

CACC

NEWSLETTER

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SEMINARS IN EL SALVADOR

By Rev. James Colbert

Signs of the war are everywhere! The newspaper offices in which we were interviewed were protected by sandbag barriers, and armed guards stood on the rooftops. Doors were sealed with solid iron frames, and the windows were equipped with iron bars.

This is El Salvador. Dr. John Whitehall, the Rev. Peter Padro, and I were there for a series of seminars from March the 10th to the 24th.

Our first appointment was with Radio Imperial where we made a live radio broadcast. This station had been attacked a few weeks previously by communist-led guerrillas. I strongly suspect that the broadcasting of our recorded anti-communism messages three or four times daily during the past two years by this station helped provoke the attack. The attack had caused damage to its tower and transformer, but repairs had been made quickly, and the broadcasts were soon back on the air.

The Seminars

The audiences at the seminars consisted of teachers and students, military officers and soldiers, church leaders, business and government leaders, professional people and recruits from the radio programs. In addition to the seminars, we spoke to large audiences in high schools, military establishments, and churches.

Security

We were more security conscious during this visit than on our previous trips. The reason for this was the recent increase in terroristic attacks in the cities. The communist-led guerrilla forces have been faring poorly in their battles with the El Salvador army so they are re-emphasizing urban terrorism with an increase in kidnapping and assassination.

We were welcomed by the editors, reporters, and photographers of the local press who knew us from previous visits. They were willing and eager to give publicity to help the cause, and we encouraged them to present the news of our meetings but asked them not to publish our pictures.

Like Muammar Khadafy of Libya, guerrilla leaders make no secret of their use of kidnapping and assassination. One of the top leaders, Leonel Gonzalez, head of the "Popular Liberation Forces," recently told a correspondent for the NEW YORK TIMES that the rebels were increasing kidnappings, assassinations, and bombing in the capital city as part of their new strategy. He said the kidnapping of President Duarte's daughter, who was later released in exchange for rebel prisoners, and the abduction of village mayors, were part of their new strategy. He claimed that all U. S. personnel are legitimate targets and defended the assassination of four United States marines last year as they were eating at a sidewalk restaurant.

The Dangers of Travel by Road

Driving between cities and towns is hazardous. When our Crusade team had to travel by car for 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours in order to conduct meetings, the driver of the car would insist that we leave to return to San Salvador no later than 4:00 p. m. He would say: "Our lives are in danger. They will kill you gringos and burn my car. We must go."

The guerrillas often set up road blocks on the roads that lead to the capital. These are most likely to be set up after sunset since the military patrols decrease in numbers or cease altogether once the sun goes down. One purpose of the road blocks is to prevent or retard the flow of consumer goods from the harbors or the farms to the population centers. Trucks carrying goods are burned and often the drivers are killed. Buses are frequently stopped. The passengers are then forced to disembark and listen to a propaganda harangue from the guerrillas, and any military or government personnel may be summarily executed.

Harvest Time

The Crusade has been working in El Salvador for over two years. During this time we have taught many thousands of leaders the true nature of communism. These leaders have come from the religious, educational, political, and business communities. Approximately 300,000 copies of "Why I Am Against Communism" have been distributed along with thousands of copies of "You Can Trust the Communists (to be Communists)". Messages are broadcast regularly over the radio, and we have given a number of telecasts. One of the Catholic Bishops said: "The radio broadcasts are very important because the peasants carry transistor radios with them and listen as they work in the fields."

Popular Disenchantment with the Guerrillas

There are many who claim the guerrillas are losing the support of the people because the people have learned what their beliefs and future plans are. The guerrillas themselves acknowledge that they have lost some support among the people, but they attribute this to their practice of using force to recruit young men from peasant families into the guerrilla forces. Some of those who refused have been tortured and killed. They are still using this strategy in the rural areas.

The Limbless

One guerrilla tactic is to plant explosive land mines. They hide these along the pathways just beneath the surface and camouflage them with leaves and twigs. Their announced purpose is to cripple the military, but many unsuspecting peasants become victims. The Crusade team visited one of the hospitals in a high conflict area. We talked with young boys and old men who had lost a leg due to stepping on a mine.

I spoke and prayed with an old man who had lost his leg a few weeks previously. He told me how it happened. He said he was a displaced person and very poor. He wanted to build a little cabin in which his wife and children could live. He was gathering wood when he stepped on a mine which exploded and destroyed one of his legs. He retained a stump about 6 to 9 inches long descending from his waist.

