

# Bishops Lead

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the opposition to Soviet involvement, but the priority given to the issue, to the detriment of more fundamental questions

"Outside agitation, influence, even weapons, would not be sown in such fertile soil if rampant injustice and fundamental inequities did not exist today as they have for decades in El Salvador."

El Salvador, a Massachusetts-sized country wedged against the Pacific Ocean by Honduras and Guatemala, with a population of 4.7 million, mostly Roman Catholic, has been distinguished by a particularly brutal history of economic repression. Malnutrition is endemic; the infant mortality rate is four times that of the United States; per capita income is less than \$700, one of the lowest in the Western hemisphere.

An oligarchy of large landowners has been locked in a struggle, with impoverished peasants. The struggle traditionally has been resolved by successive repressive military governments in favor of the wealthy few.

In October 1979, a mixed civilian-military junta began some reforms, including land distribution, but right-wing military elements gradually reasserted their influence, and there was a growing number of political murders. Most of the civilian politicians went into opposition. Last year, six leading opposition figures, all acknowledged moderates, were rounded up and executed. Archbishop Romero was murdered on March 24.

These were some of the circumstances — undisputed by U.S. analysts — that gave strong impetus to the guerrilla movement in El Salvador. The Salvadoran opposition has hard-bitten Marxists in it, but it includes many other elements — social democrats, socialists, Roman Catholic clergy — who are not communists.

According to the Legal Aid Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Salvador, more than 12,000 civilians were assassinated in El Salvador in 1980. These included three American Roman Catholic nuns and a lay worker, two American trade unionists, and an American journalist.

The junta has been blamed for complicity in these crimes.

The junta, says the U.S. National Council of Churches, is not a "moderate" or centrist group, but one that is either unwilling or unable to control its security forces and right-wing paramilitary "death squads" believed responsible for most of the violence in the country.

"The chief killer of Salvadorans is the government security forces," Robert White, former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador who was abruptly dismissed by the incoming Reagan administration, told a congressional subcommittee.

The Reagan administration, which is seeking to "draw the line" against what it says is Soviet expansionism in the area, has warned Cuba and Nicaragua to stop sending arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas and moved to help the junta with increased military material and military "advisors."

Scoring this development, three national Roman Catholic bodies declared that intervention of other countries in the civil strife in El Salvador does not justify U.S. military involvement there.

The USCC, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious said in a joint statement (March 2) that they did not endorse the presence of "other outside political forces in El Salvador," but "remained convinced that the provision of military assistance by the United States to the junta" had three negative consequences:

"It identifies the United States, at least symbolically, with the repressive role of the security forces whose actions have been consistently criticized by the church in El Salvador; it increases the risk of wider military intervention; and it jeopardizes a constructive role the United States might play in the conflict."

Shortly after this statement was issued, Washington Roman Catholic Archbishop James A. Hickey, testifying at a congressional hearing on behalf of the Catholic hierarchy in the United States, reaffirmed Catholic opposition to U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran junta, calling the introduction of additional military advisers "risky to the point of being reckless."

The archbishop urged Washington to encourage dialogue between-opposing forces in El Salvador and seek a negotiated settlement, rather than to maintain "a notable silence" on such a possible political solution to the Salvadoran crisis.

## Cancer Film Offered

A film dealing with "a doctor's view of cancer, as a patient," will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 27 at the Friends Meeting House, 41 Westminster Road, across from the George Eastman House.

"From Both Ends of the Stethoscope," a film produced by the Scripps Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, explores "the delicate questions of how to respond to the inevitable question of

how much time, etc.," and features Dr. David Peters, a dermatologist who was diagnosed as having terminal cancer.

Peters describes the hard parts of dealing with cancer, the release said. He died at age 38. The film is sponsored by Make Today Count, a support group for cancer patients and other serious illnesses. The film is free and open to the public.

The three Catholic agencies, in their statement, said they joined with Bishop Rivera "and the other bishops of El Salvador" in expressing their conviction that a political solution is both possible and preferable to the ongoing "fratricidal conflict" in El Salvador.

Said the Catholic spokespersons: "We use the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's death to call again in the name of the bishops and religious communities of the United States for the termination of all military aid to El Salvador and for new efforts to facilitate a negotiated political solution to the conflict."

Despite such pleas from the Roman Catholic leadership, however, President Reagan strongly defended increased military aid to El Salvador.

In flat contradiction to Catholic claims that the junta is primarily responsible for the violence there, Reagan said at a news conference March 6 that the United States was "helping the forces that are supporting human rights in El Salvador."

"We are supporting a government which we believe has an intention of improving the society for the benefit of the people," he said.

## Fr. Heyman

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Ambrose, and again at noon on the same day in his home parish, St. Andrew's.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Heyman of Lux Street in Rochester attended city schools, graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School in 1973. He attended St. John Fisher College, graduating summa cum laude with a BA in 1976. He majored in psychology and religious studies.

He attended St. Bernard's Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1980. He is completing a Master of Arts degree this year with a concentration in scripture.

His field education experience includes stints at St. Michael's in Newark, Corpus Christi School and Monroe Community Hospital.

In addition, he served as organist at St. Andrew's Church for five years, and was



FATHER HEYMAN

a staff member to the Joint Archeological Expedition to Tell-el Hesi in southern Israel during the summer of 1979.

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The Reagan administration, in addition to sending 26 military advisers to El Salvador, above the 19 sent by President Carter, has added \$25 million in equipment and arms to an earlier package of \$10.4 million in military aid under the Carter administration.

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