Special Edition!

Central America Week

Buscando asilo huyes de guerra, hambre, opresión.
Arriesgando la vida, caminas por surcos sembrados de minas.

Después de perder hogar, país,
el derecho a la vida,
 llegas a la frontera buscando hospitalidad

Timidamente extiendes tu mano vacía pidiendo acogida, protección.

Tu vulnerabilidad nos recuerda que todos somos refugiados del Reino, en exilio; en marcha hacia el mundo de amor que desea nuestro Dios

from Revista Maryknoll, November 1989

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What is CUSLAR?

The Committee on US-Latin American Relations (CUSLAR) is a project of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy (CRESP), a non-profit organization that works out of Anabel Taylor Hall at Cornell University. CUSLAR works in the university, in Ithaca, and in the surrounding region to promote a greater understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean. We are a diverse group of volunteers, composed of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members and community people. We are united in our concern about the role of the United States in influencing social, political and economic conditions throughout the Western Hemisphere. Within this context, we support the right of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to self-determination and support their efforts to free themselves from a legacy of colonialism, underdevelopment and oppression.

Our programming is focused on three levels: first, to provide events that bring new information and new perspectives to our community, thus providing forums for study and debate among people concerned and involved in Latin American issues; second, to organize local opposition to US intervention in the internal affairs of other nations; and third, to support movements that are working for positive change in Latin America. We seek to uphold the principles of self determination, economic justice, fundamental human rights and mutual cultural appreciation and respect.

New CUSLAR Meeting Format!

Open discussions of particular topics relating to Latin America take place every Monday at 5 pm, in the Commons Coffee House, Anabel Taylor Hall. Often we'll have local experts on the topic at the meeting to provide some backround information. On Wednesdays at 5 (in the CUSLAR office) we have business meetings where we discuss programming. This is where most of the major decisions are made and our work tasks divided up. Everyone is welcome at either or both meetings. Bring us your ideas, suggestions and energy. Working together we can make a difference and actively demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.


The Committee on US-Latin American Relations (CUSLAR) is a project of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy (CRESP), based at Cornell University. We work in Ithaca and the surrounding area to promote greater understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean. We are particularly concerned with the role of the United States in influencing the social, political and economic conditions of the region.

The CUSLAR Newsletter is published bi-monthly and provides members and other concerned individuals with the opportunity to present information and analysis on topics relevant to Latin America and the Caribbean. The positions of the authors do not necessarily reflect the positions of CUSLAR as an organization. The CUSLAR Newsletter committee cooperates with authors to reach mutually acceptable editorial decisions. If you are interested in writing for the Newsletter or working on the committee, please call the CUSLAR office at (607) 255-7293. We welcome your suggestions and letters to the editors.
Immigration: Injustice on the Homefront

With the rapidly increasing numbers of refugees streaming across the US-Mexican border, the connection between US foreign policy and the flow of refugees into the US has never been more obvious. For instance, by continuing to fund the Salvadoran military, the US has made it possible for the Cristiani government to carry out a brutal repression of its people. The rise in political repression in El Salvador since November has led to a dramatic increase in the number of Salvadorans making their way to the US to seek political asylum. Likewise, in Guatemala, the US-funded military is carrying out disappearances and murders on a daily basis, targeting student leaders, peasant organizers, trade unionists and others demanding basic human rights. Thus many Guatemalans have sought political asylum in the US as well.

Since the US government claims that the El Salvadoran and Guatemalan governments are “democratically” elected and further states that the refugees coming to the US are “economic” refugees, it grants only 2-3% of Salvadorans and Guatemalans political asylum. Letting these refugees into the US would be admitting that there exists political repression in these countries and that would call into question US policy of funding these militaries. These refugees may receive only 15-20 minutes in court to prove that their lives are in danger in their countries. They must provide documentation as proof of the threat to their lives. Many are unable to provide proof because of the urgency in which they had to escape. It is not a coincidence that at least 20-30% of Guatemalans and Salvadorans who are deported are dead within three months of returning to their countries. On the other hand, 83% of Nicaraguans entering the country receive political asylum because the US claims the Sandinistas are “totalitarian.” We can see how the ideology of the Reagan and Bush Administrations has determined who is granted political asylum.

