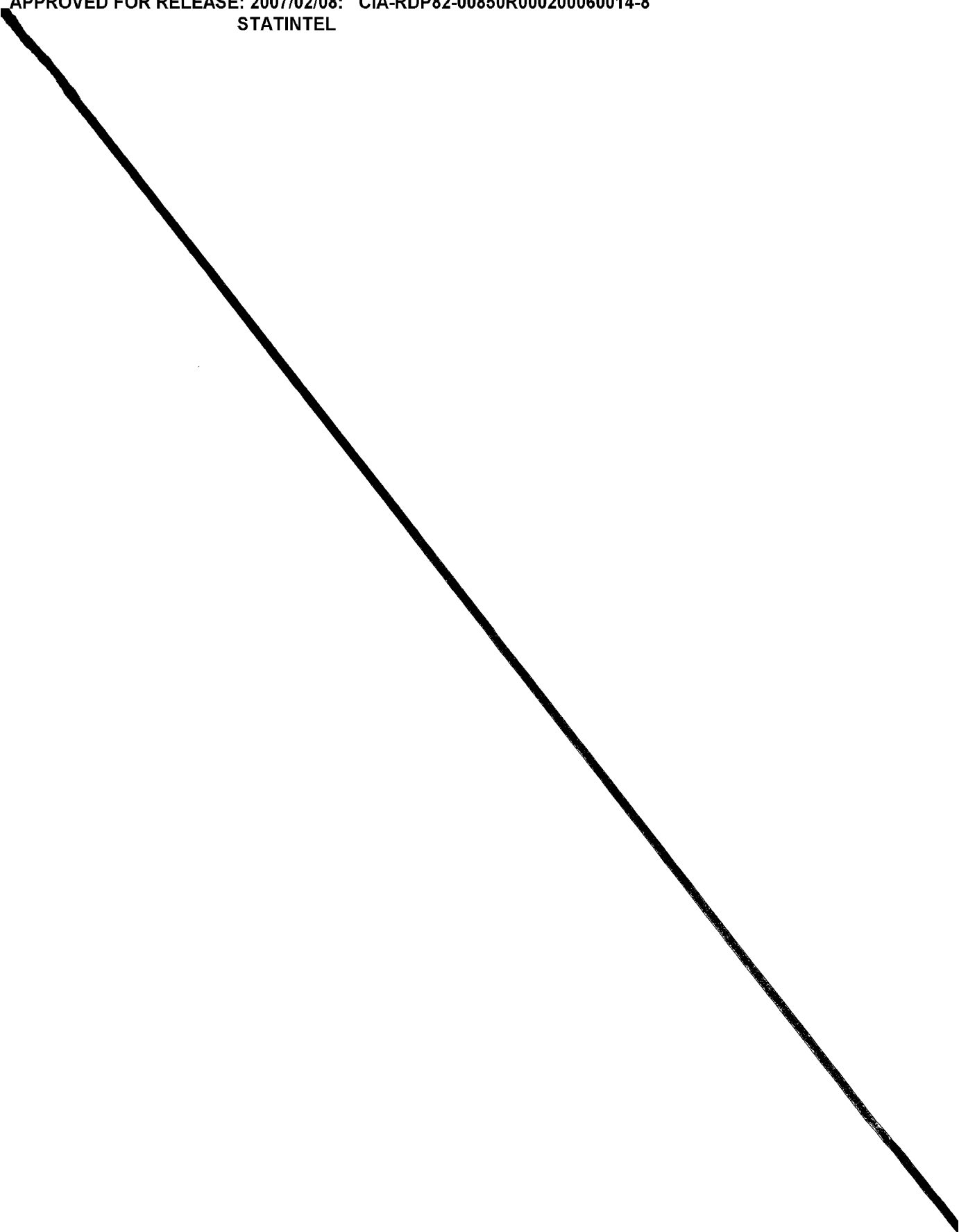
In performing these tasks and in traveling to their teaching sites, the teachers use the most varied means of transportation, including boats, mules and even oxen.

The dedicated work of the Cuban teachers in the peasant communities have won them the affection of the townspeople, some of whom are keeping count of the days that remain of the 2 years in which their Cuban friends will remain in Nicaragua.

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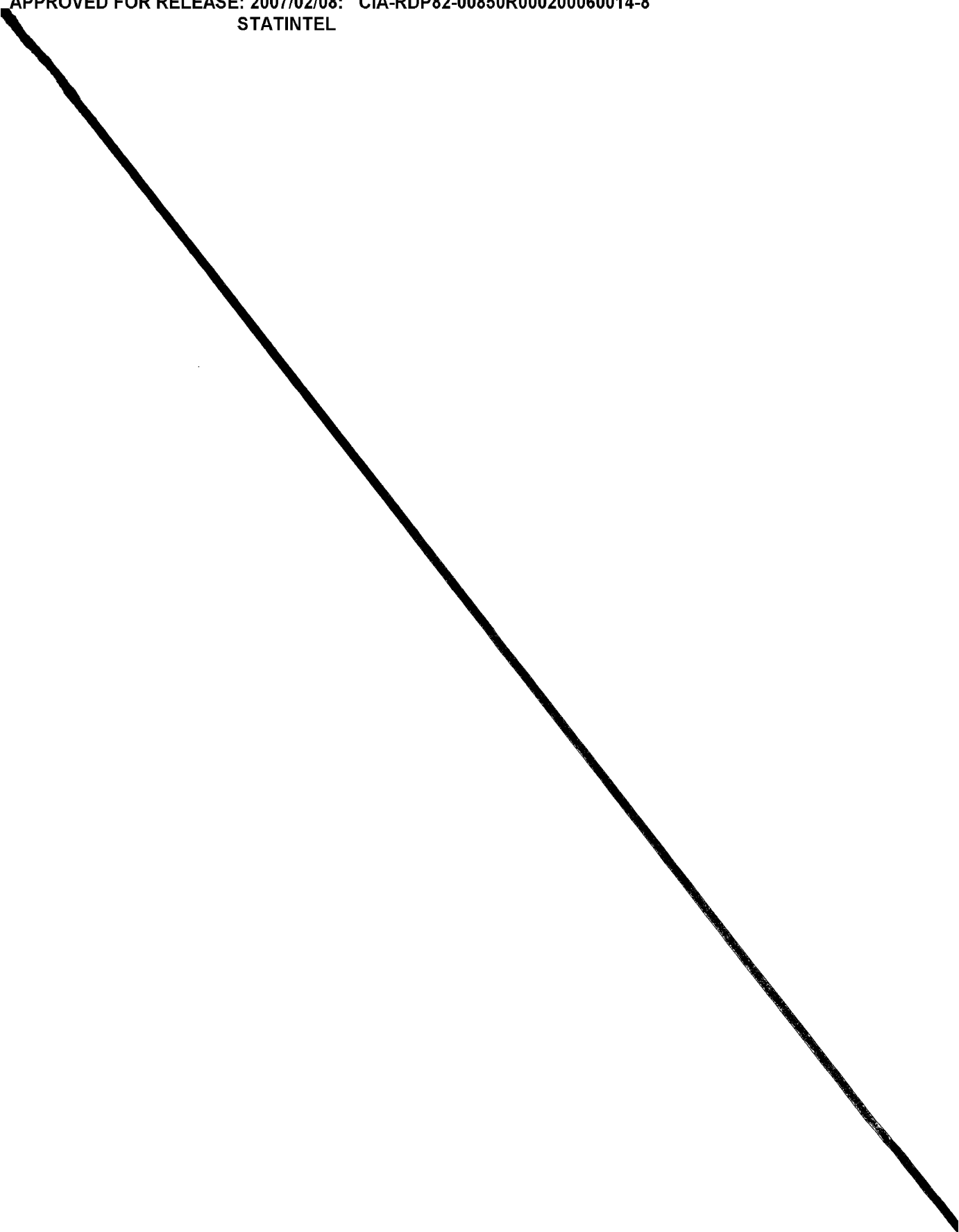
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CUBA

SEMINAR ON VIETNAM CONDEMNS PRC

PA032359 Havana PRELA in English 1845 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Article by Victorio M. Copa]

[Text] Havana, 3 Mar (PL)--Cuba charged that the most aggressive trend of the reactionary philosophy of Maoism is uniting with imperialism against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Rene Rodriguez Cruz, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), also stated that the problems of Southeast Asia cannot be analyzed abstractly.