We were appalled that no artificial limbs are available for the victims of these mines, many of whom are little children. We checked with hospital and Red Cross officers and discovered that no one is giving attention to this problem. We all agreed that we should attempt to provide artificial limbs for these people. Here is an opportunity to help the suffering in a practical way, and we seek your financial support for this purpose.

Guerrilla Unity

There are five separate revolutionary organizations controlling guerrillas fighting in El Salvador, and this has often resulted in bitter conflict and slaughter. Attempts are now being made to unite these organizations into one Marxist? Leninist party. The major leaders of the guerrillas openly acknowledge their communist character.

A similar unification of the different organizations fighting Somoza in Nicaragua took place under the direction of Castro and Cuba. The unity that was forged contributed to the victory over Somoza and the establishment of the subsequent monopoly of power by the Sandinista forces.

Psychological Warfare

We held a number of conferences with military leaders. Much more attention is now being paid to psychological warfare. Two officers from the Department of Psychological Warfare assured us that they had learned a lot from our previous visits. They are now confident that they are winning the war. One of their objectives is to win the confidence

of the people.

In the past, many of the peasants blamed the arrival of the army in the villages for the suffering and hardship that they experienced. When the army arrived, the guerrillas would flee, but they would often blow up the water, light, and telephone systems before they left. It is not surprising that the coming of the army was blamed for the suffering that followed.

These officers claimed that many are now defecting from the guerrilla forces. This defection is encouraged by the circulation of several types of leaflet. One which has been effective is a "safe conduct pass" which is dropped by helicopter over guerrilla-controlled areas. This pass is signed by the commanding general of the government forces and guarantees that the guerrilla who wants to defect will be forgiven and welcomed. The law requires that any defector or prisoner taken by the government forces must be seen within eight days by the official Human Rights Commission.

Guerrilla Strength

The guerrilla forces are estimated to contain about 5,000 fighters. It is difficult to be precise because the guerrilla leaders do not announce the strength of their forces. A recent high-ranking defector gave these estimates: "Peoples Revolutionary Army, 2,000; Popular Liberation Forces, 1,500; while the three other guerrilla organizations had about 500 each.

Proletarian Internationalism

We flew from San Salvador to San Miguel because much of the intervening territory is controlled by the guerrillas. There we spoke to the officers and soldiers of the highly regarded Arce Battalion. I asked one of the captains if his troops had captured any foreign guerrillas. He informed us that Cubans and Nicaraguans had been killed while fighting with the guerrillas and that his troops had also killed a white, blue-eyed European. Since this man was carrying no identification papers, they could not prove his identity. There are, however, known guerrillas fighting in El Salvador from Belgium, Spain, France, and Morocco.

The commanding officer of the Arce Battalion told us he would like to make our study material the official study course of his forces. He asked for 1,000 study kits.

Protracted War

The guerrillas are now anticipating a protracted war. A few years ago they thought they were on the verge of victory, but now they look to Vietnam as the model rather than Nicaragua. Their recent propaganda broadcasts have described their fight as an "anti-imperialist war against the United States that will last for decades."

How important it is that the United States and all lovers of freedom shall not grow weary in well-doing and give up the struggle. Those fighting the communist enemy in El Salvador are fighting to preserve the life and freedom of the citizens of the U. S . A. To desert them would be cruel and suicidal

Our truth campaign in El Salvador must continue and grow.

DISTRIBUTION OF "WHY COMMUNISM KILLS TO STUDENTS

The distribution of the message "Why Communism Kills" to the students of colleges and universities continues apace. Some responses are critical and hostile. Despite this, no response has been able to point out any misstatement or distortion in the text.

A hostile criticism has been received from Radio Havana of Cuba. Their review and my response will be published in our June 1 newsletter.

THE LENIN OF THE PHILIPPINES SPEAKS

Jose Maria Sison founded the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in 1968. He was captured and imprisoned by the Marcos regime in 1977. He was released from prison by Cory Aquino after Marcos was overthrown.

After his release, Sison addressed an overflow mass rally of his supporters in Manila. His message was reported in the April 7 edition of the Trotskyist communist magazine, INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS. Here are extracts from the report:

Expel the U S from the Military Bases

"Sison warned that he could see no lasting national reconciliation without establishing true independence, especially removing the U.S. military bases and carrying out a genuine land reform." (Page 208)

Bayan ?A Communist Front

"He proposed that Bayan, a broad, legal coalition in which the CPP has considerable influence, transform itself into 'a national democratic party' to participate in these developments." (Page 208)

The Consequences of the Boycott of the Election

The communists and their dupes had boycotted the elections that set in motion the chain of events that led to the overthrow of Marcos. Sison was critical of this policy and its consequences:

"In response to a question from the floor, Sison gave his assessment of the boycott tactic applied by CPP-led groups like Bayan in the February 7 snap elections. The tactic had been motivated on the grounds that Aquino was not essentially different from Marcos and that the elections would be fraudulent. This is the subject of a raging debate within the 'cause-oriented' popular organizations and within the CPP itself.

