



US special forces adviser training Salvadorean troops in Honduras.

Pentagon is considering Honduras as the future site for the Southern Command of the US Armed Forces, now situated in Panama.

In view of this infrastructure, plans to use the US airforce in Salvador or to invade Nicaragua are practical possibilities as part of US designs for strategic control in the area. Top officials have said the military maneuvers will continue throughout this century. Last year, the third man in the Pentagon hierarchy advocated «permanent forward positions» in a Central America which would be «partitioned» like Korea and Germany. Moreover, according to the *New York Times*, US covert operations have risen fivefold under Reagan; 50 are underway, half of them in Central America.

Imperialist war or people's war?

Indications are plentiful that the US is preparing a major war in Central America. Yet massive and sophisticated as it is, the US military presence is not irreversible. It will eventually be revealed as a futile, though costly attempt to reverse the tide of popular struggle for freedom, democracy, social justice and

progress. The FMLN guerillas continue their armed struggle undaunted, while popular mobilization in Nicaragua had exposed the CIA-directed contras as factionalized mercenaries. Recent developments in Honduras indicate that the US's chosen base may itself become a powder keg. This spring witnessed the largest demonstration in ten years, demanding withdrawal of foreign troops and closure of the regional counterinsurgency training center. Even within the reactionary army, there is growing resentment of the infringements on Honduran sovereignty caused by the US military presence. This presence also highlights the social contradictions in Honduras, the second poorest country in Latin America. An article in *Granma*, June 3rd, was aptly titled «Militarization of the Beggar», for the US is sending millions in arms to a country where 72% of the population suffers from malnutrition. With the advance of revolutionary struggle in El Salvador and Guatemala, the mass base of the anti-imperialist forces in Honduras is bound to broaden.

Most important in countering the US war plans for Central America is the correct political orientation and close

alliance between the revolutionary forces, especially in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Cuba. All these forces have pledged readiness to find peaceful solutions to the conflict in the region in order to avert a disastrous US invasion. Yet knowing the nature of imperialism and its local reactionary allies, all are equally committed to defending the people and continuing the struggle to fulfill their aspirations. In early June, Comrade Fidel Castro summarized the Cuban position as follows. «We reassert our positions of peace... But we refuse to accept dishonorable concessions contrary to our principles on the basis of military superiority; thus we are forced to strengthen our defense system and make preparations in the event it were necessary to carry out a popular national defense, a war of all the people against the invaders.»

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