The top Cuban functionary spoke at the symposium titled "The Position of Vietnam From the Viewpoint of International Law," the first which is being held here since the Chinese aggression against that Indochinese nation.

He stated that when analyzing the situation in Southeast Asia it must be done taking into account the interdisciplinary angle of its political, juridical and ideological aspects.

When condemning the cowardly attitude of the Chinese leadership against Vietnam, he underlined that Maoism and imperialism have erased their essential differences.

Some 50 legal experts and specialists in Asian affairs debated throughout the day papers on historic, political and juridical topics of the struggle of the Vietnamese people against their aggressors.

Hector Garcini, legal adviser to the Council of State, was the organizer of the seminar, sponsored by the Cuban Committee of Solidarity With Vietnam.

"Vietnam and Its Active role in the Movement of Non-aligned Countries" and "Causes of the Failure of the Negotiations Between Vietnam and China," were two of the ten papers presented at the meeting.

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Matters related to China's hegemonic ideology and the political and ideological content of the Chinese-Vietnamese border conflicts at the present time were also debated.

The problem of the Hoa and their manipulation by China in the anti-Vietnamese campaign and the resulting foreign policy of that Indochinese nation, were other papers presented at the seminar.

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EL SALVADOR

'PRELA' INTERVIEWS FPL MILITIA LEADERS

PA030215 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1645 GMT 27 Feb 80 PA

[Interview with the leadership of the militias of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces by Mario Menendez Rodriguez at several locations in El Salvador 25 February]

[Text] The occupation of four cities, four towns, two large neighborhoods, cantons and villages as well as the tremendous attacks against garrisons and the ambush of national guard and army convoys throughout the country indicate that the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces [FPL] have started their political-military offensive "which is preparing the conditions for popular insurrections."

For the first time since their creation in 1976, large columns and brigades of militiamen--dressed in fatigues with their faces partially covered with a red handkerchief, wearing a cap bearing the FPL insignia, and armed with an automatic rifle or a submachinegun in their hands--entered into action. The militias operated jointly with the guerrillas and within a 72-hour period they occupied the following cities: Coatepeque, 15,000 inhabitants, Santa Ana Department in the country's western region; Tenancingo, 10,000 inhabitants, Cabanas Department in the country's northcentral region; Santa Elena, 10,000 inhabitants, Usulután Department in the country's east; and Santa Clara, 6,000 inhabitants, San Vicente Department in what is known as the para/central region.

The towns of Tejutla, El Jicaro and Los Mangos with a total population of 4,000 inhabitants in Chalatenango Department in the country's north and Monte San Juan, Cuscatlan Department in the country's central region were occupied too.

Also occupied were the La Periquera suburb with 3,000 inhabitants in Santa Ana Department and La Curruncha suburb in San Miguel Department in the country's east. Moreover, but during the same days, the growing Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Army [Ejercito Popular de Liberacion--EPL] annihilated the Agua Caliente and Tejutla garrisons in Chalatenango and carried out harassment attacks against police posts in Zacamil in San Salvador Department. It ambushed a military convoy of 150 soldiers in Santa Ana

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near the northern road that leads to Tutultepeque, between Aguilares and Suchitoto, and another in Cinquera, Cabanas Department, against too national guard patrols.

Therefore, within a matter of hours, the FPL had carried out military actions of various kinds which resulted in the killing of approximately 100 guardians of the wealth of the oligarchy; the recovery of large quantities of weapons; the political and military training of the masses gathered at the public squares where the local executioners were tried and subsequently punished according to the sentences issued by the people; the strengthening of the organizations for the self-defense of the people and the explanation of the country's current situation which concluded with a call to all Salvadorans present to join the armed struggle which many of them did between 24 and 27 January.

These actions, of a pre-insurreccional nature, revealed the two basic tactics which synthesize the FPL political-military strategy to take power:

1. The popular armed insurreccions always start from the simple to the complex, that is, starting with local insurreccions, continuing with regional uprisings and concluding with a general insurrection.
2. The EPL's harsh blows against the forces of the oligarchy in movement or in their garrisons.

#### People's Liberation Militias

Somewhere in this war-torn country, where this newsman witnessed actions carried out by the three branches--militia, guerrillas and army--of the Peoples Liberation Armed Forces [Fuerzas Armadas Populares de Liberacion--FAPL] of the Farabundo Marti FPL, we interviewed the members of the National Directorate of what is in practice the people's armed instrument par excellence--the militia.

Antonio, Ramiro and Maria replied to the following questions from PRELA:

What are the militias and how do they operate?

The militias are the paramilitary instrument that the FPL uses to lead the people in self-defense through violence by the masses and armed insurrection.... They are comprised of members of all social sectors, based on the peasant-worker alliance and linked to production.... The militia is a local organization because its members, that is, those who carry out the main armed action, operate where they work.... The link with production is decisive.... Therefore the militia does not have geographic mobility.... The activities of the militia include streets struggle and self-defense by the masses. It directs the people's violence in armed action and it is also involved in military guerrilla operations which consist of armed propaganda and sabotage.... It is also in charge of punishing the people's enemies as the people demand....

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What is the difference between the militia, guerrillas and army?

In the first place, the militia is found in the factory, in the farm field, in the school, that is, where the members work and study. Of course strict secrecy is maintained.... The militiaman is linked to production. He does not abandon his daily tasks. Therefore the militia has a local character and lacks mobility.... Only the leadership cadres of the militia are professional....

The army and the guerrilla are full-time professional combatants.... They are involved in development of the military art, in promotion of the armed struggle.... The guerrilla's mobility is limited to a specific zone.... The army has national mobility and it goes wherever the battle needs to be stepped up.... Furthermore, the equipment and armaments of the army and the guerrillas are different from those of the militia. They differ in accordance with the activity each branch has to carry out....

[Pa030229] What is the organizational structure of the militia?

