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1 OF 1

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30 April 1980

Latin America Report

(FOUO 9/80)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MAS Issues Declaration on Cuban-Venezuelan Relations
(PRELA, 9 Apr 80) 1

Briefs
Cuba's Almeida in Jamaica 2

COLOMBIA

Government Decides To Expedite Talks With M-19
(P. Pablo Camargo; PRELA, 15 Apr 80) 3

CUBA

'PRELA' Criticizes U.S. Caribbean Maneuvers
(Ivonne Pastor Parra; PRELA, 22 Apr 80) 5

U.S. 'Pressure' on Greece, Turkey Cited
(Miguel Lozano; PRELA, 13 Apr 80) 7

'PRELA' Comments on U.S. Olympic Committee Decision
(Rolando Lahera; PRELA, 13 Apr 80) 9

Article Analyzes Cuban Reaction to U.S. Activities
(Manuel Felipe Sierra; PRELA, 16 Apr 80) 11

U.S. Allies Unwilling To Back Confrontation With USSR
(PRELA, 16 Apr 80) 14

'PRELA' Reports on CDR's Meeting in Support of Government
(PRELA, 13 Apr 80) 15

Text of Foreign Ministry Statement on Andean Lima Meeting
(PRELA, 11 Apr 80) 17

- a -

[III - LA - 144 FOUO]

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CONTENTS (Continued)

Briefs	
Carter's Haitian Refugees Policy	19
EL SALVADOR	
BPR's Chacon Interviewed on Junta, U.S. Interference (Mario Menendez Rodriguez; PRELA, 13 Apr 80)	20
FDR Head Sees Danger of 'Massive U.S. Interference' (Andres Escobar; PRELA, 18 Apr 80)	26
Salvadorans See Growing Revolutionary Unity at Home (PRELA, 16 Apr 80)	28
Report on Formation of FDR Coalition (Andres Escobar; PRELA, 17 Apr 80)	29
MEXICO	
Paper Says Mexico Does Not Share Hostilities Against Cuba (PRELA, 17 Apr 80)	30
NICARAGUA	
Briefs	
Sandinist Youth on U.S. Maneuvers	31
PANAMA	
PDP Leader Urges Progressive Groups To Support Cuba (Silvio I. Mendiandua; PRELA, 10 Apr 80)	32
Briefs	
'BAYANO': U.S. Provoking Cuba	34

- b -

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CUBA'S ALMEIDA IN JAMAICA--Kingston, 12 Apr (PL)--Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Politburo of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and vice president of the Council of State, arrived in Jamaica today at the head of a three-man delegation. At the Jamaica International Airport he was received by Dudley Thompson, national security minister and president of the ruling Peoples National Party, Cuban Ambassador Ulises Estrada Lescalle, Jamaican Foreign Ministry officials and the personnel of the Cuban State Mission in Kingston. The Cuban delegation includes also Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the Central Committee, and Aramis Fuentes, chief of the foreign relations section of the Cuban Communist Party. Almeida and Thompson conversed cordially with the visiting high-level Cuban delegation. [Text] [PA122349 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Apr 80 PA]

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CUBA

'PRELA' CRITICIZES U.S. CARIBBEAN MANEUVERS

PA231242 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0311 GMT 22 Apr 80

[Article by Ivonne Pastor Parra]

[Text] The U.S. military maneuvers close to Cuba and the landing of marines at the Guantanamo Naval Base are considered a provocation and a threat to Caribbean and Latin American peoples.

The "Solid Shield 80" maneuvers, to begin on 1 May with the purpose of rehearsing an invasion of Cuba, have been denounced as part of an anti-Cuban cold war campaign promoted by President James Carter and his national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Not only does Washington carry out these provocations against Cuba, first socialist country in Latin America, but it also drafts destabilization plans which the CIA and the Pentagon promote against Nicaragua, Grenada and Jamaica, as well as other maneuvers to confront the growing liberation struggle of the peoples in the region.

While the United States interferes in Salvadoran domestic affairs, it also intensifies economic and military aid to the military junta in this Central American country and installs new U.S. military bases in the Swan Islands in the Caribbean and in the Gulf of Fonseca.

The maneuvers which the United States has scheduled close to Cuba and the new landing of marines at the Guantanamo Naval Base, a territory illegally occupied by Washington since 1898, have been criticized by world public opinion and described as a means of exerting military pressure on this Caribbean Island.

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge recently said that the U.S. war maneuvers cause concern in Nicaragua and in Latin American nations, which cannot understand this display of military power.

"I believe that the maneuvers are a provocation and that the United States should give an explanation for them because it is a very great and strong

5
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country from a military point of view and one cannot say that these maneuvers are caused by the fear of an aggression by some Latin American country," Borge said.

The Nicaraguan interior minister also referred to the great propaganda campaign which the U.S. information media carried out in response to his statements that "if the United States invades Salvadoran territory Nicaragua would also feel attacked."

Why the alarm, Borge asked, or is it that the United States really intends to invade El Salvador? The proper thing to do is to say that the United States does not intend to intervene.

