

is an historic enemy, because it has been an historic enemy of Catholic Spain.

There is a town—people have lived in that town for 90 years, that is the average age of the elderly in that town, towns which date back to 400 B.C.—where the churches are relics. [The Serbians] began indiscriminate artillery and mortar fire; the target of the artillery is the church, because that is what is marked on the maps. They fire on all the historic monuments and force the people of the town to leave. But the elderly don't want to leave; they stay. So then the tanks arrive with the Chetniks, and a massacre of the civilian population begins.

It is not uncommon to see dozens of corpses of elderly, their throats slashed as a warning to neighboring towns of what is going to happen to them. This is not a military battle plan, but a political one, a terrorist plan which is nearly Satanic. It is really a policy that the international community is backing, by shutting their eyes. That is not to say that in a war, there are no excesses on both sides, because there are excesses, but often they are committed as a reaction. But in this case this is a deliberate policy, which is to eliminate every vestige of Croatian culture from the area.

During 45 years of communist government in this country, those towns which are Croatian—for example, here there is a Roman city near Split where there is a Roman circus comparable to that in Rome—have not been maintained, because the communists are not interested in maintaining any cultural traces of that kind.

EIR: How is the morale of the Croatian people?

Officer: It is very high. There are no divisions of political parties here with regard to the question of independence. Here everyone is very clear that Croatian independence is something that cannot be turned back, that this is the historic moment for winning that independence. Perhaps it would be difficult to explain to the American public, but here they are confronting tanks virtually with their bare hands. The imbalance of military power is terrible, and yet with it all, the enemy is suffering major losses. And that is because of the great national will that exists and that, beyond the rhetoric, everyone is Catholic and that is one of the first things they ask you. Everyone here has their rosary around their neck, with their cross, and that's the kind of war being fought.

EIR: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Officer: Here—but not only here—the problem is that in several parts of the world, they are trying to erase the cultural identities of certain peoples. Today it is Croatia, and after them will come others, whether by force—those people who try to resist will be eliminated by force—or by the policy of consumption, cultural infiltration, as is happening in my country and as is happening in many other countries such as Colombia, or Venezuela where there is an attempt to copy the United States, although that is not their cultural roots.

El Salvador 'peace' accord ensures war

by Cynthia R. Rush

With the official signing of the El Salvador Peace accord at Mexico City's Chapultepec Castle on Jan. 16, the Bush administration and its hangers-on among Ibero-American heads of state are moving quickly to apply the "model" to the rest of Central America. The accord has nothing to do with peace.

It does have to do with George Bush's agenda for the new world order, as it is applied to Central America: destruction of the armed forces, the institution which together with the Catholic Church is seen as an obstacle to the Anglo-American establishment's malthusian genocide; harsher imposition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) austerity conditionalities; and handing power over to the region's Cuban-linked narco-terrorists, such as the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front (FMLN). Under this prescription, only chaos and continued warfare lie ahead for Central America.

As former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador Robert White explained in a commentary in the Jan. 16 *Washington Post*, to ensure that the agreement is enforced, "power is to be shared with the United Nations." National sovereignty has been signed away. Thousands of U.N. and other foreign observers have already started descending on El Salvador to "monitor the peace process."

Allied governments will be abandoned

The Bush administration has made no effort to hide the fact that the agreement is with the FMLN, that it is actually a regional package which also includes a deal with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, and that the Cristiani government will ultimately be left high and dry—just like the other governments of the region which have obeyed U.S. dictates. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker may have called El Salvador's President "the hero of the peace accords" in his Jan. 17 speech before that country's National Assembly, but it was the FMLN leadership that was the object of the U.S. State Department's most lavish praise and concern. In thanks, FMLN leader Shafik Handal gushed in Mexico City, "We wish to extend our hand to the government of the United States, to seek a new relationship based on dignity and cooperation."

It was U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Bernard Aronson, U.S. Ambassador William Walker, and other top U.S. officials who met frequently with the FMLN leadership in El Salvador over the past year to hammer out their joint strategy; it was Washington which squeezed the Salvadoran military to accept the accord. As the conservative San Salvador daily *Diario de Hoy* put it on Jan. 6, reflecting the sell-out of the Armed Forces, “ ‘Our friends’ are weakening the . . . structure of the Armed Forces, while at the same time helping to strengthen the military and political structure of the FMLN.”