Remember, the people's militia is a mass organization. Thousands of the most advanced workers are in the militia. Their structure can be analyzed at three levels: The rank and file combat units, each comprised of 4-6 militiamen; the brigade, of 2-4 rank and file units and which can number to 26 combatants, including the leaders; and the column, of 2-3 brigades, with a maximum of 80 militiamen, including the tactical commanders of the lower units.... The militia column is subordinate to the directorate of the locality because the militia is structured from the locality.... Several of these localities are under a municipal directorate even though the municipality does not conform to the political geography or the government's terminology.... In turn, a group of municipalities is under a sub-zonal directorate.... All of these can be summarized in the following way: A sub-zone is divided into several municipalities, each with respective municipal directorates; the municipality in turn is divided into localities with specific local directorates; and in each locality are columns, brigades and rank and file combat units.... A group of subzones forms a zone under the direction of the zone staff and these are centralized and unified by the national militia staff, which directs, coordinates and unites the operations and general movement, that is, all militia activities.... Above the national staff is the joint staff of the FAPL, which is being formed. It will politically and militarily direct the militia, guerrillas and army.... At the top is the supreme command, which is at the same time the central command of the Farabundo Marti FPL.... Therefore at the top there is a joining of the political-military directorate of the vanguard, or, what is the same thing, the party directing its military instruments.... Furthermore, one must stress that the operation of the militia, from the member of the rank and file unit to the national staff, is clandestine. To be otherwise in this phase of the war would endanger the lives of the companeros as well as the structure of the militias.... The people know the militiamen are present and act in defense of their interests, but they are unaware of the identity of the militiamen.... In all combat actions of the masses--

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and not only in military operations--the masses are accompanied by rank and file militia units in demonstrations, the occupation of land, factories, public buildings and so on.

The militiamen join the people's self-defense bodies--security commissions. These bodies guide, direct and promote the militancy of the masses. That is why when a demonstration is attacked by regular or irregular troops at the service of the oligarchy and its allies, the Salvadoran people know how and where to withdraw while their self-defense bodies stop the aggressors.... The militia is a political body with a paramilitary character within the masses.

There is speculation abroad about the origin of the weapons used by the FPL.

Where do the militias get their weapons?

Basically from the enemy. We snatch them in military actions. Quite a few of the weapons we now have were in the hands of criminal elements, members of the reaction's paramilitary corps. In addition, the Salvadoran people cooperate [in providing] weapons. You may have observed this during the occupation of some city, town or canton. It is felt that we can put these to better use. The militias also use homemade grenades, bombs and mines. Bear in mind that the mass manufacture of armaments is well controlled. In addition, there is no limit to the people's ingenuity. They devise all sorts of traps for use on the paths to our organized areas. The oligarchy and its allies know it is not easy to attack our people now because they know how to respond.

At first glance, one could imagine that El Salvador's topography, the lack of thick jungles, the roads and the density of the population, among other obstacles, "conspired" against the preparation, training and development of the militias.

How are these obstacles overcome?

Those are part of our objective reality, it is true. But it is also true that the militias rely on an extraordinarily rich objective reality--the organized and combative people, the Salvadoran people, who are at the disposal of the revolution and seek their own social liberation. Obstacles are overcome that way, with the people's talent and determination. Furthermore, those obstacles represent a challenge to the masses, which has made it possible to set up militia schools at various levels.

The training is carried out in the basic unit, brigade or column. These area schools or training centers have no fixed location; they are mobile. They emerge whenever and wherever the opportunity arises and disappear when the circumstances require. It is the people who ultimately determine the place and the time.

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[PA030237] Now that is as far as the training of the militias goes. But military instruction is also given to the organizations created for the self defense of the masses and the people in general.... Every time a city, a town, a canton, a village is occupied, the people receive military instruction, since one of our objectives is to create a military reserve among the civilian population in order to develop armed insurrection and strengthen the people's military units.... Furthermore, since a militia member lives clandestinely in the community and is connected with production, those who can give instruction to small secret groups, or even specialized training, are chosen from among the most experienced members....

As regards our people's political and military training, we take advantage of all opportunities, but without carrying out unplanned activities or violating the rules of clandestinity....

So far the fundamental revolutionary force occupying cities, towns, neighborhoods and cantons is not comprised of locals, but of rebels "from outside"--guerrillas and the peoples army--who, upon conclusion of their operation, withdraw to other places, leaving the residents of the "evacuated" town "defenseless." They later become victims of indescribable repression.

Thus one might suppose that after the crimes and tortures, the violations and kidnappings, the looting and destruction that characterize the conduct of the Salvadoran repressive bodies, a spirit of demoralization and fear of revolutionary political-military organizations would be planted in the hearts of the injured people.... Nonetheless, the very opposite happens: The rebels once again occupy the town and the revolutionary fervor of the masses is intensified.... How would you explain this phenomenon?

The enemy makes efforts to silence the sympathy and militancy of the masses.... It tries to isolate the people from the revolutionary and democratic organizations by promising reforms that never materialize and by resorting to real, specific and profound repression to which we Salvadorans respond with an organized armed struggle, tired as we are of so much mockery and humiliation, exploitation and genocide.... The FPL does not allow the oligarchy or the guardians of their wealth and their allies to take the initiative, that is, to impose fear and demoralization through repression.... This is why our organization returns to the site of past incidents, fights the enemy at the military and political level, punishes the executioners in various ways and orients the people, who in turn provide new combatants for the FPL. The party is being strengthened. ...Besides, the political response of the masses is expressed in the streets, in the demonstrations denouncing the crimes and demanding an end to repression.... Meanwhile, we attract the attention of world opinion to what is really happening in El Salvador so the exploiting minority does not act with impunity.... Besides, if the repressive bodies return to a town where incidents have occurred, they do not find the same conditions and the blows dealt to them increase both quantitatively and qualitatively.... Thus, as repression is intensified, so is the class struggle intensified.... The mobilization of the masses is becoming constant and has led to the

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multiplication of the self-defense organizations.... The revolutionary violence of the masses responds to the outrages and the end of the system is near....

And what can be said about this year, which has begun with preinsurrectional activities?

It can be stated that we will concentrate our efforts on local armed insurrections, on guerrilla activities and on the growing peoples liberation army against the repressive forces.... We will try to develop the Salvadoran people's political and military instruments in order to make quality jumps and achieve social liberation....

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EL SALVADOR

FPL MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS OUTLINE STRUGGLE

PA292235 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1452 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Interview with members of the Farabundo Marti Military Committee by Mario Menendez Rodriguez on 28 February]

[Text] Somewhere in El Salvador, 28 Feb (PL)--Precisely because the United States considers Latin America its exclusive property and feels therefore that it has the right to intervene whenever it believes its interests or those of its partners are threatened, the Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] has taken as a fundamental point of its struggle against imperialism "the Central Americanization of the revolutionary struggle." This was explained by Isabel, one of the many women who have taken up arms in this oppressed "Tom Thumb" of Latin American geography, but who has something special that makes her stand out among the other women: She is a member of the top echelon that directs the work and military operations of the "Farabundo Marti," whose commander is Salvador Cayetano Carpio, the most noted leader of the Salvadoran working class.

The closer the decisive moment approaches for insurrection, in which the main role is played by the people, with their awareness, courage and determination to be free, the more the U.S. presence becomes evident and the repression increases: Fascist hordes break into the residence of the nation's attorney general, Mario Zamora Rivas, and mow him down with sub-machineguns; they kidnap Juan Chacon, secretary general of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc, his wife and baby daughter, and Carlos Argueta, leader of the 28 February Peoples Leagues; they dynamite the Catholic radio station and the Jesuits' publishing house; they execute--in broad daylight on one of the main avenues--several leaders of the General Association of University Students; they kidnap, torture and kill youths suspected of belonging to some of the political-military revolutionary organizations; they again threaten to kill Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, and they relentlessly persecute Fathers Jose Eutilio Sanchez and Jose David Gutierrez.

It is imperative to offer international solidarity to a people whose will to unite and to expand is unique and stronger than ever in the face of a threat from abroad.