Meanwhile, Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said on 15 April that any action against the Cuban revolution, "is condemned to failure and would be repudiated by all the peoples of the world."

He added that the manipulation by the Western press of the incidents at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba conceals the real purposes of the U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean aimed at the Central American liberation movements.

The Latin American Journalists Federation (FELAP), which has its headquarters in Mexico, issued a declaration supporting the Cuban revolution in view of the events at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana and repudiating the U.S. military maneuvers.

In FELAP's opinion, the publicity campaign against Cuba uses psychological warfare mechanisms prior to direct aggression by U.S. imperialism on the island at a time when the aggressive forces headed by Washington are being defeated in all parts of the world.

In Panama the plenum of the 5th National Panamanian Workers Congress and the main women's organizations repudiated the U.S. military maneuvers and said that the events at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba are linked to an aggressive U.S. plan against the revolutionary movements in Central America and the Caribbean.

Meanwhile the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA said that the U.S. intends to discredit the Cuban revolution and pretends to distort the peaceful nature of Cuban foreign policy as well as to undermine its active role in the non-aligned country movement.

He added that since these plans are not working, the United States Government is beginning to rely on the direct threat method and on military pressure on Cuba. He emphasized that evident expressions of this are the plans to carry out military maneuvers in the Caribbean and at the Guantanamo Naval Base next May.

The anti-Cuban nature of the provocation is evident to all and the offensive character of the maneuvers is also emphasized by the fact that the official representatives of the Carter administration in Washington have begun a sort of "psychological war" against Cuba, PRAVDA said.

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6
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CUBA

U.S. 'PRESSURE' ON GREECE, TURKEY CITED

PA141529 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2245 GMT 13 Apr 80

[Commentary by Miguel Lozano: "The United States: Pressure on NATO's Southern Flank"]

[Text] The visit of U.S. senators to Greece and Turkey makes it more evident that Washington, in a maneuver not unconnected to election interests, is trying "to tighten the screws" on its two allies following its latest failures in the area.

This is just a new element in the complex tangle of pressures and haggling to obtain concessions that characterizes the relations among the three countries. However, the tour through Athens and Ankara by the U.S. congressmen has provoked unrest among Greek and Turkish groups, especially those in the opposition.

The Turkish press has stated that the meetings went beyond traditional parliamentary relations between the two nations and had the fundamental objective of alerting the Turkish leaders about "the Soviet threat in the area."

Some political observers have said that the tour by the congressmen was to prepare eventual future steps against countries not sharing the opinion of the U.S. administration regarding the alleged Soviet threat in the area.

As the latest activities by Washington show--especially since the fall of the republican government of Bulent Ecevit and its replacement by that of rightist Suleyman Demirel--the fact is that the United States apparently has great expectations regarding Turkish participation in the application of the "Carter doctrine" in the Middle East and Near East.

Until now the Turkish leaders have supported with reservations the U.S. plans. A U.S. Senate report made public in Ankara by the daily HURRIYET noted U.S. disgust with the way the Turks use their strategic importance to negotiate and obtain bigger loans and economic aid.

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In Athens, meanwhile, the newspapers TO VIMA, RIZOSPASTIS, and PROINI have stated that the trip by members of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee is part of the "continuous pressure" exerted on Greece and Turkey to obtain more concessions for the sake of unity in NATO's southeast wing.

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8
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CUBA

'PRELA' COMMENTS ON U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE DECISION

PA140442 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2315 GMT 13 Apr 80 P.

[Commentary by Rolando Lahera: "Carter's Autogol"]

[Text] The decision of the U.S. Olympic Committee to abstain from participating in the Moscow games is a dead-eye shot at the heart of the U.S. athletes, an autogol [a goal scored by a player against his own team] against the goalposts of President James Carter.

In order not to lose the subsidy assigned by Congress and knowing perfectly well that the Carter administration as a last resort would even arrest the athletes to prevent them from travelling to Moscow, the U.S. Olympic Committee yielded to the government pressures which it and endured for the last 3 months.

Now then, we ask what are the arguments used to boycott the upcoming Olympic games: What is the purpose and who will be harmed most?

Ever since President Carter on 20 January told the U.S. athletes they should not participate in the Olympic games as a protest of Soviet aid to Afghanistan, observers confirmed that as a last resource, Carter would try to impose his decision to prevail at any price.

The only reason he is doing this is to protest the Soviet aid to Afghanistan, to try to make the world think that the Soviet Union--which owns large oil deposits in Siberia--is trying to take possession of its neighbors' "black gold."

The "leitmotiv" used is obviously weak, as it is well known that the USSR is not lacking the elemental hydrocarbon while, on the other hand, the United States is short of this product and has daily problems with its suppliers, such as Iran.

The objective is to project a false image at the upcoming summer Olympic games that the U.S. athletes abstained from attending the games to protest the aforementioned reason. A U.S. newspaperman asked: "Who is protesting, our athletes or our President?"

9
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The athletes had expressed their viewpoints 3 weeks ago during a meeting with the U.S. chief of state and came out of that meeting feeling disappointed, charging that their opinions were not taken into account; that only the opinion of President Carter prevailed.

