

Genocide plot lurks behind 'demilitarization' of El Salvador

by Gretchen Small

Attacks on El Salvador's national electrical grid carried out by the Cuban-allied Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN) during April and May, have cut electrical service in that country by half. Forty towers and other electrical installations were damaged or destroyed in the first two weeks of May alone—all in the name of strengthening the FMLN's position at the "negotiating" table. The FMLN has announced that it will continue its havoc until all the lights go out, if that's what it takes to force the government to accede to the FMLN demands against the military.

What is extraordinary about the darkness descending upon El Salvador, however, is that the FMLN enjoys the active support of the Bush administration, the United Nations Organization, and Gorbachov's Soviet Union, in its campaign for "demilitarization." The common objectives of these forces in El Salvador center on the elimination of the military, the carving of the country into separate zones run by foreign troops and the FMLN terrorists, and forcing what remains of a central government into a power-sharing deal with the FMLN, all to be overseen by the United Nations.

If the project is allowed to succeed, El Salvador will disappear as a nation, finally reduced to nothing more than a killing ground studied by the crazed anti-population fanatics. *EIR* warned more than a decade ago that this small country had been chosen by the malthusian lobby in the late 1960s as a test case for how to generate "continuous political violence" in a form which would ensure maximum long-term population reduction.

As the project took off in the early 1980s, top establishment malthusian Harlan Cleveland, the former international director of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, spoke freely of this plot. In an interview published by *EIR* on March 17, 1981, Cleveland raved that "development, industrialization . . . is the most dangerous part of our national security problem today." This will be dealt with through the explosion of "100 El Salvadors" across the globe, he gloated. "Growth in the El Salvadors will not be the word. It will be un-growth. It means that population will cease to be a serious problem in these areas."

He elaborated: "We had a breakdown in El Salvador, a breakdown in Lebanon, a complete breakdown in Cambodia. Breakdown in about 100 countries won't be enough to make

a difference in global population growth, either. These countries are too small. But these could easily degenerate into 100 Cambodias, where they haul off and kill one-third of the population. This would be delightful for the demographers. It is also not inconceivable that we would have El Salvador in the bigger countries which would really make a difference to world population."

As of May 1, the only major institutional obstacle remaining to the disappearance of El Salvador is the military. Under extraordinary pressure from the Bush administration, on April 29, the government of Alfredo Cristiani and the National Assembly agreed to rewrite the Constitution to satisfy the demands of the FMLN. As soon as the new legislature, which took office on May 1, ratifies these changes, the reforms will go into effect.

The reforms centered on restricting the military, even as the FMLN shut off the lights. Article 30 of the Constitution, which mandates the use of the military to perform police duties during public disorder, was abrogated. Thus, in the middle of a war, an untrained, yet-to-be-created National Civil Police will be handed the job of keeping public order. Should the President order the military to restore order during a national emergency, the reforms specify that the National Assembly can override that order, by majority vote. A "Truth Commission" is to be appointed by the U.N. to investigate FMLN charges of military abuse of their human rights—the primary right asserted being a right to wage war without opposition. The functioning of the Supreme Court and Election Tribunal are also to be modified.

The accord was reached during FMLN-government talks carried out under the direction of Alvaro de Soto, the personal aide of U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar. But the stage was set for the government's capitulation in mid-March, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart issued a joint demand that the peace talks be "accelerated."

When the talks foundered in April, U.S. officials went into action. On April 8, Gen. Colin Powell, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, flew into San Salvador to meet with top military leaders; on April 12, Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson met with President Cristiani. Both delivered threats that U.S. military aid would be cut if the talks

were allowed to fail. At the end of April, when legislators modified the reforms as negotiated, U.S. Ambassador William Walker personally called the members of the National Assembly to demand they reverse themselves. The reforms were quickly approved exactly as negotiated by the U.N.-FMLN team.