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"The United States has never asked permission to invade Latin America.... It is time for all our peoples to close ranks against the principal enemy.... The Central American revolution is one, is indivisible, and the Salvadoran process cannot and must not be considered apart from those under way in Guatemala and Honduras," said Camilo, the other member of the National Military Committee of the "Farabundo Marti" Popular Liberation Forces.

#### Central America: A Revolutionary Nucleus

The United States has sent large arms shipments and advisers quickly to El Salvador. At the U.S. military bases in Panama, specialized counterinsurgency troops are conducting intensive exercises, while in Guatemala and Honduras there are military maneuvers with objectives already fixed.

The "model" divisions recently created by the government of President James Carter to be used in "cases of emergency" in the Caribbean are waiting for orders to intervene in the Salvadoran revolutionary process.

What is the outlook for revolution in Central America?

Isabel replies: "The scene is clear.... In Guatemala the people are resisting and fighting against the hateful military tyranny headed by Gen Romero Lucas Garcia. The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), the Armed Peoples' Organization (OPRA), the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), the Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT) and other labor and union organizations are an example of struggle in Latin America.... In Honduras the "Francisco Morazan" National Liberation Front, the Communist Party and other mass organizations are fighting to win a society of social justice.... In the sister Republic of Costa Rica, the Costa Rican Communist and Socialist parties and the revolutionary movements of the people and workers are mass organizations which, in national and Central American contexts, fight and offer solidarity to the peoples of the isthmus.... In Panama an eminently anti-imperialist people are being subjected to pressure by U.S. imperialism because they are genuinely fighting for their sovereignty and independence....

"Here in El Salvador the unity of action of the revolutionary and democratic forces is an important step toward victory.... The "Farabundo Marti" Popular Liberation Forces support every action which effectively offers relief to the working masses of our country and of Central America.... And we shall continue fighting to establish a popular revolutionary government on the way to socialism.... This struggle in the area, especially following the victory of the Nicaraguan people, has changed Central America into a truly revolutionary nucleus with one principal enemy: U.S. imperialism.... Therefore our organization must have as the fundamental point of its strategy the Central Americanization of the struggle...."

#### The Peoples Liberation Army

Who are the members of the Peoples Liberation Army [EPL]? What is its degree of development and what are its objectives?

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The "Farabundo Marti" National Military Committee created in 1975, is speaking to national and foreign public opinion for the first time through this interview with PRENSA LATINA.

"The fighters are peasants, farmworkers, industrial workers, students, teachers, men and women of the other social sectors who, filled with great love for the people, conscientious and sensitive to their suffering and humiliation, are willing to offer their own lives for a better world.... The EPL's objective is destruction of the strategic military forces of the 14 families and of imperialism, to conduct a war of mobility. It has proven its ability to strike the enemy anywhere in the country, and it is prepared, together with the Salvadoran people, to wage great decisive battles to take over power.... The EPL opposes the army of the oligarchy with the power of the weapons of the people and their military organization and, in a future filled with victories, will guarantee construction of the economic, political and social foundations of a new government that will promote the popular welfare.... These armed forces, born of the ranks of the impoverished and exploited masses have become strong in the heat of daily battles and have created regular military units that will contribute militarily to the establishment of people's power...."

[PA292316] What is the organizational structure of the EPL and the "Farabundo Marti" guerrillas?"

Camilo explains: "It must be remembered that the EPL units are strategic in nature. They are mobile, operate nationwide and are centralized, while the guerrilla units operate within a specific area and their mission is to support the operations of the EPL through permanent harassment and weakening of the enemy in its territorial base.... The "Farabundo Marti" guerrilla is underground, mingling with the people as a full-time professional.... The people are his eyes and ears.... He operates only in the area assigned to him and once he goes up, down, across and attacks, he will withdraw rapidly.... His military activity is circumscribed in a specific area, although that does not mean he must live there too...."

No, the guerrilla as a general rule lives in one area and operates in another, where the local militia which leads the revolutionary violence of the masses offers him the necessary support to carry out his political-military objective.... Now then, the guerrillas as well as the EPL stem from a basic unit, the squad, followed by the platoon, the section, the detachments [destacamentos] and the general staffs [estados mayores], which in the case of the guerrillas cover an area [son zonales] and in the case of the EPL are nationwide. All, however, come under the National Military Committee of the Central Command [Comision Militar Nacional del Comando Central]."

The Rear Guard: The People

Every time a revolutionary movement shows an outstanding tactical ability and checkmates the forces protecting the system of social injustice, those

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whose interests are seriously harmed or threatened claim that the insurgents are receiving arms, training and money from abroad. El Salvador is no exception to this rule, let alone when it comes to the FPL, the major political-military organization in the country. Where are Salvadoran combatants training and getting weapons and money?

Camilo was going to answer but a smile showed through the hood over Isabel's face, a smile that only a woman can smile, and which recalled the womanly spirit always present in El Salvador's female revolutionary combatants. She said: "At first it would seem difficult to understand the problem of weapons, training and money. However, if you remember that our country is under the yoke of an almost 50-year-old military dictatorship, you can understand that training begins in childhood, when one is out in the streets, in the day-to-day struggle against the repressive corps.... First you throw stones and then you slowly develop what is fundamental and what the exploiters do not understand: Revolutionary awareness and a fighting spirit.... The Salvadoran people's heroism is indescribable. At a later stage they gave us protection so we could set up our training camps to improve our techniques.... The enemy can be 20 meters away from a training center and not find it.... They can mount sweep operations from eastern La Union to western Santa Ana and never find an FPL camp.... Because our people are on the side of the revolution and they know how to protect their combatants.... Furthermore, since the EPL and the guerrillas are mixed among the people who are on the receiving end of the criminal military repression against whole townships--Aguilares, Cinquera, San Pedro Perulapan, to cite just a few examples--where people were indiscriminately killed, the painful circumstances of war compel the revolutionary combatants to develop and improve their military knowhow ad infinitum. This later permits us to deal more effective blows to the enemy forces.... Repression also prompts the Salvadoran people to give invaluable aid in terms of food, information and directions, which permit us to avoid the ambushes planned along roads and byways...."

Let it be understood: The unbeatable rearguard of the EPL, the hills where the guerrillas find a safe haven, are the Salvadoran people's and the combatants' revolutionary awareness, his indestructible weapon, manufactured by the masses only to annihilate the regular and irregular troops of those who are immensely wealthy at the expense of the hunger, blood and work of the dispossessed.... We take weapons from the enemy.... These are the same weapons the United States, NATO, Israel and South Africa sell the Salvadoran military.... The money comes from expropriations and the kidnapping of oligarchs who, in exchange for their release, are deprived of an infinitesimal part of the unearned income they take from our workers...."

Why are there no military ranks in the EPL or among the guerrillas and the militia?

"Military ranks," Camilo answers, "are limited to the chief of the squad, platoon, section or detachment.... The only rank is that of commander in

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chief, that is, Companero Marcial. We believe that at this stage our operatives should be imbued with a revolutionary spirit. They should acquire a proletarian mentality and bear in mind that we care only about the welfare of the masses. Our lives should be spent serving the people.... We do not think it helps at this stage to call a comrade "captain" or "commander".... The important thing to us is not the name of the boss but what he is like and what he does in our people's struggle....

[PA292315] About Kidnaping

The revolutionary movement often resorts to kidnapings in the struggle to change Salvadoran society, a weapon of debatable ethical value about which some social sectors have their doubts.

What is the goal of a kidnaping?