The Lake Placid winter Olympics were held 3 months ago without many difficulties, except those imposed on the Soviet Union to block their participation. Nevertheless, the games were dominated by the USSR and the GDR representatives.

During those games, not only was the U.S. Olympic Committee subjected to pressures, but efforts were also made to convince the International Olympic Committee to move the games from Moscow. The U.S. kickers, however were left without a goalpost in which to kick their dirty soccer ball.

In view of this, they started to close in on the U.S. Olympic Committee and threatened to withdraw their subsidy and annul the legal clause that entitles the U.S. Olympic Committee to decide its participation in Olympic games.

So, the meeting over this weekend at Colorado Springs took place under those conditions. The U.S. vice president delivered his unfortunate speech there, making comparisons between the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin and the upcoming ones in Moscow.

Walter Mondale tried to use the black athletes as standard bearers, despite their repeated protests (remember the case of Tommie Smith and John Carlos in the Mexico Olympics, athletes whose medals were taken from them) of the discrimination to which the negroes are subjected in the United States.

Those most affected, in fact the only ones affected, were the athletes, the hundreds of young men and women who for the past 4 years had their sights fixed on the Soviet capital and dreamed of the gold medal and the popularity and prestige that would help assure them a more pleasant future in a nation with a percent rate of unemployment.

Now these young men and women, who bitterly received the decision of the Olympic Committee as their 4 years of daily efforts, sacrifices and limitations suddenly crumbled, sadly observe the frustrated reunion with their Olympic friends.

President Carter, who apparently is not too fortunate as an athlete (last year he fainted while participating in a long distance race) finally decided to kick the ball into his own goalposts. The autogol is the price of those who launch into a soccer game without knowing the technicalities of the game.

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10
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CUBA

U.S. ALLIES UNWILLING TO BACK CONFRONTATION WITH USSR

PA172313 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1905 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Havana, 16 Apr (PL)--According to the newspaper GRANMA, President James Carter's administration is attempting to torpedo the policy of detente which sensible peoples and governments are aiming for.

GRANMA says that the United States endeavors to justify its attitude by resorting, as on previous occasions, to the "needs of national security," allegedly threatened by the USSR, and that the announcement of future U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean were made in the context of this war-mongering hysteria.

With regard to the wornout propaganda of a "Soviet threat," the newspaper says that with this propaganda the United States is trying to recover the spheres of influence it has lost lately.

This propaganda also exposes the U.S. Government's ruse to try to link the liberating efforts of the peoples with alleged "Soviet expansionism."

GRANMA also states that in spite of all its warmongering and its efforts to carry other Western countries with it, the United States does not always succeed.

On this latter subject, it quotes an article appearing in NEWSWEEK which states that the French consider Carter's severity a passing thing and believe that it is a product of his desire for reelection and is not for real.

GRANMA points out that according to the economist, Denmark is reluctant to follow in NATO's footsteps, while France refuses to carry out Carter's confrontation policy.

According to U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, GRANMA says, if Carter turns to the U.S. allies for strong and unwavering support to confront the Soviet Union he will probably be disappointed.

The newspaper stresses that "the U.S. warmongering hysteria has not produced a response from all the governments in Europe and other continents, but has aroused concern and alarm in many capitalist countries."

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14

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CUBA

'PRELA' REPORTS ON CDR'S MEETING IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

PA141751 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2325 GMT 13 Apr 80 PA

[Text] Havana, 14 Apr (PL)--Some 100,000 members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) gathered here to express their support for Cuba's stand on the Peruvian Embassy incidents.

After the national anthem, recorded excerpts of Supreme Revolutionary Leader Fidel Castro's speech on 28 September 1960, announcing the creation of the CDR's were played.

Before National CDR Coordinator Armando Acosta delivered the closing speech, the people chanted slogans repudiating those who remain in the Peruvian Embassy waiting to leave the island.

Some of the placards carried by the crowd read: "He who does not agree with our socialist revolution should leave," and "out with those who live off our work."

In his speech, Acosta stated that "we do not want that sore to remain inside the Peruvian Embassy here in Cuba and for this reason, our people are mobilizing to a single clamor: 'Out with them.'"

According to the CDR leader, an international imperialist maneuver is currently underway to distort the real image of what is happening in Cuba. Regarding this, he explained that "in order to defend the security of an embassy, we lost a combatant, a son of the people, one day." He said that as of that moment, there has been a reaction abroad because Cuba decided to withdraw the guards from that embassy.

Nonetheless, he added, nothing has been said about the attention the revolutionary government is giving those who remain inside the embassy due to the Peruvian diplomats' inability to confront the situation they themselves created. In Acosta's opinion, this attention constitutes an unprecedented case in the area of international diplomacy.

He also criticized the Andean Pact members, which are still discussing how many of those inside the Peruvian Embassy they will receive in their respective countries.

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Regarding manifestations abroad aimed at frightening the Cuban people, he said that no threat will have any effect, just as they did not have any effect on Nicaragua.