Next on the agenda: foreign occupation

The conditions accepted were merely those demanded as a precondition for continuing the "peace talks." Negotiations are scheduled to begin again in mid-May, this time to consider terms for a cease-fire. It is during these talks that the FMLN seeks to be handed control over part of El Salvador's territory. Under their plan, an "armed peace" is to be declared, during which time the FMLN and the national Army would each be restricted to small areas which the FMLN alleges each to currently control. The rest of the country would be declared a demilitarized zone, to be policed by foreign troops operating under the umbrella of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

According to an April 3 UPI wire, the FMLN proposal to carve up El Salvador "borrow[ed] heavily from a preliminary cease-fire proposal drawn up by U.N. officials." The convergence is not surprising, given that U.N. negotiator De Soto opened negotiations between the FMLN and the Cristiani government in May 1990, by stating that his goal was to achieve "progressive and complete demilitarization, the final objective of which is the abolition of the armies," the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Jan. 24, 1991.

Before they will agree to a cease-fire, the FMLN also demands the government commit itself to an immediate reduction in El Salvador's military force, from 56,000 men under arms, to 12,000, as the first step towards disbanding the military entirely by 1995.

The Bush administration's drive for power-sharing is not a fundamental change in policy from that of the previous three U.S. administrations. Since the Carter administration aided the 1979 "progressive" military coup, and helped draw up its policies which set off the civil war which has yet to end, El Salvador has served as an experiment for the malthusians running Washington and the international financial institutions.

In an interview published by *EIR* on March 10, 1981, Thomas Ferguson, head of the Latin America desk at the State Department's Office of Population Affairs, proclaimed that El Salvador was a "national security crisis" for the United States because it had "too many goddamned people." "The government of El Salvador failed to use our programs effectively to lower their population. Now they get a civil war because of it," he intoned. Ferguson was far from bemoaning that war had broken out because, in his view, "once population is out of control, it requires authoritarian government, even fascism, to reduce it."

Ferguson worried that civil war would not kill enough

people. "Alone, that might not do anything to population," he stated. "But there will be dislocation, maybe even food shortages. . . . The quickest way to reduce population is through famine, like in Africa, or through disease, like the Black Death. What might happen in El Salvador is that the war might disrupt the distribution of food: The population could weaken itself, you could have disease and starvation, like what happened in Bangladesh or in Biafra." He did not stop there: "In El Salvador, you are killing a small number of males and not enough females to do the job on the population. If the war were to go on for 30 or 40 years, then you would really accomplish something. Unfortunately, we don't have too many instances like that to study."

In a seminar at Georgetown University on Feb. 26, 1981 attended by an *EIR* reporter, one of the most fanatic of the planners of genocide in Central America, former United Fruit agronomist William Paddock, an unofficial adviser on population affairs to the State Department for three administrations, outlined a policy through which the United States could ensure warfare continued in El Salvador for at least the 30-40 years Ferguson deemed necessary.

Like Ferguson, Paddock agreed that "continuous turmoil and civil strife . . . is the only solution to the overpopulation problem." An "endless cycle" of warfare can assure the elimination of 3 million out of El Salvador's current 4.5 million population, he stated. "The U.S. should support the current military dictatorship, because that is what is required. . . . But we should also open up contacts with the opposition, because they will eventually come to power. As we do that, we should work with the opposition because, we will need to bring them to power. That is what our policy is, that is what it must be . . . an endless cycle."

Paddock's proposal describes precisely what U.S. policy has been through the Carter, Reagan, and Bush reigns. At no point was a strategy for *winning peace* in Central America tolerated. That would require, in addition to building up national military forces in the region, the implementation of an in-depth economic development program, including a moratorium on the foreign debt, construction of basic infrastructure—projects which the military is best suited to lead—and a total crack-down on the drug trade from which the terrorists feed.

Instead, the United States imposed on Central American governments two policies which ensured no victory could be won over Moscow's allies: implementation of International Monetary Fund austerity, and adoption of the no-win strategy of "low-intensity conflict." The latter, which commits the military to a strategy of neither winning nor losing, fits perfectly the malthusian demands.

At the time Paddock and Ferguson were plotting, over 10,000 had died in El Salvador's war. Ten years later, an estimated 75,000 people have died. Now, the Bush administration has decreed that it is time to bring the "opposition to the opposition" to power. The result will not be peace, but the beginning of the next cycle of war.