Central Americans who have left their countries to escape persecution arrive at the border only to face further injustice in this country. When refugees arrive at the border and apply for political asylum, 95% are turned down and put in detention camps while their appeals are filed. Bail is often set at $3000, an amount impossible for refugees to pay. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has a long history of repressing the rights of these refugees guaranteed under the Refugee Act of 1980. Abuses include limiting or denying access to pencils or telephones and the outright denial of legal assistance for the refugees. On the Texas border, the INS detention center, Port Isabel Service Processing Center, is 30 miles from any town, isolating the refugees from the outside world. In addition, the conditions at the detention centers have gotten worse as the number of refugees detained has increased. At different times, circus tents have been put up to hold more refugees. The conditions in the tents have been horrendous—problems such as lack of proper sanitation, inadequate health care, and not enough food. Because of these conditions, the refugees staged a spontaneous protest on March 17, 1989 that was quickly put down—the riot squad was called in, observers and legal workers cleared out, and the camp closed down. The “instigators” were separated and sent to county jails. The denial of basic human rights was what the refugees thought they were escaping from. Ironically, the refugees are fleeing to the US, the country that has provided funding for the political repression that forced them to leave their countries in the first place. The refugees have committed no crime and are legally protected under the 1980 Refugee Act as asylum seekers but nonetheless are
routinely put in jail. The INS also routinely shares information that it gathers from undocumented immigrants in South Texas with the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency.

As Central America is becoming more and more militarized, so is the border. The number of border patrol has increased dramatically, as has the control of the INS over the local communities. To prevent Central American refugees from gaining sympathy from these communities, the INS collaborates with the local media to portray the refugees as criminals who have come to take away the jobs of the working class and who will infect the communities with disease, drugs, and “communism.” The INS and Border Patrol have been trying to convince the local population that virtually any aid to undocumented refugees could be considered a felony. By portraying Central American refugees as a threat and by keeping the refugees isolated, the INS can mistreat the refugees with virtually free reign.

The US is waging a war against Central Americans on two fronts. One, by providing military aid repressive governments. Two, by directly repressing the refugees who flee to the US seeking justice.

-Veronica Bleuzé

For more information on immigration issues, come to a talk by Eduardo Torres “US Immigration Policy from a Mexican Perspective” followed by an open discussion on these issues. Torres is a professor of labor law in Mexico and is currently getting his PhD in the ILR school, focusing on immigration, law and policy.

Legislative Action:

Write or call your Congresspeople and tell her/him to 1) support the Moakley/DeConcini bill which would provide temporary suspension of deportation for Salvadoran migrants now in the US. This is only a temporary solution but at least it will buy them time. 2) investigate the abuses at the border and take action 3) propose legislation that would facilitate the granting of asylum to refugees coming from countries that are friendly to the US. 4) end the employer sanctions provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 which have increased the exploitation of immigrant workers and unlawful discrimination against both citizen and non-citizen workers. See the end of this newsletter for addresses and phone numbers for your congresspeople.

Write to Gene McNary, the recently appointed Commissioner of the INS to protest the renewed crackdown on the border. In the letter ask Commissioner McNary for the following:

- that the INS stop detaining and punishing asylum-seekers, and instead allow them to be released to travel to their destinations, where families and friends await them.
- that the INS stop cramming Central American asylum seekers into circus tents to coerce them to abandon asylum claims.

Address:
Gene McNary
Central Office, INS
425 “I” St., N.W.
Washington, DC, 20529

Sources:
The Guardian 12/2/87, 1/30/90, 2/21/90
In These Times 1/24-30, 1990
Help Support Refugee Shelters on the Texas-Mexico Border!!
Buy a Raffle Ticket!!
As more and more Central American refugees flow into the U.S., private shelters that provide food, housing and medical care to the refugees are overwhelmed. These shelters are staffed by dedicated volunteers and rely on donations to stay open. They are not funded by any national organizations. They need your support!!
Tickets can be purchased at the CUSLAR office (G-29 Anabel Taylor Hall) or come by our table at the Straight on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of Central America week.
The drawing will be held on April 7th at the Cafe Concierto (see calendar)

Nicaragua: The Aftermath of the Elections

The February 25th elections in Nicaragua have marked a watershed event. UNO, the fractious opposition coalition glued together by $12.5 million in US funding, will be taking power on April 25th under the somewhat dubious leadership of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Mainstream US media has heralded the birth of democracy in Nicaragua, but in fact the US government has managed to subvert the most carefully observed electoral process in history by spending $8.33 for every Nicaraguan vote cast—an extraordinary amount, considering how poor Nicaragua is. By one calculation, this sum would be equivalent to $400 per vote in a US election.