He then announced that beginning Monday there will be other more numerous expressions of popular support for the Cuban Government's positions and of repudiation of those who, from inside the Peruvian Embassy, seek to abandon the island.

In conclusion, he invited foreign newsmen to visit this country in order to observe and report on a people waging a revolution and a true democracy.

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CUBA

TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON ANDEAN LIMA MEETING

PA112331 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1845 GMT 11 Apr 80 PA

[Text] Havana, 11 Apr (PL)--The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry has issued the following statement:

Simultaneously with the announcement made in Washington that the U.S. air, sea and ground forces will hold a 3-week maneuver next month in the Caribbean with thousands of soldiers, dozens of ships and hundreds of aircraft, and in spite of the fact that these maneuvers are aimed against Cuba, the struggle of the Salvadoran people against the Christian Democratic-military junta, which has the support of the U.S. Government and other reactionary regimes in the area, and even though these maneuvers involve the landing of 2,000 marines at Guantanamo, a small area of Cuban territory held illegally by the United States, the Andean Pact consultative council met in Lima to discuss matters related to the right to asylum and the right to operate diplomatic missions, thereby confirming the statement of the Cuban Revolutionary Government issued in regard to the incidents at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. It is a fact that these two events coincide suspiciously with the intensification of hostile acts, threats of aggression and U.S. maneuvers against our country.

Cuba has stated that it recognizes the right to asylum and takes advantage of this occasion to say that those who undermine, distort and discredit the institution of asylum are those who in the name of asylum harbor common criminals who have no political attitudes of any kind and who should not offend freedom fighters by identifying with them.

Whenever these situations have occurred in Havana, the Cuban authorities have presented the criminal records of the persons involved. It would be well to remember that the institution of asylum, which began in Europe, disappeared just as irresponsibility and abuses served to protect criminals responsible for heinous crimes.

It would be well to make it clear that the withdrawal of Cuban guards occurred at the Peruvian and Venezuelan embassies in Havana. This had been repeatedly requested on previous occasions, both by the Venezuelan and Peruvian representations in our country.

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In regard to the recent incidents at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, we want to note that encouragement of violence against diplomatic missions, such as harboring common criminals and admitting them after their crimes, resulted in the death of Pedro Ortiz, whose death was felt deeply by the Cuban people, who say him fall in the defense of the diplomatic mission.

Pedro Ortiz died defending the diplomatic community in Havana, and the events which led to his death served to encourage violence by allowing attacks on a diplomatic mission when peaceful means of obtaining visas do not succeed.

We repeat the question asked in its 7 April editorial by GRANMA, official paper of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee:

Why this absurd policy of granting visas to those who enter by force, without any justification, and denying them to those who request them peacefully? An example of this is those who are waiting for visas from the governments of countries they want to visit, such as the United States.

The principles of international law involved in the right to operate missions have been violated by the diplomatic missions involved in these events. Embassies are being used in a manner incompatible with the functions of a diplomatic mission, becoming dens of criminals. Likewise they violate the asylum conventions of Havana in 1928 and Caracas in 1954 when these persons are not turned over to the local government, since they are not covered by any of the conditions for asylum.

May this serve to reassert the attitude expressed in the Cuban Revolutionary Government's note of 4 April to the effect that it is not opposed to the departure of those who want to leave legally for Venezuela and Peru or for any other country, with the authorization of the corresponding government. The exception to this is those persons who entered the embassies by force when guards were posted at their gates.

During the entire revolutionary period Cuba has opened its doors so that anyone interested in leaving the country can do so, and on every occasion Cuba has unmasked all the maneuvers which the enemies of the revolution have used to create a distorted image in this respect. The Cuban people support the statement by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, that the building of socialism must be free and voluntary.

The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry states that none of the countries which attended the Lima meeting guarantee as efficiently as Cuba the right of children to live, the right of youths to an education, the right of the people to health and the right of the people to work. Therefore it rejects emphatically any attempts to try to teach a people who already have rights guaranteed which in other countries are just distant aspirations of the neglected masses.

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CUBA

BRIEFS

CARTER'S HAITIAN REFUGEES POLICY--Havana, 13 Apr (PL)--The newspaper GRANMA today charged that U.S. President James Carter worries about the criminals gathered at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana and forgets the thousands of Haitian refugees who arrive on U.S. shores. The newspaper reminds that the Haitian refugees are considered illegal immigrants by U.S. authorities despite the fact that they are fleeing from the repression existing in their country. It notes that even the Carter administration has resisted the efforts of these refugees to obtain asylum, despite the fact that most of them swim [as received] to the United States, arriving nearly dead. GRANMA says that in December 1979, the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT referred to the fact that there are 25,000 Haitians under such circumstances in Florida who are begging to be treated the same as the Cubans who arrive there. It notes that Washington encourages illegal departures and boat hijackings from Cuba and later welcomes these criminals as heroes. The U.S. magazine, however, admitted that the Haitians "still are unwelcomed guests, a nuisance to the Carter administration and a heavy load to U.S. taxpayers." The Haitian refugees are undesirable not only because they are black, but because they are worthless in the anti-Cuban campaign promoted by Washington, GRANMA points out. [Text] [PA132228 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1737 GMT 12 Apr 80 PA]