"Kidnaping," Isabel replies, "is a political, economic and military weapon that the proletariat and the people in general use to defend their interests.... It is an instrument that permits revolutionaries to achieve certain objectives that would otherwise be very difficult or impossible to achieve.... In that sense, a kidnaping can pursue economic, political and military objectives.... Economically it can seek to recover part of the unearned income stolen from our working people so that, instead of being used for the vices of the 14 families, it will serve the interests of the masses in the process of social liberation.... For instance, money is earmarked for the families of missing or dead comrades, for supporting revolutionary professionals, for purchasing weapons...and for other objectives connected with the anti-imperialist and antioligarchic revolution.... One would have to see how hard the Salvadoran bourgeoisie is fighting not to raise the workers' wages.... While it is true that our political-military organization is supported by the masses who provide funds and resources to the struggle, yet it is too obvious that a nation such as El Salvador, living in poverty due to extreme exploitation, needs to find ways to rescue from the hands of the exploiters the funds to develop its own revolutionary struggle and it would be very hard for the masses to take those funds out of their measly pay.... In fact, if our people have a tortilla, they give half of it to us and this makes us all the more committed.... The organization renders a detailed report on all its expenses.... Their use is for only one thing: The revolution.... Politically, a kidnaping draws attention to the drama of the Salvadoran people, the why and wherefore of their struggle.... Because in exchange for the life of an oligarch the government is compelled to allow the publication here and abroad of full-page advertisements on the reality of our country and the demands of the organization, demands which the government may or may not meet but which are a condemnation of it one way or the other.... A telling case was that of oligarch Mauricio Borjonovo Pohl who was foreign minister.... The fundamental condition for his release was that Gen Carlos Humberto Romero present to the people and release a certain number of political prisoners.... The objectives of this kidnaping were: To rescue revolutionary cadres to

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promote the struggle of our people and put an end to the pain of hundreds of relatives.... The government was unable to meet our demands because several of our comrades who had been kidnaped had died during torture.... The people became aware of the crimes committed and progressive individuals who were working for Romero's despotic regime because they were unaware of the inner workings of the official terror apparatus immediately condemned it and approved of our firm determination.... Kidnaping as a political objective, at a certain time, also permits us to voice our solidarity with the struggle of other peoples and, at the same time, denounce a specific imperialist maneuver.... And that is the case of South African Ambassador Archibald Gardner Dunn.... We Salvadorans feel profound love and enthusiasm for the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Rhodesia and Palestine against racism and its apartheid policy, against colonialism, neo-colonialism and Zionism, and for national independence and peace.... In addition to disseminating the revolutionary message of solidarity with blacks and Palestinians, it drew attention to the imperialist maneuver which at the time was operating around the government of the first Salvadoran junta. The junta was trying to portray itself internationally as democratic and progressive while at home it was being profoundly repressive and criminal.... However, the demands were not met.... Our organization is also consistent with its views and it has never failed on its word.... For instance: If we say that a certain oligarch will be released if certain conditions are met and they are not met, we do not formulate other demands later.... No, the revolutionary struggle must command the respect both of the people and the enemy which is compelled to recognize--and indeed recognizes--the seriousness of the FPL.... And it should also be noted that there is a difference between the treatment given an oligarch in a "people's prison" and that given a revolutionary in a prison cell or on the torture rack of the underground prisons of the national guard or another repressive corps.... We worry about the health, personal hygiene and emotional state of the prisoner whom we supply with books trying to make life bearable for him in spite of the circumstances.... Militarily a kidnaping seeks to obtain information that will permit us to work on strategic enemy targets or act against war criminals.... And their trials are going to start soon.... When someone is kidnaped, the organization takes charge of the person detained in the "people's prison" and we disclose the fact along with the demands to the family.... Since a kidnaping is a political tool, negotiations are always conducted in public before the eyes of the people. The FPL never does things behind the backs of the masses....

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EL SALVADOR

ERP CAPTIVE HILL DISCUSSES DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

PA031842 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1845 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Interview with Jaime Hill Arguello by PRELA correspondent Mario Menendez Rodriguez at peoples prison; PRELA prefaces interview with "This special feature on El Salvador is for the exclusive use of our correspondents; may be used with the permission of our office"]

[Excerpts] Somewhere in El Salvador, 29 Feb (PL)--Jaime Hill Arguello, prominent member of one of the 14 families that finance private armies, special "security" corps and paramilitary bands directed by fascist, national and foreign officers and a member of the oligarchy that encourages the direct armed intervention of the United States in this country, was interviewed by PRENSA LATINA in a "peoples prison" in which he had been held by the Revolutionary Peoples Army [ERP] since Wednesday, 31 October 1979.

We begin the interview following the preliminary identification.... Do you know why you have been kidnaped?

"Yes sir...it was by the ERP, which fights for social justice in El Salvador.... The reason I am being held here is to obtain a sum of money--in reality, I do not know the amount--that will help to promote the revolution... and put an end to poverty.... Now then, they are convinced, and I have pointed it out to them, that those who should rule are precisely those who have the greatest interest in the nation; the workers and private enterprise which, although it is not believed, have also been alienated.... I do not deny our contacts with the president of the republic--and I refer to Colonels Molina and Sanchez Hernandez--but we have not been taken into consideration for a political decision.... I do not know what happened with General Romero, whose friend I have been since 1960, when he was my instructor in equitation.... I feel very proud of his friendship, but he ignored by advice regarding the need for a change of course in his government to avoid civil war, for a year....

How have you been treated by the organization that is keeping you captive?

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"It definitely could not be better. And what I would most like to thank them for is the support given at these very difficult moments, because, believe me, confinement is hard...no matter how much patience and willpower one may have, sometimes one breaks, one gives in...on the other hand, I harbor no resentment for anyone in particular, not for the revolution they are carrying out either.... My economic situation will be affected, but if money benefits many families, I will feel honored that it was from me that it was taken...."

Do you participate now or have you participated in Salvadoran politics?

"Not actively, no. I have never participated in Salvadoran politics.... I am proud, as I already told you, to be a friend of General Romero and of other presidents and officials...but that is all.... Perhaps, I have been able...to give advice on...the issue of agrarian reform, which is foremost at the present time. I suggested this to General Romero, but he did not make any changes.... On the other hand, I do not believe that agrarian reform is definitely necessary in El Salvador, it being such a small territory...."

What do you think, then, of the concentration of land?

"Well now, I (?think) that if there is a lot of land in the hands of a few people, I would not know what to tell you...what I would be in a position to assert is that the profit made from this land would be shared with the men who work it...and that the responsibilities in the administration of these properties could also be shared...."

Mr Hill. During my travels through El Salvador, I have noticed the fact that the nation's wealth is concentrated in the hands of 14 families, yours among them. Are you a Christian?

"Yes, of course...."

And do you think that is fair?

"No. I definitely do not consider it fair...but...I am not a technician, I could not reply as to whether El Salvador would profit by dividing up that land...."

"Yes, I believe in the need for an agrarian reform, but not by parceling off all the land...it could be done, as I have already told you, by having the people of the rural areas sharing in the profits and the responsibility of administration.... I am not an economist...and, unfortunately, I am unfamiliar with farming affairs as well...but I know that there are landowners who own 2,500 manzanas sown with cotton and they have plantations of beans, corn and so forth...but I couldn't tell you exactly.... Now, if in your travels through the land, you have obtained proof of the concentration of land in a few hands, then in that case, agrarian reform must come...."