Moreover, far beyond the actual money poured into the election, the US has used the leverage of ten years of economic blackmail and eight years of Contra terrorism to encourage Nicaraguans to vote for peace and economic aid. UNO’s principal campaign promise of immediate economic recovery was strong incentive to vote “for the stomach” and not “for the heart,” in the words of some Nicaraguans. Now Bush has lifted the trade embargo and promised $500 million in aid, demonstrating the extent of the US’s paternalistic attitude toward Nicaragua: cry uncle and uncle will forgive you and take away the punishment. It remains an open question whether Chamorro’s administration will be able to deliver the miracles it promises, especially since US aid will come with the stipulation that it be used for an “American-style” economic recovery, which may not meet Nicaraguans’ expectations.

As for what the future brings, the Sandinistas have won 43% of the vote, which ensures that they will be the majority opposition party and will be able to block changes to the Constitution. Also, since the parties comprising UNO are unlikely to agree on much, the Sandinistas may be able to control the mood of the National Assembly.

The fate of the popular movements under the new administration remains to be seen, but by all accounts organizations are marshalling their energy to continue their work. Many of us who have supported the revolution for all this time may feel betrayed or angered by the election results. It may do us good to reflect on Nicaraguans’ responses. They have participated in their second free election and are hoping for an era of greater peace and economic stability. Many are upset by the election results, but they have been galvanized to increase their involvement in the popular movement. To quote from two letters I recently received from Nicaraguan friends:

“We haven’t lost, we’ve only begun a new stage in our triumph of ten years of sacrifice, of pain, of deaths, of hunger. But those of us who are strong...continue forward with the Frente.”

“At the same time we are ready to be more unified, to struggle so that the revolutionary projects don’t fall, (to struggle) for
those things for which so many heroes and martyrs died. We are strong, and we continue forward; also we count on the solidarity of many peoples..."

This optimism and pledge of hard work deserves our continued solidarity. If the Nicaraguan Revolution is to flourish, we must continue to work for an end to the dogma of US foreign policy that permits US interference in other nations’ affairs. We must urge our representatives to provide Nicaragua with real aid and real reparations for the damage we’ve caused. We must pressure the Bush Administration and Chamorro government to keep the popular movements intact and to continue their economic support in the form of vehicles and buildings, as well as funds for these organizations. Above all, we must fight the misinformation campaign and allow Nicaraguans to decide what is best for Nicaragua.

-Kristina Wirtz

Guatemala: The Deteriorating Situation

Guatemala is entering the decade of the ‘90’s with a deepening economic crisis and a growing insurgent movement. The previous nine years of military dictatorships is recognized as a very dark and bloody period of Guatemalan history that included massive human rights violations as the army implemented a vicious counter-insurgency campaign. Vinicio Cerezo, only the second civilian president in the past 30 years, came to office through the elections of 1985. The elections served as the third stage of the military’s counterinsurgency plan: a militarized civilian government. The goal was to ameliorate Guatemala’s international image.

The election of Christian Democrat, Vinicio Cerezo, in 1986 gave renewed hope to the people of Guatemala for a democratic opening. The popular organizations began to reorganize after suffering the loss of many of their leaders by the military. They had suffered the full brunt of the terror and repression of a desperate government controlled by a military apparatus. Unfortunately a true democratic opening was never realized. Since 1986 both the political and economic situation in Guatemala has deteriorated.

Since 1986, Guatemala has been under pressure by international financial institutions to implement structural adjustments to liberate the economy, and to promote foreign investment and exports. (Institute of Economic and Social Investigations of the University of San Carlos:IIES Sept. in PBI Newsletter, Oct. 1989) Guatemala has a large negative balance of payments. Devaluation of the Quetzal and inflation in 1989 reduced the buying power of the quetzal to 40% of its 1980 buying power. The transportation and electrical sectors have been seriously affected by the devaluation.

An increase in organizing in the labor sectors is due to the daily economic hardship that working people must endure. A series of strikes demanding an increase in wages began with the teacher’s strike last summer. Thirty to forty thousand teachers participated in the 12 week strike. Many other public sector employees went out on strike in sympathy. The URNG guerilla coalition staged attacks against the telephone company’s building and central electrical poles during the strike. The teacher strike provoked panic and scared the army. The army felt a need to retaliate and hurt the mass sector, since the Guatemalan army sees the guerillas and the popular movement as “the enemy”. On August 21 and 22, seven university students were disappeared. The army hit the
student movement because it was seen as a weak link in the popular movement coalition and because it does not have the international ties which might have provoked a scandal. After this attack, the mass movement pulled back.