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19
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EL SALVADOR

BPR'S CHACON INTERVIEWED ON JUNTA, U.S. INTERFERENCE

PA132140 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1324 GMT 13 Apr 80 PA

[Report by Mario Menendez Rodriguez: "The Multinational Armed Intervention Against El Salvador Is Imminent, People's Revolutionary Bloc Secretary General Chacon Affirms"--all quotation marks as received]

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Apr--"The people have won the political battle and the conditions for the general victory have been set, but the dilemma of revolution or death is a constant and will be more so in the next few weeks, which will be decisive for the social liberation process. This is so because, objectively speaking, the Salvadoran masses by themselves cannot confront a foreign multinational armed intervention, prepared and directed by the U.S. Government," Juan Chacon, secretary general of the People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR], told this agency during an exclusive interview.

The top leader of the most powerful mass organization in this small country which is at war, whose "death" was announced a few days ago by no less than U.S. Ambassador Robert White himself, stressed that "imperialism's project, expressed through the fascist junta, has been defeated by the people organized and combative, a people who, despite the state of siege and the virtual implementation of the martial law, carries out activities and important mobilizations, as was shown in the wake of the barbaric and cowardly assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

The Criminals Are Isolated

Juan Chacon, 24, a former shoeshine boy and farm worker, explained that the military hierarchy and the most reactionary Christian Democratic sector "are totally isolated, cornered and demoralized. Their current situation 'explains' the savage crime that has rocked the whole world with indignation and horror...by killing the San Salvador archbishop, the fascists sought to achieve two objectives: to terrorize the masses and to show that they were and still are determined to do anything in order to defend the interests of the 14 families and of imperialism,

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as these interests are also their own. Nonetheless, the very opposite occurred: The Salvadoran people evinced their organizational and political capacity and responded by staging an 8-day general strike that paralyzed the country's economy, and by carrying out numerous activities in the rural areas and in the cities. The revolutionary organizations also improved their military performance... It is evident then, that the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL], the national resistance, the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES] and the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party-People's Revolutionary Army have the support of the masses, because the masses understand that in our country the only path leading to the conquest of power is that of revolutionary violence."

And what is the BPR's opinion about the Salvadoran Democratic Front [FDS]? The son of Felipe de Jesus Chacon, who was brutally killed on 26 August 1977--shot in the head, skinned with a sharp hook, eyes removed and tongue cut--because he practiced the social doctrine of the Catholic Church; the son, we repeat, of that outstanding member of the movement of short Christianity seminars and a dear friend of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, responds:

"The FDS, which was organized on Wednesday, 2 April this year, shows that the military junta imposed by Washington, as well as those Christian Democrats committed to Jose Napoleon Duarte lack social support and have no political alternative but to continue with their domination. Imperialism, the oligarchy and their allies are isolated... The FDS, in turn, is comprised of several labor union federations with more than 50,000 members, the Independent Movement of Professionals and Technicians, the Social Democratic Party and an important sector that withdrew from the Christian Democratic Party when the latter decided to support the military junta and its policy of repression and promises of reform. Moreover, the FDS has adopted as its own the program proposed by the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses [CRM], which is comprised of the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), the 28 February peoples leagues and the BPR. The democratic sectors' active support for the struggle aimed at bringing exploitation and repression to an end strengthens the popular movement's unity, speeds up the liberation process and corners and demoralizes the enemies of the Salvadoran people, who are internationally repudiated because of their genocidal policy."

The Struggle Is Being Intensified at the National Level

The military junta's effort to destroy the revolutionary organizations has failed. Moreover, in the past 15 days, the Salvadoran repressive bodies have been dealt demolishing blows which the international public opinion has been unable to learn about because of the tight censorship imposed on the mass media.

21
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For instance: During the past 2 weeks, the FPL's People's Liberation Armed Forces [FAPL]--the FPL comprises militia, guerrilla and army--eliminated 84 soldiers and national guardsmen and injured several dozen more in the course of various activities carried out in the capital, in Zacatecoluca Department and on the road to Santa Ana City, in the west. They also occupied five colonies in the city of Soyapango, in Las Goteras de San Salvador, and the towns of San Antonio and Agua Caliente, 40 and 68 km from the capital, respectively.

In each of these places, the FAPL imparted political and military instruction and exhorted the citizens to participate in the preparations for the local and zonal insurrections.

In addition, "two squads [22 militants] of the Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN]--this is exclusive information for this agency from writer Juan Santamaria, a member of the FARN general staff--ambushed a convoy of 45 national guardsmen in the colonies of Vista Hermosa and IVU (Urban Housing Institute), in the very heart of San Salvador. This annihilating blow caused a tremendous psychological impact in the general headquarters of the various repressive bodies, from where numerous cars immediately departed in the early morning hours to erase all evidence of this military blow and to pick up the 45 bodies."