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To what do you attribute the poverty that exists among the Salvadoran people?

"Well, the moral responsibility falls on us, the private businessmen who, by producing and paying taxes, believed we had already fulfilled our social functions.... That was a serious mistake, because we should have invested the money we paid in taxes in the construction of homes and the education and health of our people...."

The Oligarchy Has To Lose

Mr Hill, those 14 families, including yours, have created private armies made up of North American, Somozist, Saigonese, Guatemalan and counter-revolutionary Cuban mercenaries. What is your opinion of this?

"I cannot answer that question because I have been here since 31 October of last year...my information is obtained from the newspapers that my captors give me and the radio to which I listen.... I could not say whether it is true or not...however, what I can say is that if that is true, they would be making a serious error...because property is protected by winning the good will of the peasants, by being good to the people of the rural areas...carrying out more social justice...and not by importing foreigners to defend it.... In El Salvador, the private enterprise sector is a very small minority.... How do you think 14 families are going to fight 4.5 million inhabitants who demand social justice?... I believe they would be making a serious mistake by trying to defend their land by means of a war.... They would lose out.... Definitely, Salvadoran capital has to yield more...do social justice to the most needy of the nation...."

[PA031843] What is your opinion of the revolutionary and democratic forces struggling for a just society in El Salvador?

"I think they not only have the right but the duty to struggle for social justice in this country.... Now then, I do not share [their advocacy of] violent methods.... However, if my son were starving and I were passing in front of a bakery without a single cent in my pocket, I would enter and take a piece of bread.... The same thing is happening with the organizations which are currently promoting the revolution in El Salvador...."

Many factories and work centers have been dismantled and their equipment taken to Guatemala, Costa Rica or Miami in recent months as a means of applying pressure toward and speeding up an armed foreign intervention.... Thousands of workers have lost their jobs overnight and death by starvation has begun threatening El Salvador....

Mr Hill, what should be, in your opinion, the attitude of the Salvadoran managerial sector?

"The private entrepreneur should realize that times change and that one can no longer drink wine when the children are drinking dirty water.... What the

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private sector should do is devote itself to its enterprises, make them produce more and share its wealth.... It should not try to win this war on the basis of another war.... Social justice is what is required in El Salvador...."

Of the 14 families, it is specifically the Hill family which is in charge of establishing, through the Cuscatlan and popular credit banks, the links between the wealth of the Salvadoran oligarchy and the experience of the local and foreign fascist militarymen, some of whose names are mentioned in connection with companies of variable capital [sociedades anonimas de capital variable].

Roberto Hill coordinates the financial and repressive operations.

"I know absolutely nothing about it.... I have no evidence.... I have heard that the paramilitary bands are organized, financed and armed by a group of private firms which are trying to prevent any type of social reform.... I disagree.... Because first and foremost, I believe in social justice.... One does not eliminate the sea by turning one's back to it... And the wave will sweep them away or pass over them causing them much greater harm...."

Who do you think is murdering dozens and hundreds of peasants in El Salvador?

"I do not know. I have been held here for a long time and before that I accompanied my parents on a trip to the United States for eye surgery.... The only thing I know is what I read in the press.... I was even out of the country when the coup against General Romero took place.... I believe, therefore, that the security corps--the national guard, the national police and the treasury police--committed those murders.... That they went to the farms to dislodge the people who had taken them over.... However, I do not know who directs those operations...."

However, those killings of peasants and workers, students and teachers have not occurred in the last few months; they have been a constant occurrence in the political life of this Central American nation, is not this true?

"Look, thus far I had never seen or heard about evictions in which 90 or 100 people were killed.... And, regarding the professors and students, I know nothing about this, because there are so many rumors in El Salvador that one does not know what to believe."

Do you mean that you know nothing about the repression unleashed in May of 1979?

"Yes, I definitely know nothing about it...."

Didn't you read the newspapers with the photographs of the bodies of maimed and tortured peasants?....

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"Well, I am not unaware of it now.... Because the ERP has given me documents related to the commission in charge of investigating the whereabouts of the missing prisoners and politicians.... Thus far, here in the prison, I have learned about inhuman acts: The bodies uncovered in clandestine graveyards.... Then I realized what was happening in the country...."

Are you even unaware of the fact that Salvadoran priests were being murdered?

"No, I knew the case of Father Rutilio Grande, but I do not know who killed him...."

Mr Hill, the archbishop of San Salvador has blamed the extreme right for these murders.... And you are a Catholic....

"Well, so I have been told.... Because I have never heard Monsignor Romero's homilies.... Actually, I have sort of listened to them over the radio, here at the prison.... I pay no attention to them. Yes, I have heard him accuse the right, blame it for those murders and he, as a preacher of God, should be telling the truth.... I think he says what he really feels in his heart.... Only God knows if he is telling the truth, or if he is doing so in order for a peaceful revolution to take place in El Salvador, for the social justice everybody hopes for to be established...."

Mr Hill, do you sincerely believe the archbishop of San Salvador would lie?

"I could not truly say so.... I do not think he has a right to lie.... As a church dignitary, I do not think he can tell such a big lie.... However, it could be, there is the possibility that Monsignor Romero was misinformed...."

Last year dozens of local and foreign newsmen witnessed the massacres in San Salvador's streets. Were you unaware of all this?

"Well, I was not unaware.... However, I heard that about 8 or 10 people died in front of the cathedral because they had fired shots at a truck carrying policemen and that the policemen became nervous and opened fire.... That is what I learned and I did not concern myself with inquiring about it.... It was not until August 1979 that, while in another country, I saw the movie of the dreadful killing in front of the cathedral...."

You seem to be unaware of many of the things which are occurring in El Salvador.... Have you been out of the country for a long time?

"Yes, I have traveled extensively in the last year and a half, that is, since September 1978...."

[PA031844] In your opinion, what were the causes for the overthrow of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero?

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"The high degree of corruption prompted the group of young militarymen to intervene to restore the respect which the armed forces deserved...."

Don't you believe the killings were linked with the bankruptcy of General Romero?

"Not directly, but indirectly, since the president of the republic is the commanding general of the armed forces and they proceed according to his orders.... The killings generated among the people a repulsion for General Romero and indirectly contributed to his overthrow...."

In your opinion, whom do the armed forces and the other security corps serve?

"The republic and the citizens...."

Do you believe they serve them by killing the people?

"No. I am referring to their services...such as when someone wants to steal from a poor peasant's home or tries to hold up an office or a store, large or small, then definitely the armed forces come out to defend these Salvadorans who are being attacked by common thieves...."

El Salvador is a capitalist society where 14 families rule. Have you not considered what are the pillars which support this power?

"No, although according to our constitution, they are the constitution and the laws...."

But the constitution is not respected in this country....

"Well, I have my doubts about that, because I believe it is generally respected...."

What is your opinion about the current military junta and its alliance with the Christian Democrats?

"The situation is very serious, but now I am confident because the Christian Democratic Party has a team that knows where it is heading and how to do things...this was not the case with the first governing junta...."

The ministers of the previous regime, however, resigned not because they were not team members, but because the militarymen servicing the 14 families exercising the economic and political power were opposed to any change....

"Well, all I know is what I read in the papers and what I hear on the radio...."

Do you believe the former education minister joined the "Farabundo Marti" Peoples Liberation Forces because he considered all peaceful ways to settle the problems closed or merely as a whim?