"The mass mobilizations that developed around the Aquino candidacy and exploded February 22-25, when Marcos tried to steal the elections, caught CPP-led organizations by surprise. They were left politically disoriented and largely sidelined and unable to significantly influence the course of events at the decisive moment." (Page 208)

Aquino ? The Kerensky of the Philippines

Sison revealed that he was confident that Aquino was playing a role in the Philippines similar to that played by Kerensky in Russia in 1917. A popular revolution overthrew the Russian Czar in March, 1917. The people expected political freedom through democracy. A provisional government was established which brought Kerensky to power and elections were scheduled. Communists, such as Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin, who were in prison or exile, were freed and invited to participate in political life. They organized a second revolution which abolished democracy and instituted dictatorship.

Marxism teaches that the transition from capitalism to socialism requires two revolutions. The first is called the national democratic revolution which overthrows the existing government and establishes a popular democracy. The second is the socialist revolution which overthrows the national democratic regime and establishes communist dictatorship.

In Russia, the second revolution, which was actually a political coup, took place six months after the overthrow of the Czar and placed Lenin and his Bolsheviks in power.

The elections were held and resulted in the defeat of the Bolsheviks. Lenin ignored this result and ruled by the gun.

Sison now plans to work for the Socialist Revolution which he believes is coining, and through which Aquino will be overthrown and a communist dictatorship will be established. He took credit for creating the conditions and forces that led to the overthrow of Marcos and lamented that the communists were not yet reaping the full harvest:

"The revolutionaries had planted the seed of antifascist struggles in 1968 (when the CPP was founded), Sison said. Over the years that seed had grown into a tree, which in 1986 bore a bumper crop of fruit. Latecomers got most of the

fruit this time, he said, but next will be the turn of the revolutionaries."

Will there be a "next time?"

COMMUNIST GOBBLEDEGOOK

The communists define "propaganda" as "that which conveys many ideas to a few people." They contrast and couple it with "agitation" which "conveys one idea to many people."

Many practical Americans tend to dismiss communist propaganda as "gobbledegook" and ignore it.

Consider the following statement taken from an article, captioned "Engels' Role in Developing the Philosophy of Marxism," published in the December, 1985 edition of the communist propaganda magazine, WORLD MARXIST REVIEW. The author is Academician Teodor Oizerman of the USSR Academy of Sciences:

"Materialist dialectics, whose various aspects of Marx and Engels jointly elaborated in all their works, is the most immediate expression of the fundamental unity of their philosophical views. They creatively reworked the old, metaphysical materialism and gave a materialistic reappraisal of Hegel's idealist dialectics, the most outstanding achievement in the history of philosophical thinking before Marx. They came to see dialectics as the theory of development in its fullest form free from any one-sidedness, and as a universally significant method, because development itself is universal, substantial and absolute." (Page 28)

Tell me frankly, what is your reaction to this statement? Do you understand it? Do you shrug your shoulders and mutter contemptuously, "what gobbledegook"?

Communism is conquering the world with statements like this. It is ideas similar to those enshrined in the above statement which recruit the intelligent and idealistic students into communist ranks. These students then exploit social forces such as poverty and oppression to advance communist conquest. It was such statements that recruited the bright students, Carlos Fonseca and Tomas Borge, and led them to form the Sandinista National Liberation Front. The consequences are history.

Words are weapons; ideas have consequences. Communist doctrines must not be dismissed as gobbledegook but must be understood and combatted.

WHAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TEACHES

The March 12-18 edition of the socialist weekly, IN THESE TIMES, contains an article on the attempts of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to stem the flood of illegal immigrants from El Salvador which is sweeping across the Rio Grande into Texas. It is written by Dennis Bernstein and Connie Blitt, and is captioned "TEXAS-Refugees Flock to the Not-So-Grand Valley." It attempts to portray the policy of the U. S. A. and its INS agency as cruel and inhuman, but any intelligent reader will realize it is a testimony to the magnetic appeal and humanitarian conduct of the U. S. A.

It is the sovereign right and responsibility of any government to protect its borders. The writers describe the use of modern technology to protect the U.S.A. border between Texas and Mexico. They write:

"The Rio Grande Valley, 120 miles wide and 60 deep, is about the size of El Salvador, and closer to that Central American country than to Washington, D.C. Its population of half a million is geographically isolated by Mexico and the river on one side, the Gulf of Mexico on another and large stretches of cattle-grazing range to the north. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has in effect occupied the Valley in order to trap and turn back the tide of incoming Central Americans...