According to the 31-year-old intellectual, in the city of Ilobasco, in the country's central area, where the National Guard shot three unprotected FAPU members inside a church, "a FARN squad eliminated a patrol comprised of six national guardsmen. We did the same thing in Santa Ana against six other repressive elements who had assassinated four construction workers hired by exploitative engineer Bruno Tenze Trabanino and had made other striking workers disappear."

Santamaria added: "Several FARN platoons, comprised of between 30 and 50 soldiers, are moving through other parts of the country and laying ambushes that allow us to obtain weapons... A few days ago, we occupied Nueva San Salvador (Santa Tecla)...."

The FARN general staff member also warned of the presence of Haitians and Puerto Ricans in the free zone, located 11 km east of San Salvador, near Ilopango airport, where big foreign corporations, particularly American ones, assemble and export tax-free products, pay very low wages to Salvadoran workers, who have no right to unionize, and have erected a veritable jail system with the military government's support.

A few days ago, several FAPU militants entered the free zone, occupied the Aplar factory, which is owned by a U.S. consortium, and learned about the traffic of Caribbean mercenaries underway there. Today they are criticizing this traffic to the world.

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Meanwhile, within the framework of CRM activities, the ERP continues to systematically occupy various towns and implacably attack the various headquarters of the National Guard, El Salvador's most brutal repressive body.

And the PCES, whose Directorate is said to have been responsible for 40 percent of the total industrial paralyzation during the 1-week strike staged in the wake of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero's assassination, is carrying out intense agitation work in the factories and among farm workers in the coast region.

United States Is in a Deadend Street

In the opinion of the BPR, what would the reaction be at this point in view of the obvious failure of its political plan for El Salvador?

The secretary general of the powerful mass organization, which has 100,000 members, answers:

"It is obvious that the United States no longer has a historical place in our country, where all its plans have been frustrated and defeated by an organized, combative people. Nor does it have a place in Central America, after the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution which marked the end of its economic, political, military and social hegemonism. One must be realistic: It is precisely because U.S. imperialism is aware that the loss of El Salvador would mean the loss of Guatemala and Honduras also and would accelerate the defeat of its strategy of domination in the region--we repeat that precisely because of this--it will not hesitate for a moment to expand and deepen its intervention in an attempt to destroy the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations and end the popular insurrection. One must see things as they are... The United States could first utilize the army of mercenaries that it has trained in Guatemala, Honduras and other countries on the continent, an army that would be supported by the puppet Guatemalan and Honduran troops... It could also turn to an inter-American 'peace' force to detain 'the threat of communism'... In the final instance, it would act directly, as in the Dominican Republic, on a large scale, using its special operational divisions, which today are located in the Caribbean... On the other hand, if we continue our analysis objectively, we would have to admit that the Salvadoran people alone cannot face up to a multinational armed intervention, one which in no way could be seen as separate from an attack on Nicaragua... However, we Salvadoran revolutionaries also know that an act of barbarism of this kind would be combated in various ways and in consonance with the capabilities of each of the world's peoples."

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The BPR Is Not a Political Party

The nature and the specific functions of the BPR are frequently misrepresented abroad. Thus, the BPR is sometimes described as if it were a political party that participates with decisive influence in the leadership of the Salvadoran people's process of social liberation. In other cases, it is identified with the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces. What is the BPR?

"The BPR is a mass revolutionary organization made up of popular organizations which represent the different social sectors of the Salvadoran people, sectors which have a single strategy and whose main axis of action is the alliance between the workers and the peasants, with proletarian hegemony... The BPR, founded on 30 July 1975, was the response to an urgent need which was manifested as the logical consequence of the deepening of the class struggle--the people's need for an organization that would fight consistently for their immediate, basic interests and to bring about a democratic, revolutionary government... It could be said, therefore, that the BPR was the initial nucleus of the revolutionary front of the masses... Indeed, among the most prominent of its basic principles is that of united action with the other revolutionary and democratic forces to bring about the triumph of the people's revolution and move toward a just, independent and free society... Moreover, the BPR believes that all forms of struggle--legal and illegal, peaceful and violent--are important and necessary, but the basic form, the form that should be accentuated, is the organized and combative struggle... This basic form of struggle by the masses falls within the framework of our strategy of prolonged people's war, devised in 1970 by the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces."

What organizations make up the BPR?

The secretary general states: "The organizations which form part of the BPR are the following: The Jose Guillermo Rivas Coordinating Committee of Labor Unions and the Revolutionary Labor Union Federation, which comprise 60 labor unions; the Farm Workers Federation, made up of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation (FECCAS) and the Farm Workers Union (UTC); the 21 June National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES 21 de Junio); the Movement of Revolutionary High School Students (MARS); the 19 July Revolutionary University Students [Universitarios Revolucionarios 19 de Julio--UR-19]; the 30 July Revolutionary University Students (FUR-30); the Union of Slum Area Dwellers (UPT); neighborhood and district people's committees and the People's Culture Movement [Movimiento de la Cultura del Pueblo--MCP]. These organizations have a membership of 100,000 Salvadorans who--by means of their particular struggle for vindication and their solidarity with the struggle of other sectors to achieve better standards of living--raise the level of their consciousness, organization and commitment to the cause of social revolution..."