In the Fall, following the teachers’ strike, STINDE, the electrical workers union struck to protest the permanent layoff of 3500 workers and a 21-40% raise in the cost for electricity. The World Bank wanted to improve Guatemala’s Index of Profitability by privatizing the construction unit of the electrical company and in the process eliminate 3500 jobs. The bank had also imposed a 40% increase in costs to the consumer. It is the poor within Guatemala who will bear the heaviest burden of the economic measures imposed by the World Bank and IMF.

In December, inter-city bus fares doubled. Union and high school student organizations protested the increase in costs. In the countryside on January 30, 45,000 cane cutters involving more than 24 plantations, ceased work to demand better wages and working condition. By January 31, they numbered 60,000. Intimidation has included, lock-ins, searches, police harassment, murders, kidnappings and gunshots. The teachers’ and STINDE strikes were not without violence. Several teachers were killed and others wounded and the leader of the electrical workers union was murdered.

The massacre of 22 campesinos in Aguacate in November 1988, represents a turning point in the visibility of the conflict in recent years. The CDHG (Guatemalan Human Rights Committee) describes it as the return to “indiscriminate collective executions.”

The Fall of 1989 is also marked with an increase in the activities of the UNRG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity). Attacks were staged in November in solidarity with the FMLN in order to keep the Guatemalan military at home. The army has responded to the deteriorating economic conditions and corresponding demands from labor for livable wages coupled with a renewal of actions by the UNRG with an increase in human rights abuses and terror. In late 1989 and early 1990 there were a number of attacks against foreigners. They include: the November 11 kidnapping and abuse of U.S. citizen Diana Ortiz (31), an Ursuline Sister from Maple Mount, KY who was living and working as a teacher in Guatemala; the assault and stabbing of 3 PBI (Peace Brigades Int’l) volunteers on December 20; the December 21 murder of Jose Rodolfo Vargas Gonzalez, the Second Secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala; on December 27 fragmentation grenades were thrown into the International Red Cross and USAID headquarters in Guatemala City; AID Security Guard Jorge Hernandez was killed; and on January 11, Salvadoran Hector Oqueli Colindres, deputy secretary general of the MNR party, along with a Guatemalan lawyer were abducted and killed, while on their way to the international airport in Guatemal City (see insert for other Human Rights violations.

President Cerezo is virtually powerless to control the abuses of the military. The four coup attempts in the past two years have effectively removed any of the limited power President Cerezo had. General Gramajo, Cerezo’s Minister of Defense and right hand man, has had to renegotiate his position within the military. The military is divided between those who want to practice total war which was so successful in the early 80’s and those who want to engage in low intensity warfare to have access to international aid. At this point it seems that Cerezo is merely hanging on until the end of his term since elections are scheduled for November 1990. NISGUA reports that the available candidates come from parties to the right of center. They are preoccupied with political positioning and are not advocating solutions to the deep economic problems facing the country.

Since the election of a civilian government and what the U.S. terms a “fledgling democracy”, the U.S. response has been to support the escalation of a militaristic trend. During 1977-1985 no military aid was approved. Subsequently aid increased from $5 to $7 to $9 million which has been
earmarked as "non-lethal aid". The $9 million appropriated for 1989-90 has since been reduced to $2.9 million because the U.S. government is faced with financial commitments in Eastern Europe and Panama. Ongoing U.S. military actions within Guatemala (See box) demonstrate that the reduction in aid does not represent a change in policy but is a result of budget constraints.

-Janice Degni

U.S. Military Actions within Guatemala during 1989

• the approval of the commercial sale of 16,000 M-16 rifles for the Guatemalan army (U.S. aid is termed non-lethal)

• construction by US Army and Guatemalan military of a road circling Lake Atitlan, area of active insurgency

• training of Guatemalan paratroopers by US Green Berets

• series of civic action exercises by armed and uniformed National Guard units from Kentucky, Georgia, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Hawaii, mostly in Chimaltenango, a province with considerable rebel activity;

• ferrying of supplies and medical personnel by US helicopters to areas of forced relocation in El Quiche

• parachute and jungle-survival training by US Special Forces for Guatemala's elite Kaibíl' (paratroopers) counterinsurgency troops in the Peten

• training Guatemalans to fly A-37 attack planes and to repair C-47 transport planes; and

• provision of $9 million dollars in non-lethal military aid in the 1989-1990 fiscal years. (later reduced to $2.9 million as mentioned in article)

Reported by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) in Guatemala Update, Feb. 1990, by GUIASO, Guatemala Solidarity Committee of Seattle WA.