"The Border Patrol's white helicopters and planes that continually darken the Valley's skies must remind the refugees of the U.S.-made bombers that regularly strafe El Salvador's rural areas. Since the budget for the Patrol in the McAllen sector of Texas skyrocketed last year to \$9 million, checkpoints on the two roads heading north of the Valley are now open 24 hours a day, horse patrols abound and high-tech gadgets, including night-vision goggles and devices

that can detect a heartbeat in trailers and car trunks, are included in the INS security mix. Passengers in every vehicle leaving the region are scrutinized and questioned about their citizenship by the Border Patrol. Refugees are often caught and detained while attempting to traverse this 'second border' of checkpoints surrounded by motion detectors." (Page 5)

It reminds the careless reader of the technological devices of the Berlin Wall and may strengthen the delusional doctrine that there is a "moral equivalence" between the conduct of the communist-ruled countries and "U.S. Imperialism".

Actually, the difference between the Berlin Wall and the Texas Border is as definite as that between darkness and daylight. The technological devices protecting the U S border are to keep non-citizens out the technical devices of the Berlin Wall are to p citizens in

The U. S . A. continues to exercise a magnetic appeal to the underprivileged of the earth. The realities of life under communism create a flood of citizens fleeing into deadly danger, driven by unbearable hardships.

Actions speak louder than words. and democracy.

There is no moral equivalence between communism

THE RULERS OF RUSSIA

The 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) commenced in Moscow on February 27. At this Congress, the members of the supreme ruling bodies of the Party, the Politburo which makes policy, and the Secretariat which administers it, were "elected" by the members of the Central Committee.

The nominees of Gorbachev now fill these exalted and important positions. Most of them are in their sixties. One exception is the former foreign minister, Gromyko, who now serves as President of the Soviet Union, at the age of 77.

The following are full members of the Soviet Politburo:

SIM

ALIEV, Geidar Alievich Born 10 May 1923, Azeri, candidate 1976, member November 1982; first deputy chairman of Council of Ministers since November 1982; holds rank of Major-General from service in KGB.

GORBACHEV, Mikhail Sergeevich

Born 2 March 1931, Russian, became a

candidate member of the Politburo in 1979, full member October 1980; secretary since 1978, General Secretary since 11 March 1985; member of Supreme Soviet Presidium since July 1985; chairman of Defence Council.

CHEBRIKOV, Viktor Mikhailovich

Born 27 April 1923, Russian, candidate 1983. member April 1985; chairman of Committee for State Security (KGB) since December 1982; holds rank of Army General.

GROMYKO, Andrei Andreevich I

Born 18 July 1909, Russian, member

April 1973; Chairman of Supreme ?

Soviet Presidium (President) since July 1985.

LIGACHEV, Egor Kuzmich Born 29 November 1920, Russian, member April 1985; secretary since December 1983; chairman of Foreign Affairs Commission, Council of Union of Supreme Soviet since July 1985.

KUNAEV, Dinmukhamed Akhmedovich Born 12 January 1912, Kazakh, candidate 1966, member April 1971; First Secretary Kazakhstan CP 1960-62 and since December 1964; member Supreme Soviet Presidium since 1962.

RYZHKOV, Nikolai Ivanovich

Born 28 September 1929, Russian, member April 1985; secretary from 1982 to 1985; chairman of the Council of Ministers (Premier) from September 1985; member of Legislative Proposals Commission, Council of Union of Supreme Soviet since July 1985.

SHCHERBITSKY, Vladimir Vasilevich

Born 17 February 1918, Ukrainian, candidate 1965, member April 1971; First Secretary Ukraine CP since May 1972; member of Supreme Soviet Presidium since 1972.

SOLOMENTSEV, Mikhail Sergeevich

Born 7 November 1913, Russian, candidate 1971, member December 1983; Chairman, Party Control Committee since June 1983.

SHEVARDNADZE, Eduard Amvrosievich

Born 25 January 1928, Georgian, candidate 1978, member July 1985; Foreign Minister since July 1985; promoted MVD General in 1968.

VOROTNIKOV, Vitaly Ivanovich

Born 20 January 1926. Russian, member December 1983; Chairman, RSFSR Council of Ministers since June 1983.

ZAIKOV, Lev Nikolaevich Born 3 April 1923, Russian; member March 1986; secretary July 1985; member of Supreme Soviet Presidium since 1984.