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And what are the objectives of the BPR?

"The first and basic one is the conquest of power and the establishment of a democratic and revolutionary government. Extensions of this objective are the others, among which we highlight the following:

To incorporate the various sectors of the people into the revolutionary struggle in an organized, large-scale and combative manner in line with the strategy of prolonged people's war; to build up the revolutionary front of the masses as the organizational and political channel by which to incorporate the broad popular masses into the revolutionary struggle; to create the necessary organizational instruments--associations, labor unions, people's solidarity committees, revolutionary mass organizations and so forth--within the different sectors of the people to stimulate struggles for their economic, political and social demands and for the primary objective--to unite the struggles of the popular masses at the Central American level to bring about revolution and the construction of a just society and coordinate those struggles within the struggle for vindication of Latin Americans and the other peoples of the world; to strengthen bonds of friendship, solidarity and mutual aid within the revolutionary and democratic field... Of course, all of the above is based on a worker-peasant alliance with proletarian hegemony as the nucleus and base of revolutionary unity among the various popular sectors and movements..."

Policy of Extermination

In a meeting with the members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in El Salvador, Ambassador Robert White revealed that the objective of U.S. policy consists of preventing, "at any cost," the victory of the Salvadoran people. This policy includes the elimination of all popular leaders and Juan Chacon, secretary general of the BPR, is one of them.

In rural areas, the army and the various repressive corps are staging an intensive military offensive in combined operations against towns which have a high degree of politization.

The plan of the CIA and the oligarchy "to restore social peace to El Salvador," as implemented by Colonels Jose Guillermo Garcia, Nicolas Carranza, Eugenio Vides Casanova and Adolfo Arnaldo Majano, despite his apparent vacillation, provides for an attempt to annihilate from 250,000 to 300,000 Salvadorans.

This plan, however, faces an insuperable obstacle: the organization and combativeness of a people determined to conquer their future. And the die is already cast.

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EL SALVADOR

FDR HEAD SEES DANGER OF 'MASSIVE U.S. INTERFERENCE'

PA190115 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1531 GMT 18 Apr 80 A

[Article by Andres Escobar]

[Text] Paris, 18 Apr (PL)--Enrique Alvarez, president of the newly founded Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) in El Salvador, has stated that there is a serious threat of massive U.S. military intervention in his country.

Alvarez, a former minister under some of the previous administrations and a member of one of the so-called "14 Families" of the Salvadoran oligarchy, answered PRENSA LATINA's questions over the telephone. He explained the founding of the FDR and the political reasons that pit it against imperialism and the local oligarchy.

He said that the FDR is "a political tool created by the Salvadoran people to promote their liberation struggle and to build a new, fair, human, democratic and independent society."

Alvarez noted that the creation of the FDR follows that of the Democratic Front which he himself announced in early April during a public ceremony in the Salvadoran capital.

He added that the FDR is a broad front uniting "the democratic and progressive sectors, including the country's revolutionaries," a very important step forward in the people's struggle in El Salvador.

"The FDR represents the unity of the democratic revolutionary forces; that is, the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses and the political parties, the universities and union organizations, labor and professional organizations," he noted. He said that "that makes it the representative of the Salvadoran people."

He also denied that a struggle is being waged between groups in his country. He stated that "the people can no longer put up with exploitation, poverty and repression or the cynical lies of unpopular governments and their foreign allies."

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"The struggle is between social classes and its objective naturally is to seize power," he added.

He said that the incumbent government "is the most repressive since 1932."

He noted that "reforms are desperate demagogic efforts to try to win some popular support, gain control of the people's organizations and prepare for their military annihilation.

"There can be no peaceful solution where repression and institutionalized violence exist," he said in response to a question.

Regarding the intervention of U.S. troops in El Salvador, he said: "It is occurring now with financial support to purchase weapons and through military advisers, but the biggest danger is massive invasion which, if it should occur, would involve a bigger social and human cost.

"The aggressor would find a united people determined to fight for their right to self-determination," he warned.

He stated that "it is not up to the U.S. Government to approve or disapprove the establishment of a democratic-revolutionary government in El Salvador, because that is a sovereign right of the Salvadoran people."

About his being a member of one of the so-called "14 Families" of the oligarchy, he said "political awareness is not an automatic reflection of one's class origin" and that his background did not keep him from getting to know the facts and standing alongside "a people who have been exploited and cruelly repressed for a long time.

"I will run the risks posed by my struggle and I humbly offer to help the popular movement," the FDR president underscored.

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EL SALVADOR

REPORT ON FORMATION OF FDR COALITION

PA182331 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2104 GMT 17 Apr 80

[Article by Andres Escobar]

[Text] San Jose, 17 Apr (PL)--All the forces, sectors and organizations which are opposed to the Salvadoran Government have united in a broad Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR].

The Central American Independent Press Agency [Agencia Independiente de Prensa--AIP] reported in this capital that the establishment of this coalition represents a new and qualitatively different stage in the struggle for the liberation of the Salvadoran people.