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"For neither of these reasons.... He did it as a gesture of desperation, of frustration.... He wanted social justice...but once in the government and after 2 and 1/2 months, when he saw nothing had changed, he felt cheated...."

Do you believe the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party and the ERP are made by frustrated workers?

"No, it is not a matter of a frustrated people.... They have a deep conviction, a very good organization and admirable discipline.... They fight for social justice in El Salvador.... I have seen the sacrifices they have to make and the work they carry out day and night to achieve their objectives. They know where they are going...."

Do you believe there is now unanimity between the Christian Democrats and the military junta and will it lead to a solution of the problems affecting El Salvador?

"Yes, there is definitely agreement on criteria.... The young militarymen see the need for profound structural changes to achieve social justice, which is also the goal of the Christian Democrats.... Under the leadership of Engineer Duarte who, already has a well-established plan for the social reforms required in El Salvador.... True, the militarymen in the present junta were also in the previous one, but I insist that the problem was in the team, in the unity agreement on criteria...."

You have had the opportunity to talk with Ana Guadalupe Martinez, a member of the revolutionary organization that is holding you captive and who is the author of horrible charges against military despotism: "The Clandestine Prisons of El Salvador." What did you think after reading the book and talking to her?

"...Such methods are absolutely inhuman.... That is not proper for our times, of a civilized republic such as El Salvador.... It is cruelty which leads to nothing but hatred among classes...."

In your opinion, what has been the role of the United States in El Salvador?

"To influence the government into being more democratic and to allow the people to have real participation through free elections.... Its corporations invest in our country and it is logical that they should make a profit.... If they have taken wealth, they have also offered us the opportunity of new sources of work.... Its mistake, however, in my opinion, was to have invested very little capital and having done everything with credits from our banking system.... On the other hand, I believe the United States should grant us long-term loans with soft interests because, then, the people would definitely live as human beings in El Salvador...."

Finally, what prospects do you see for the Salvadoran revolution?

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"I see very good prospects.... I am sure that with ERP's strong convictions, discipline and pride, it cannot fail.... The revolution will be carried out.... And I would be willing to support the ERP in any way I can so that social justice may definitely rule in El Salvador.... They cannot fail. It is impossible for them to fail."

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EL SALVADOR

FORMER MINISTER SAMAYOA DISCUSSES FPL IDEOLOGY

PA280217 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2231 GMT 26 Feb 80 PA

[Interview with former Education Minister Salvador Samayoa somewhere in El Salvador, by Mario Menendez Rodriguez; date not given]

[Excerpts] Somewhere in El Salvador, 24 Feb--"I have had time to mediate much more about it...it was the right decision. I believe that any sacrifice I must make will be done with hope and optimism," Salvador Samayoa-- education minister under the first junta and member of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces [FPL] since Tuesday, 8 January--has told PRENSA LATINA in strict secrecy.

"There is not a power in the world, no matter how large, that can defeat a people who are determined to obtain their freedom," the 29-year-old philosopher said in an exclusive interview with the newsman who interviewed him before he resigned on 2 January. On that day he made the spectacular and unexpected announcement at the auditorium of the law school of the National University--packed with people and militarily occupied by FPL members--that he was joining the armed struggle.

The newsman found a new Samayoa...he has changed physically and spiritually. The text of the historic interview follows:

[Question] How do you feel in your new life as an FPL member?

[Answer] I believe that the first fact I must stress about this new life is something I had imagined but had not truly experienced: the high degree of comradeship that I have found on the part of my fellow comrades and militants..from the human viewpoint, their acceptance has helped me a lot... because the conditions are difficult....

[Question] Why did you choose this path?

[Answer] I believe it was decisive to have confirmed that the regular Salvadoran army is fully and permanently committed to defending the interest of the oligarchy and that it is defending them with weapons in hand...I can

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see no other way for the people to confront a military apparatus which is so solid than with another military apparatus equally solid or superior to it if possible. I can see no other instruments of struggle which may render any positive results in this country where other means have been tried for 30 years in a very different manner and under various hegemonic lines. The result of this has been the progressive deterioration of the living conditions of the people, the progressive deterioration of the economic model and an increasing determination on the part of the oligarchy and its repressive organizations to annihilate and exterminate the popular organizations. By selecting the path of armed struggle we respond to an objective and completely necessary need from the viewpoint of the historic conditions of El Salvador: the masses must create their own revolutionary instruments for their self-defense and resistance at a given moment and then go on from simple self-defense to the conquest of power. Truly, I can see no other way to confront a military power if not with another military power....

[Question] Why did you join the FPL?

[Answer] To me, this is the main point. I had stated that I felt a greater political rapprochement with the FPL...perhaps because of my position as a university professor I had always been concerned with following the political line--in their theory and practical results--of the various orientations of the popular movement in general and the revolutionary movement in particular. And it seems to be that, up to now, the organization with the most coherent, solid and constant line of integration of the revolutionary instruments and the armed struggle with the masses is precisely the FPL. I believe that the falsehood of the idea of using guerrilla pockets has been fully demonstrated and that any armed struggle which is not deeply connected with the people and which does not constantly generate and promote the development of the movement of the masses is doomed to fail. I believe that the FPL has proven to be the group with the greatest political clarity from its beginning, especially in line with creating broad fronts for the masses in all sectors: the working, peasant, student, teacher, media, etc. Moreover, I believe that the FPL has clearly stated the need for a true party of the Salvadoran revolution. I believe that without the solid base of a party, no group or organization can become the vanguard of a popular movement. In reality, a group must prove with facts and in practice that it has enough organization, political and military consolidation so that it can become the vanguard of the masses. Any other attempt would be a fraud or an illusion. I believe that the FPL has been very serious in regard to this.

[Question] What is your opinion of the unity of the revolutionary forces in El Salvador?

[Answer] Unity is the necessary condition in order to carry out a revolutionary process. I believe that we have reached a stage in the struggle which is so superior and polarized...that the attack of the enemies of the

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people will be carried out very shortly. In a comprehensive and open way, the war of counterinsurgency, without any mask or cover, is about to begin; and if the revolutionary forces are not united militarily, politically and organically, none of them will be able to resist the full and open attack of the enemies of the people separately.

[PA280223] Therefore, unity is a necessity and the revolutionary organizations have realized this. The first step has been taken. There will naturally be difficulties because, as I said previously, I believe that the political-military organizations have responded for years to differing programs and positions, and it will not be easy to unite certain things. Reality has demonstrated the greater historical validity of certain guidelines and certain principles as compared to others and I believe that political modesty is a virtue that is required for every authentic revolutionary militant and organization as a whole. One cannot defend that which does not reflect objective reality. For this reason, from the viewpoint of principle, there will be fewer problems.

It is possible that more difficulties may arise because of the working methods or organic integration.

This opportunity that PRENSA LATINA has offered me is important because at this time we need to unite all efforts. First of all, I believe that the most liberal, petty-bourgeoisie academic and intellectuals sectors from which I come, have perhaps made the very serious error of having turned our backs, in practice, on the popular movement. We have committed the error of not learning, of having failed to learn how to coexist with the people and to feel in the heat of combat the justice of their principles and their methods. We have made the error of trying to determine, on the basis of our theoretical concepts, what the form and mode and the phases of the struggle should be, without taking into account the element or elements that are available only when one is really participating in the struggle alongside the people, instead of only making declarations of intention. This is the primary message that I would send to all the comrades in whom I found great human, political and intellectual values. I believe that you have to place all your science, vitality and sensibility at the service of the struggle and the people's movement, not abstractly, but through your specific revolutionary instruments. It is possible or certain that those revolutionary instruments may have weaknesses, but what we cannot, what we must not do is add theoretical criticism from outside to these weaknesses. What we must do is try to overcome these weaknesses from within by joining the people's struggle.

