

'Peace accord' hands El Salvador to Reds

by Gretchen Small

Under the gun of Bush administration and United Nations pressure and blackmail, at midnight Dec. 31, the government of El Salvador signed a "peace agreement" with the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN) which, if implemented, guarantees that El Salvador will become a new Cuba before the end of 1992. Only this time, the imposition of the communist dictatorship is to be policed by supranational forces led by the United Nations.

The pact has "Made in Washington" stamped all over it. Twice in the last year, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador traveled to FMLN strongholds to map out joint strategy for the negotiators with FMLN field commanders. In the last days of 1991, Bush administration officials shuttled back and forth between U.N. negotiators, Salvadoran government officials, and the terrorists to ensure the accord was signed—no matter what.

The Bush administration immediately moved to make official its direct relations with the FMLN. A Jan. 5 *New York Times* article detailed how Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson accompanied by the head of the U.S. military delegation to El Salvador, and went to a FMLN hotel room in New York City on Jan. 1 to communicate directly to the top six commanders of the FMLN that the United States "wanted to make peace" and "believed in the reforms that had been negotiated." Aronson later told the *New York Times* that his discussions with "the *compañeros*," which lasted several hours, were "poignant and useful."

Back in El Salvador, the FMLN proclaimed themselves victors, painting wall slogans all over the country which read, "The FMLN Has Won the Peace. The Front Is Coming."

Worse than Carter

The one thing that this pact with the devil will not bring is peace. George Bush's "peace" agreement, carried out under the lie that the narco-terrorists in Ibero-America were weakened because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, will soon make Jimmy Carter's handing over of Nicaragua to 10 years of destruction under the Sandinistas look like a mere warm-up. Given that the FMLN is well-known as the narco-terrorist force in the Americas closest to Castro's Cuban dictatorship, the message delivered to all sides is that the narco-terrorist forces rampaging in such countries as Guatemala, Colombia, and Peru, if they follow the FMLN's strategy of allying with the Bush administration while yielding not

an inch of their military positions, can also expect that their turn in power will come soon.

The center of the agreement is the destruction of El Salvador's military. During the course of the next two years, the military is to be confined to some 100 special zones in the country, the *Washington Times* reported Jan. 3, while a special commission, whose members must be approved by the U.N. and the FMLN, decide one by one which officers can continue to serve. One-half of the military's ranks—some 26,000 soldiers—will be fired.

Just as the FMLN demanded, doctrine and training for the new army will be revamped, eliminating all responsibility for the military to defend "national security," or fight communism. The national police has also been disbanded, to be replaced by a new force in which FMLN terrorists are welcome to serve.

Civilian institutions are also overturned. The agreement specifies that virtually all the country's civilian institutions are to be restructured, including the judiciary and electoral procedures, as demanded by the FMLN. The agreement guarantees that the FMLN can keep agricultural lands in the areas of the country where it has ruled through terror.

For all this, the FMLN has agreed to gather its 6-7,000 combatants at 50 "isolation points," protected by U.N. troops, to whom it will turn over its weapons by Oct. 31—provided the government implements all the agreements it has signed.

The FMLN forces are jubilant at their victory. "We will not be disarmed by the army. . . . There has been no defeat," Communist Party head Shafik Handal (one of the six FMLN commanders with whom Aronson met) told a Colombian radio interviewer Jan. 2. *If all goes according to schedule, we will demobilize, he added.*

El Salvador's elected government has been effectively supplanted by this accord. If any obstacles come up in the implementation of the agreement, the U.N. Security Council is empowered to impose its terms. U.N. troops and "peace-makers" are to control the transition process. The reason the accord will work, the *Washington Times* emphasized on Jan. 3, is that El Salvador "is crawling with international observers, and in some respects, the judiciary is so independent of pressure from the rest of the national government that it is no longer a Salvadoran body but rather an international one."

The accord was immediately hailed as a model for all Central America. Honduran President Rafael Callejas hailed the agreement because it "opens the door for the armed forces in the rest of the region to adapt themselves to the new Central American society." The president of the Congress in Guatemala, Catalina Soberanis, took the same line, telling Guatemalan media that the accord in El Salvador could lead to "a redefinition of the role of the armed forces" in the rest of Central America. Indeed, Aronson told the *Baltimore Sun* on Jan. 3 that setting up a similar deal in Guatemala will be next on his agenda.