Redefining the nation

Speaking in Mexico City, FMLN commander Handal gloated that the agreement’s major achievement was “the end of military hegemony over the civilian nation.” What does this mean exactly?

Following enactment of a cease-fire, scheduled for Feb. 1, the entirety of El Salvador’s political institutions are to be completely overhauled and redefined in a new constitution. At the heart of all planned reform is the underlying premise that it is El Salvador’s Armed Forces—not the guerrillas or any other factors—that have caused the country’s problems, and now must be eliminated. As new U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali explained in Mexico, every aspect of El Salvador’s institutional life will be affected: the armed forces, human rights, the electoral and judicial system, and economic and social questions. Ghali called the accord a “revolution reached through negotiation,” a phrase later echoed by several FMLN leaders.

As agreed upon, the size of the Armed Forces will be halved over a two-year period, down to about 31,000 members, and the concept of “national security,” which has always guided the military institution, replaced. A top State Department aide has admitted that one of the agreement’s goals is to wipe out the Army’s officer corps altogether. The military academy, which trains officers, will now have its admissions policy, curriculum, and faculty overseen by a national peace commission that includes two former guerrillas and just one member of the military. Civilians will oversee most intelligence functions.

The accords also set up a special “truth commission,” charged with discovering the truth about the “worst acts of violence” committed over the past decade. Most international media and other so-called experts, who never discuss the military without the adjectives “brutal” or “feudal,” have agreed that these were carried out by the Armed Forces.

What about the FMLN? It is supposed to complete a demobilization of its forces by Oct. 31. Some of its forces are expected to enter the new civilian police force, together with former members of the military. Others will return to the countryside, occupying land which the government will divide up and distribute. And another grouping will set up an opposition political movement, whose stated goal will be

to defeat Cristiani and his Arena party in the 1994 presidential elections.

The actual guerrilla strategy was revealed in the Jan. 17 speech at Peru’s San Marcos University given by Miguel Angel Amaya Cuadra, the FMLN’s political-diplomatic representative for Latin America. He stated baldly that “in the Salvadoran process, no surrender has been agreed on. The negotiations are between equals, equal powers; the FMLN hasn’t accepted nor will it accept a demobilization, but rather a *reconversion* of its forces.” The peace accord, he added, was “very fragile, difficult, and complex,” because the Armed Forces really don’t want peace.

Similarly, the FMLN’s chief military strategist, Joaquín Villalobos, told a Mexico City gathering that “the flame [of war] is going to die out slowly.” He railed against the idea of granting amnesty to military leaders, charging that this would be tantamount to “writing a blank check to assassins.”

Regional demilitarization

Despite the guerrilla admission that it has no intention of demobilizing, the Anglo-American political establishment is moving quickly to dismantle the institution of the armed forces across the region. Guatemala is the next target. In his Jan. 17 speech in San Salvador, Baker stated that “once at peace, Central America can move forward through regional negotiations to reduce the level of armaments in every nation to a lower balanced level commensurate with the needs of legitimate defense.” He repeated the lying argument put forward by former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara which says that if Third World military budgets are reduced, there will be more money to channel into programs to help the poor.

But Central America’s poor have already been relegated to the trash heap. Baker has made clear that the United States does not plan to help rebuild El Salvador’s wrecked economy, and demands that the IMF’s free-market “adjustment” program of intense austerity be deepened. Salvador’s energy and telecommunications infrastructure, a particular target of the FMLN, barely exists. The government has put overall material damage at a figure of \$1.8 billion and says it needs \$2 billion to start reconstruction efforts. It has been able to set aside only \$17.5 million so far. Bernard Aronson stated that the U.S. is “committed” to El Salvador, but added that “I would like to make the point that the United States has its own budget difficulties . . . and we are going to do what we can, but we will probably not be able to do as much as we would like to.”

The Jan. 17 *Washington Times* put it a bit more bluntly: “The U.S. has neither the money nor political support for massive aid programs.” Baker is demanding that the “international community,” specifically Japan and Europe, provide the bulk of the economic assistance needed. The United States is reportedly “thinking about” providing between \$200 and \$300 million this year.