Looking for Information on Latin America?

Come visit our Resource Center!

Our office in G-29 Anabel Taylor Hall is open between 10am and 5pm on most working days. There we have a large collection of resources on Latin America that are well organized and open to public use. Most books, magazines, pamphlets and other materials can be checked out for personal research projects. Our resources include videotapes and slideshows available to be shown at house meetings, to local groups and school classes. We also have information on opportunities to travel/study/work in Latin America.
Capsulation of Recent Human Rights Abuses in Guatemala

November 1989  56 assassinations and 15 kidnappings were recorded.

December 1989  105 extrajudicial executions, 43 wounded persons in attacks, and seven people abducted were reported by the Guatemalan Press.

February Two teachers active in the teachers’ strike were forced to leave the country after receiving several death threats.

Feb 2 Juan Luis Coy Monzon, Executive Committee member and Organization and Publicity Secretary of STINDE receives death threats.

Feb 6 University student Oscar Piedrasanta, was kidnapped. He was released Feb. 15 and immediately fled the country.

Feb 11 The bodies of two members of the Coca Cola workers' union were found with signs of torture and gunshot to the head.

Feb 10 Doctor Carmen Valenzuela, a professor of the University of San Carlos and president of the Assoc. of Women Doctors, and a well known athlete was kidnapped. She was released Feb. 18 after the U.S. Embassy pressured the Guatemalan government for her release.

Feb. 18 Griselda Reyes, the wife of Juan Coy, chairman of STINDE was kidnapped for five hours. She was beaten and questioned about the whereabouts of her husband by three armed men.

Father Giron, Catholic priest and a land reform leader is subject to ongoing harassment and surveillance by Cesar Menendez, Commander of the Nuevo Conception military base.


El Salvador Update

Since the FMLN’s November offensive, the Salvadoran government has brutally retaliated against the people, sanctioning arbitrary detentions and disappearances as well as a crackdown on popular organizations through its declaration of a state of siege.

On February 8th, and again on March 7th, the Salvadoran legislature voted to renew the state of siege, which legalizes human rights abuses. This act perpetuates laws allowing a fifteen day detention incommunicado of any person without declaring the charges as well as rescinding people’s right to assembly, so that any attempts to organize meetings, demonstrations, and strikes are illegal.

Currently there are about 1000 political prisoners, including 400 activists, teach-
ers, and unionists who have been arrested since November 11th. Despite frequent threats and an atmosphere of political repression resembling the early '80s, the popular movement is mobilizing. So far this year, hundreds of organizations have participated in several national peace and labor forums, and groups such as CRIPDES (Christian Committee for the Displaced) are reopening their offices, despite bomb threats and police occupations.

The country is unsure whether to anticipate another FMLN offensive or a stronger push for negotiations, and even within the FMLN, the future course of action remains unclear. The FMLN has gotten a pledge from the UN that it will participate in negotiations, but the government continues to resist the idea, saying that the UN may "witness" the process, but not participate. Another indication of the government's unreadiness to negotiate, and perhaps also of its growing internal problems, is the emergence of the "high command of death squads." This new voice has declared retribution against anyone involved in prosecuting those indicted in the killings of the Jesuits and women. Apparently, this warning is directed toward more conciliatory sectors within the government, signalling a dangerous fracture between the military and Cristiani.

Overall, the current situation is precarious: the economy is at the point of collapse, with up to 75% inflation on basic items such as gas, bread, and eggs, and with the principal exports—coffee, cotton, and sugar—bringing declining prices on the world market. Next week will mark a major test of wills between the popular movement and the government. Popular organizations are planning a huge rally on March 24th, marking the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination in 1980. Since such gatherings are illegal under the state of siege, this event could become a major confrontation. We ask that people show their solidarity by joining the March 24th commemoration march in Washington, DC (call CUSLAR at 255-7293 for details) and by keeping pressure on our representatives.

-Kristina Wirtz

SOURCES
CISPES Update, March 5, 1990
El Salvador Online. Salpress, March 9, 1990

SAMPLE TEXT FOR LETTER TO CONGRESSPERSON

In light of the ongoing atrocities against human rights in El Salvador, which are now legalized under the "State of Siege," I ask you to stop any further aid to the Salvadoran government and to demand the withdrawal of US troops and advisors from that country. The war in El Salvador is against the people, against activists, religious leaders, teachers, and unionists whose only crime is working to improve their lives. If they do pose a threat to the government that justifies the imprisonment and torture of 400 activists since November 11th, it is because they seek freedom and opportunity in a system which denies basic human rights. Our tax dollars should not be buying the bullets that maintain such a system.