Therefore, my message is let there be a desire to participate, a political willingness to join in the people's struggle, a mentality that is sufficiently humble and modest to know that there is something for one to learn and something that one can contribute. Let there be political clarity to realize that this is a higher phase of the struggle and that we will probably soon enter the final stretch, that is a process and a class structure and a

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mode of struggle that is very polarized and in which there is no middle ground: he who is not on the side of the people and their instruments will have to turn increasingly against the people. I believe this is not what the liberal university sectors from which I come desire. Perhaps there has been a lack of political clarity and perhaps there has been a lack of decisiveness, but I believe that there is good will.

Our political-military organizations, especially the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces, are interested in obtaining all possible support from all sectors, because otherwise we cannot wage the struggle for the people's benefit. I would like to say to university professors, to my teachers, to the liberal sector, as well as to small and medium landowners, producers, businessmen that the people's revolution is not directed against them. Bourgeoisie propaganda wishes to sell that idea to attract them to that side. Our revolution is directed against the great oligarchic capitalist power, the repressive apparatuses which defend that power and the imperialist intervention which also encourages and defends that power. It is not directed against the middle classes or against economic units of low productivity.

[Question] How does El Salvador's future look to you?

[Answer] I view it with optimism and healthy revolutionary concern...with optimism, because on observing the latest years of our political process, one can really see a very high degree of maturity and preparedness on the part of our popular organization. I also view it with concern, because I believe that the final phase in destroying the apparatus of domination will be very hard. Above all, I am fully confident of the people's victory. However, even after the political-military victory has been won, the efforts to build a society on the path to socialism, the efforts to implement the people's power in practice, will be very difficult. There will be many obstacles. This is a country with few resources and I believe we will face difficulties...there are 5 million inhabitants. I believe that the difficulties, to give an example, will be much greater than those that the Nicaraguan process may have faced or may be facing. In this regard, I believe that the authentic revolutionary militant must always keep in mind that his objective is the construction of a just society that is free of exploitation and a society in which there is real equality, freedom and economic, cultural and other development. To those who feel distressed by the failure of the previous government, I would say that, on the contrary, this should be a motive for optimistically deepening the struggle and for realizing that now, more than ever, it is necessary to struggle resolutely and to have faith in the people. I have faith in the Salvadoran people, because there is no power on earth, no matter how great, that can defeat an entire people which is determined to win its liberty.

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GUATEMALA

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON EXTREMISM IN COUNTRY

LD051615 Madrid CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 2 Mar 80 p 49 LD

[Interview with Donaldo Alvarez Ruis, Guatemalan Minister of Interior, by Pedro Paramo on 12 February: "Spain Is Not To Be Discussed"]

[Text] "A minister of the interior should always be on good terms with God, because he could die at any time," Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, the minister responsible for Guatemala's public order forces, stated, moments after he escaped from an attack similar to that against [former Spanish Prime Minister] Carrero Blanco 11 February.

The minister's life was saved by the car's armor plating. A very powerful bomb, planted in a van double-parked on the route which he was following to his office, lifted the car 1.5 meters off the ground and demolished doors and windows of homes in the two nearby blocks.

Donaldo emerged from the car pale but calm, clutching a submachine gun. Some 24 hours after the attack, he received Pedro Paramo of CAMBIO 16 in his luxurious office at the Presidential Palace.

CAMBIO 16: Is there any new development with respect to the attack against the Spanish embassy?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: No, there is nothing new as yet. The investigation is continuing.

CAMBIO 16: Why did you not speak with the Spanish ambassador when he telephoned you to inform you that the embassy had been invaded?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: Because I was at a meeting and had given instructions that no telephone call be put through to me.

CAMBIO 16: From whom did you learn that the embassy had been seized?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: From the security forces.

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CAMBIO 16: What orders did you then give to the security forces?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: That they should act in accordance with the circumstances, and not....

CAMBIO 16: That is, you at least support the police's conduct....

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: I am the chief of police. And I do not wish to discuss this matter further. There are very sensitive details, and the truth could be very painful.

CAMBIO 16: Do you not believe that the truth should be known, however unpleasant it may be?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: I prefer not to discuss this further.

CAMBIO 16: It is said that the campaign against the ambassador originated from your ministry.

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: That is untrue. The campaign to which you refer originated from members of the Spanish community who were privately watching the ambassador very closely. We have been very careful not to complicate matters further. Relations with Spain should be fraternal and nothing should obstruct that fraternity.

CAMBIO 16: Amnesty International has just published a report on violations of human rights in Guatemala, and a considerable share of responsibility for the matters exposed rests with you, as minister of the interior....

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: Who is Amnesty International? Where did it originate? Who pays them? For whom does it work? Who gave it the authority to interfere in a sovereign government's internal affairs? Eh? We would like to know what these gentlemen's intentions are. Why do they not devote themselves to exposing violations of human rights in other countries about which everybody knows but about which Amnesty says nothing? Efforts should be made to find out why it now has its batteries trained against Guatemala.

CAMBIO 16: It is also said that the government harshly represses the left and turns a blind eye to the right wing.

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: Let people say what they like. I can assure you that there is no discrimination with respect to extremism and that the same vigor is applied to combating both sides.

CAMBIO 16: A member of your party--the first deputy speaker of congress--has said that Guatemala is experiencing a civil war, when commenting on the attack against you. Do you really believe that there is a civil war?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: No. There can be no talk at all about a civil war. There are two extremist factions--one on the right and the other on the left--currently confronting each other, which are creating this atmosphere

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of violence. But neither of these factions has sufficient power of attraction to drag the country into a civil war.

CAMBIO 16: What kind of support do the Guatemalan guerrillas receive?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: Mainly technical and financial aid, although we know that the latter is not very great.

CAMBIO 16: What countries support them?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: I could not tell you. There is no conclusive proof that other countries are helping them directly, but we do have reports that there are penetrations by Cubans and Nicaraguans in Guatemala.

[LD051617] CAMBIO 16: You have only spoken of police solutions to the problem of violence. Are there no others?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: Yes indeed. The government is adopting measures of a political and social nature to isolate the sources of violence. There is an opening toward greater pluralism: Four new political parties have just been authorized, and important measures in the social field are also under way.

CAMBIO 16: One of your colleagues has hinted that the attack against you could have come from the extreme right wing, which has apparently threatened to kill you. Is it known who is responsible for the attack?

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz: No, not as yet. It is being investigated, but it is possible that it will never be known.

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NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT MEDICINE CONTROL

PA032145 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2031 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Mar (PL)--Sergio Ramirez, member of the government junta, has announced here that the state will control imports, distribution and pricing of medicines.

It was announced here that the purpose of a decree in this regard is to "drastically reduce the prices of imported and domestically produced medications."

It was explained that the decree does not provide for nationalization of pharmacies or of companies which produce or distribute medicines, but rather for the establishment of mixed enterprises.

Ramirez told the press that profiteering has raised the prices of some drugs to over four times their Costa Rican price. He said medicines cannot continue to be merchandise used for profit, but rather for social good.

Public health officials have reported that distributing companies have been defrauding consumers by selling them medications with foreign labels and "very strange names" and charging as much as 10 times the cost of the same item produced domestically.

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