By this step, the forces which make up the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses have managed to incorporate and assign a role to all the democratic and progressive forces of El Salvador.

The popular faction of the Christian Democratic Party, the National Revolutionary Movement and other political groups of less influence and significance were also included in the front.

In addition, the National Federation of Salvadoran Small Enterprise, the National University of El Salvador, the Jose Simeon Canas Central American University and other cultural and business groups also signed the organization's charter.

The list is completed by the Revolutionary Union Federation, the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [Fenastros), the Single Federation of Salvadoran Trade Unions, the Federation of Workers of the Food, Clothing and Related Industries and other labor organizations.

The Revolutionary Democratic Front also includes the four large Salvadoran mass organizations which make up the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses: The Nationalist Democratic Union, the 28 February Peoples Leagues, the United Popular Action Front and the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

AIP said that Enrique Alvarez Cordoba, former minister of economy and agriculture, was proposed as president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front.

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29
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NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

SANDINIST YOUTH ON U.S. MANEUVERS--Managua, 21 Apr (PL)--The newspaper EL BRIGADISTA has stated in an editorial that the Nicaraguan Sandinist Youth repudiates the U.S. military provocations in the Caribbean, which are cloaked in a new campaign of anti-Cuban propaganda. The official news organ of the 19 July Sandinist Youth Movement states that the propaganda campaign is a result of imperialism's aggressive policy in the face of the peoples' progress. EL BRIGADISTA also referred to the relationship between the U.S. military activities in the Caribbean and the events which occurred at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba. The newspaper recalls the long years of misinformation, obscurantism and imperialist propaganda experienced in Nicaragua before the fall of the Somozist dictatorship. It likewise adds that some news media are in the hands of sectors that are incompatible with the Nicaraguan revolution, and that they are supporting this ill-disposed campaign. The paper says that the transnational news agencies pose the problem of the refugees at the Peruvian Embassy in such a way as to give the impression of political instability in Cuba, ignoring the real situation of millions of Cubans who have been writing their own history for the past 21 years.
[Text] [PA220040 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1324 GMT 21 Apr 80 PA]

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PANAMA

PDP LEADER URGES PROGRESSIVE GROUPS TO SUPPORT CUBA

PAl11939 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1845 GMT 10 Apr 80 PA

[Report by Silvio I. Mendiandua]

[Text] Panama City, 10 Apr (PL)--The Panamanian communists today entreated Latin American progressive groups to reject the provocation of the U.S. warmongering circles against Cuba and to reaffirm their solidarity with its people and revolutionary government.

Ruben Dario Souza, secretary general of Panama's People's Party [PDP], said that the incidents at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana following the violent break-in of antisocial individuals, is a maneuver of the most reactionary U.S. sectors in a new anticommunist escalation.

These events have occurred at a time when the Cuban revolution has become an example for the national liberation struggle in Latin America and other regions and it is enjoying greater prestige in the nonaligned nations movement.

The U.S. warmongering circles have traditionally taken advantage of the support afforded them by their allies to worsen the cold war and strengthen the blockade against Cuba, Souza told this agency.

The U.S. campaign of aggression against Cuba tries to mask its intention of militarily intervening in those countries where the anti-imperialist struggle is on the rise, especially in Central America, Souza added.

The Cuban Revolutionary Government's decision to allow unrestricted entry to the Peruvian Embassy to all persons wishing to do so, is a proof of its respect for human rights.

Cuba has shown that the people's decision to build socialism is irreversible and that this will be accomplished with [the help of] all Cubans who love their country and hope to have a more socially just regime.

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Souza emphasized the PDP's appeal to all Latin American progressive forces to reject the provocation planned by U.S. imperialism and to reaffirm their solidarity with the people and revolutionary government of Cuba.

Likewise, he urged all of Panama's democratic organizations to express this solidarity and to condemn the press campaign aimed at distorting the truth about events in Cuba.

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PANAMA

BRIEFS

'BAYANO': U.S. PROVOKING CUBA--Panama City, 21 Apr (PL)--The biweekly paper BAYANO has stated that the United States is staging a wide and complex provocation against Cuba aimed at creating the conditions which would allow it to eventually intervene in El Salvador. In an article titled: "Imperialism and the Anti-Cuban Campaign," the Panamanian newspaper said the provocation includes diplomatic pressure on certain Latin American governments, the use of the traditional "big stick" and the announcement of upcoming maneuvers in Guantanamo Naval Base. BAYANO pointed out that the artificial Peruvian and Venezuelan diplomatic crises with Cuba were a result of this plan and were used by the U.S. propaganda machine to create "a great impact" following the death of a Cuban soldier who was guarding the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. According to BAYANO, the United States is attempting to build a strategic fence around Cuba, using the wornout excuse of Cuban solidarity which links it with the revolutionary situation being experienced in Central America. BAYANO concludes that with these elements the United States is paving the way for a military intervention in El Salvador that would directly threaten Nicaragua's Sandinist revolution. [Text] [PA230249 Havana PRELA in Spanish 2115 GMT 21 Apr 80 PA]

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34

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