Instead I urge you to support a political solution to the crisis and an end to the violence that has claimed 75,000 lives and displaced over 1,000,000 people since 1980. The FMLN has secured the UN's promise to participate in negotiations; now Congress needs to pressure the Cristiani government to accept the FMLN's offers for peace and negotiation. The clearest message the US could send would be to cut off further aid until the government gets serious about peace.

I urge you to work for democracy and peace in El Salvador by supporting these measures in Congress. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Panama Update

We do not hear much about Panama anymore except to hear about what a “success” the US invasion of Panama was. Nicaragua has taken up most of the Latin American space in the news and thus much of the truth about the invasion’s consequences has not surfaced. The mainstream media consistently prints the Bush Administration’s estimates that the number of civilian casualties were “only” 250-300 Panamanians, a number acceptable to the Administration, even though Latin American newspapers and independent papers in this country estimate the number to be in the thousands. Many of the bodies were put in mass graves which obscured the actual numbers of casualties. US troops killed civilians at ten times the rate of Panamanian Defense Force (PDF) casualties. To capture Noriega and to dismantle the PDF, the US “carpet” bombed so-called PDF “strongholds,” the neighborhoods of San Miguelitos and Chorillos. These “strongholds” consisted of black working class and poor neighborhoods and so it has been this part of the population that has bore the brunt of the invasion. There are now 13,000-20,000 internal refugees in Panama City as the result of the invasion.

In addition to the civilian casualties and the destruction of the homes of tens of thousands of Panamanians, an estimated 5,000 Panamanians are being detained by the US military. The only charge against these Panamanians who are being detained in concentration camps is that they were against the invasion. Since the US never officially declared war on Panama, it calls these Panamanians “detainees” instead of “POWs”. POWs are protected by international law whereas detainees are not.

The economy is in a lot worse shape now than before the invasion (the economy was in bad condition then too because of two years of economic sanctions) and Congress has yet to supply the promised economic aid to Panama. President Endara recently went on a hunger strike to protest the lack of aid and to show solidarity with the Panamanians who are suffering from the aftermath of the invasion.

-Veronica Bleuzé

Sources:
Z Magazine, February 1990
In These Times, January 17-23
Central America NewsPak, January 15-28
CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK CALENDAR

Saturday 3/24  Washington DC March protesting US Central America policy. Transportation is available-call CUSLAR for details at 255-7293.

Monday 3/26  Eduardo Torres: “US Immigration Law from a Mexican Perspective” 5pm Commons Coffeehouse

Wednesday 3/28  “After the Elections: Where Do We Go from Here?” An open discussion on the implications of the Nicaraguan Elections. Betsy Fuller, an official election observer, will open with a report on Nicaraguans’ responses to the elections. 7:30pm Dining Room of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St. Co-sponsored by CUSLAR and Sister City Project

Thursday 3/29  CUSLAR Film: Machito: A Latin Jazz Legacy 8pm Anabel Taylor Auditorium

Friday 3/30  Video Showing: “Visa” This video explores the ways in which the US restricts the immigration of ideas. A series of interviews with voices of dissent such as Garcia Marquez and Margaret Randall. 4pm Uris Library Media Room

DJ Dance Party—Fundraiser for an orphanage in Mozambique and a battered women’s clinic in El Salvador. 9pm-2am Noyes Center, Third Floor Lounge. Co-sponsored by Women in International Development and CUSLAR.

Sunday 4/1  A Service of Remembrance for the People of El Salvador. 7:30-9pm St. John’s Episcopal Church. Sponsored by Ithaca Area Religious Task Force on Central America

Monday 4/2  Joe Fitzpatrick, Jesuit and friend of the six Jesuits killed in El Salvador will speak at the CUSLAR Monday night discussion series. 5pm Commons Coffeehouse, Anabel Taylor Hall

Saturday 4/7  Cafe Concierto as part of the Women and Revolution conference. Live music by Colleen Kattau, songs of liberation and a poetry reading by Mayra Santos-Febres. Fundraiser for CUSLAR. Drawing for raffle (fundraiser for refugee centers on the US-Mexican border). 8pm Commons Coffeehouse, Anabel Taylor Hall

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U.S. postage paid
Permit 448
Ithaca, NY 14850

12  COMMITTEE ON US—LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS