

Action on Colombia

Published by the Colombia Support Network / Dane County - Apartadó Sister - Communities Project
Volume 2, No. 1 and 2 (608)255-6554 fax (608) 255-6621 csn@igc.org Spring and Summer 1995

Apartadó Mayor Gloria Cuartas Visits Wisconsin

Colombia's Peace Said to Need U.S. Restraint

By Leslie Wirpsa (from the *National Catholic Reporter*, May 12, 1995)

A delegation representing Colombia's violence-torn, banana-producing region, Urabá, recently warned that the mixing of anti-narcotics and counterinsurgency strategies by US foreign policymakers could seriously jeopardize fragile steps toward peace in Colombia.

"A clear distinction must be made between guerrillas and drug traffickers in Colombia. If the U.S. continues to push for a war against a so called 'narco-guerrilla' force, the peace process with our left-wing insurgencies will be bashed," said Jesuit Francisco de Roux.

De Roux and Gloria Cuartas, 34, the mayor of the city of Apartadó, the hub of the Urabá region, which occupies the northern tip of Colombia's northwestern Antioquia Department, participated in a week of educational forums and ecumenical activities in Madison, WI, April 24-30. The week of events, sponsored by the Madison-based CSN and the Dane County-Apartadó Sister Communities Project, was designed to raise awareness in the U.S. about the crisis plaguing Urabá, a microcosm of much of the Colombian countryside.

The delegation originally included Apartadó Bishop Isaias Duarte Cancino. But Duarte canceled his visit at the last minute because his presence was vital to a high-level international peace commission analyzing violence in the region.

The commission, whose members include Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, will attempt to identify the specific actors behind violence in Urabá and

devise a strategy to resolve more than a decade of conflict.

In Duarte's stead, Cuartas and de Roux outlined the crisis of human rights facing Urabá -- a region that has been plagued by paramilitary killings and massacres, brutal repression by the military, drug trafficking and violence from left-wing guerrillas. Not infrequently, the violence in Urabá has resembled conflict in Central America -- including massacres of scores of peasants and daily killings of union activists, community leaders and grassroots politicians.

Urabá, Cuartas said, is a microcosm of conflicts that spread throughout Colombia, and the peace process there is also a mini-model for the rest of the country. (Cont. on P. 2)



Apartadó Mayor Gloria Cuartas greeted here by Dane County Supervisor Mark Pocan

Human Rights Violators

Oppose Two Colombian Military Officers' Official Presence in the U.S.

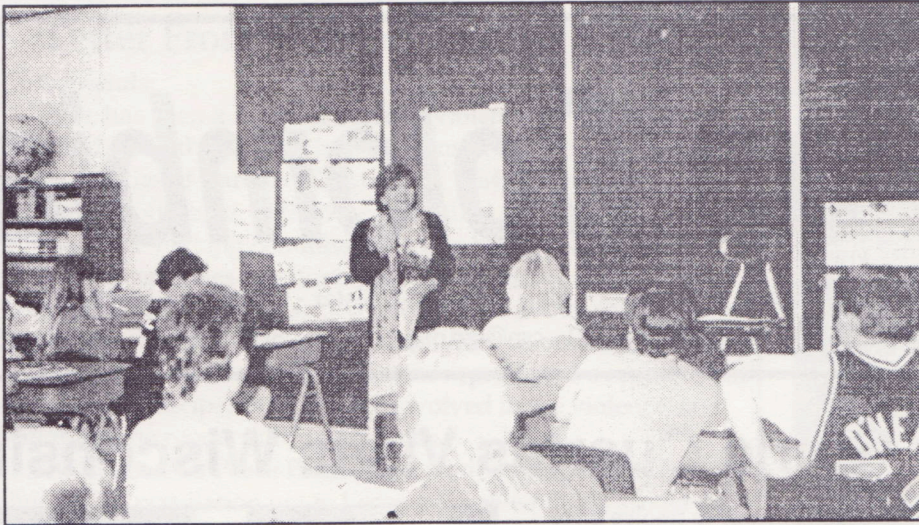
Two Colombian military officers responsible for egregious human rights violations have been named by the Colombian government to diplomatic and consular positions in the U.S.

Major General Juan Salcedo Lora was responsible for the 1988 disappearance of Colombian citizen Manuel Reyes Cardenas. Salcedo Lora has been named as Military Attaché to the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The other, retired Colonel Luis Alfonso Plazas Vega, bears responsibility for two of the worst repressive acts of recent Colombian history: the military's mass murder of the Colombian Supreme Court justices in November 1985 at the Palace of Justice (following the M19 guerrilla takeover of the building), and the formation of the death squad "M.A.S." in 1980 in league with the Drug Trafficker Rodriguez Gacha. Rodriguez Gacha was the military head of the Medellin Cartel, against which U.S. spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the 'war on drugs'! (He was murdered by U.S. paramilitary agents in Colombia.) And now Gacha's associate Plazas Vega thinks he can waltz into San Francisco without anyone paying attention to who he really is!

Plazas Vega was named honorary Consul to Hamburg Germany in April 1995. The German government protested his appointment because of his horrendous human

(Continued on Page 6)



The 5th grade of Arena Elementary School welcomed Apartadó's mayor. They would like to start a sister school project with a similar school in Apartadó.

Visit to Wisconsin - from page 1

Judicial investigations of killings in Urabá have linked members of the military, drug traffickers and Israeli mercenaries to paramilitary death squads responsible for atrocities like the March and April 1988 killings of 22 unionized banana workers and 31 peasants. Left-wing guerrillas have also been implicated in the spiral of violence: Preliminary investigations tied a rebel organization to the January 1994 slaying of 35 people in a poor neighborhood in Apartadó.

Jesuit de Roux stressed the importance of Colombia's peace process. Formerly the head of the Jesuit-run think tank, CINEP, in Bogota, de Roux now facilitates peace initiatives. De Roux urged people in the U.S. to take a critical stance against "Jesse Helms and members of the U.S. Senate" who are pushing for a stronger military intervention in Colombia.

"They put a dangerous equal sign between guerrillas and drug traffickers," de Roux said. "The U.S. cannot intervene directly against the drug traffickers, because they are criminals and should be judged by Colombians." To justify stronger intervention, de Roux said certain U.S. policymakers want to "show that a Marxist guerrilla army is involved in the drug business and this army is threatening U.S. security."

According to a 1993 study from the Andean Commission of Jurists, drug traffickers are behind less than 2 percent of political killings annually in Colombia; the army, police and paramilitary organizations are responsi-

ble for more than 70%. A 1994 Amnesty report put the rate of political killings in Colombia at 10 a day and it described the human rights situation there as "certainly one of the worst in the hemisphere and possibly one of the worst in the world."

In this context, de Roux said, U.S. pressure for stronger intervention could negatively affect peace negotiations.

"The Colombian military would love it if the U.S. would get more involved in warfare in Colombia. And the U.S. military would be happy to get involved because they are running out of places to fight. The Colombian guerrillas would be happy, too, because stronger U.S. presence would motivate more young people to join their ranks," de Roux said.

The losers in this scenario, de Roux said, "are civilians who are not involved in the guerrilla war or the army's war or the paramilitary war."

Cuartas said the solidarity of U.S. groups like those in Wisconsin has meant a great deal to the people of Urabá. "At least when Jesse Helms is thinking and saying things against Colombia, there is another part of the U.S. that understands, that is thinking and saying something else."

Cuartas was equally enthusiastic about a meeting between de Roux and Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland. "Monsignor Duarte has been very alone in promoting the peace process in Urabá. It is very important that the concerns of the region have made an echo with another bishop. The support of the Catholic community for peace in Urabá is very important."

Colombian Visitors Welcomed

On Wednesday, April 26, Mayor Cuartas and Dr. de Roux received a warm welcome from Rick Phelps, Dane County Executive, and met with heads of several County Departments. Mayor Cuartas spoke with several of them in some detail, getting information and ideas to help improve municipal services in Apartadó. Madison Mayor Soglin's office also greeted them.

St. Paul's Catholic Center hosted an Interfaith Service of Solidarity with Colombia that evening. Presentations from several traditions were made, with music provided by Centro Guadalupe. The next morning, Mayor Cuartas and Dr. de Roux spoke with leaders of area churches at a breakfast at Edgewood College, co-sponsored with the Madison Urban Ministry. Some of the leaders indicated that they would be interested in possibly going on future delegations there.

At the Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua office, the visitors learned some history of sister city projects that have been important in Nicaragua. On Thursday, the Mayor visited Dane County Advocates for Battered Women and was very interested in learning how the creation of shelters came about, how they are funded, how domestic violence laws work, the effectiveness of battered treatment programs, and the effects on children who witness domestic violence. She said domestic violence in Colombia is a terrible problem which has not received much attention.

On Friday, the delegation visited Arena Elementary School which will be starting a sister school project with Apartadó. That afternoon they visited the Berry Patch Farm, a small, struggling, diversified farm, and then met with members of the UW Dept. of Agricultural Economics, discussing possibilities of agricultural diversification for Urabá (a very difficult problem). The evening concluded with a traditional community potluck dinner.

Dr. de Roux delivered two public talks, "Exploring New Avenues for Peace in Colombia", in Madison at the State Historical Society Monday evening, and at noon Tuesday at UW-Milwaukee. He also spoke to economics students at UW-Madison and Edgewood College. Interviews were also recorded on Wisconsin Public Radio (with Judy Strasser), with *The Progressive's* Matt Rothschild for the syndicated "Second Opinion" radio program, and on WORT's Third World View with Tammy Teschner.

"A Sister City For Apartadó"

by Francisco de Roux, S.J.

On Wednesday, April 26, at 10 AM, Richard Phelps, the Executive of Dane County, pulled together his administrative and technical team in order to receive the Mayor of Apartadó, Gloria Cuartas and the Bishop of the same city, Monsignor Isaias Duarte Cancino.

The government of Dane County wanted to express its solidarity with the city which some years before it had declared its sister community.

Msgr. Duarte could not make the appointment because he had to be present at the Regional Peace Commission, the same day in Medellin. It was then my task to accompany the Mayor and informally give the greetings in the name of the Bishop.

The meeting had a practical character. The Mayor presented, with detail and enthusiasm, the political and social situation of her town. The Consensus among the different political and social forces gave her mandate to address the numerous needs of the city. Richard Phelps renewed the commitment of that North-American city with the people of this region of Antioquia.

What followed was a week full of activities. Conferences at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Milwaukee, meetings with technical people, educators, civic and religious leaders, radio interviews, journalists, even an ecumenical service for Colombia. It was a city that wanted seriously to live up to its sisterhood commitment with Apartadó.

The story started 5 years ago, when the Colombia Support Network of Madison proposed to the local civic leaders to establish a sister city relationship with a Colombian city. And Apartadó was selected. The CSN has been the soul and the strength of this effort. They have never offered money but rather solidarity and this is very specific: to contribute to peace in the region, to defend human rights and international humanitarian law, and to connect this Colombian community with the technical and financial opportunities that there are in the US to solve the problems of a basically poor population.

The most important aspect is that in its relationship with Apartadó, the people of Madison have maintained the operative principle that make this city famous: act locally and think globally. I could easily say that Madison is the most organized and participatory among the cities in the US and one of the most influential in the politics of the North American nation. With respect to Colombia, our friends in Madison want to be serious in their concrete commitment to Apartadó and without slacking they study what happens in Colombia and what happens in the relationship between their country and ours. And at that global level they are making proposals.



Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert Weakland met with Francisco de Roux, S.J. from Bogota ('pinchhitting' for Apartadó Bishop Duarte) and Cecilia Zarate-Laun of CSN, and expressed his concern over the situation in Colombia.

They think that the solution to the drug problem in Colombia is not war. They reject Helms and Bennett's position that wish direct intervention from the US on the "Colombian narco-democracy". They believe that the solution to the drug problem starts by exercising state control over the consumers in the US. They ask for the suspension of military aid to Colombia. But at the same time, they want to maintain aid for development and in opening the US market for Colombian products. They have protested against violations of human rights in our country particularly against the paramilitary groups. They have sent communications to the government and to the rebels to initiate conversations.

At this moment when Antioquia, with good judgment, has created the Regional Commission for Peace, we should incorporate in the process the sister city of Madison/ Dane County, which already has acted with commitment and strength and that already has sent 3 commissions to study the situation of its sister community, Apartadó -- that city full of pain, center of one of the most beautiful and promising regions of Colombia.

Letter from Apartadó Political Prisoners in Bogota's Modelo Prison

May 15, 1995

Dear Friends:

We send you a warm, fraternal greeting. As you know, we have now been detained here in prison for 15 months, charged by the State with being intellectual authors (planners) of the massacre in La Chinita barrio of Apartadó on January 23, 1994.

These have been 15 months during which the system of "faceless justice", which is presently judging us, has failed to recognize all our rights. The principle of due process has not been respected, nor have we been guaranteed the right to have a real and timely defense.

Military Intelligence prepared about 12 persons whom it later used as faceless witnesses against us. These persons, many of whom are deserters from guerrilla groups which operate in Urabá, were previously instructed so their declarations would incriminate us to the maximum extent possible as those responsible for the deeds being investigated.

The Office of the Attorney General of the nation, which has been the gatherer of information for the case, has not

Continued Next Page

Apartadó Bishop's Communique to the Public

The Bishop and the priests of the Diocese of Apartadó, presented by the moment of terror in which the people of Urabá are living, caused by homicides and disappearances, state the following:

1. Only God is the owner of life and no one has the right to justice by his own hand.
2. The presence of the guerrilla and the paramilitary groups affects in a special manner peace and tranquility of the civilian population.
3. The paramilitary groups have mercilessly decimated entire towns in Urabá and have in recent times deliberately focused their destructive efforts upon the settlements of the banana growing zone.
4. Never has violence been the solution to prior forms of abuse against the civilian population. It is justice which is called upon to destroy the impunity condemning those who are guilty and defending those who are innocent.
5. We ask the civilian population to make those who seek to kill others respect their rights, be the builders of peace, and demand of the legitimate authorities the protection to which constitutionally they have a rights.
6. We feel profound sorrow and reject the attitude of the authorities who, facing the tragedy of the people of Urabá clearly announced, remain indifferent without opposing the advance of this macabre plan of death and destruction.

It is high time that the guerrilla accepts a peace process with the Colombian Government to remedy the tragedy of our people, because the violence which we are suffering has also its roots in the actions of the guerrilla and it is time to remedy the ills which have caused this and to find paths of respect and of peace.

Apartadó, May 21, 1995
s/ Isaias Duarte Cancino
Bishop of Apartadó

s/ Monsignor
Vicar General

Continued from Page 3

taken into account even one of the pieces of evidence presented by us and demonstrates our total innocence. In fact, there is one witness used by the Army who, after having repented of having participated in this frame-up, declared under oath how these witnesses really had been prepared by the Army, how much they paid him and others, how other secret witnesses staying in the quarters of the Military Brigade were called to give testimony, and what the Army intended to do with this frame-up. The testimony of this person, who came forward voluntarily to speak to the Bishop of Apartadó himself, was video taped by a court official of Apartadó, and not even any consideration by the Attorney General's Office....

This demonstrates the desire of the Attorney General and the Colombian State to condemn us as responsible for this atrocious deed with a sentence of 40-60 years. And now we have been indicted as intellectual authors of the La Chinita massacre.

The next step is the trial itself. It will be held before a faceless judge in Medellin, who will determine if we

are guilty or innocent. This faceless judge belongs also to the so-called regional (secret) justice, which has had such a terrible influence upon the Colombian democracy and the country in general.

Our political organization (UP) has denounced this persecution by the State against us. It has talked with President Ernesto Samper, the Attorney General Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento, with the Procurador General, Orlando Vasquez Velasquez, and with the Defender of the People, Jaime Cordoba Tribino, but none of these gestures in our behalf has resulted in any change. The paradox is that the very criminal proceeding itself declares that the planning of this massacre was the work of FARC guerrillas and that we are not members of that insurgent organization -- but on the other hand, the criminal proceeding has said that we were the ones who determined that FARC guerrillas should commit that infamous massacre.

We wish you to study the possibility of bringing pressure to bear from there strongly upon the Colombian State (especially President Samper and the Fiscal, Valdivieso Sarmiento).

Campaign on Political Prisoners and the Criminalization of Social Protest in Colombia

The Colombia Human Rights Network is organizing a national campaign to focus attention on the increasing number of political prisoners in Colombia, and their relationship to the U.S.-funded "regional courts" which are a key part of the draconian "faceless justice" system.

The campaign has two parts: from July to September, we encourage the writing of letters to 10 political prisoners, representing different sectors of Colombian society adversely affected by the new anti-terrorist laws. Their cases are documented and selected by two Colombian NGOs, Comunidades Eclesiales de Base and Comité de Solidaridad con Presos Políticos, CSPP.

In October, Jaime Prieto, president of CSPP, will tour the U.S., speaking in many cities (see below).

If you or your group would like to receive more information, details on the political prisoners whose cases we are taking up, and possibly plugging into the speaking tour, please contact immediately:

Colombia Vive, PO Box 1325, Brookline, MA 02146; (617) 738-7935
or the Colombia Human Rights Committee, PO Box 3130, Washington, DC 20010 (202) 232-8148

Tentative

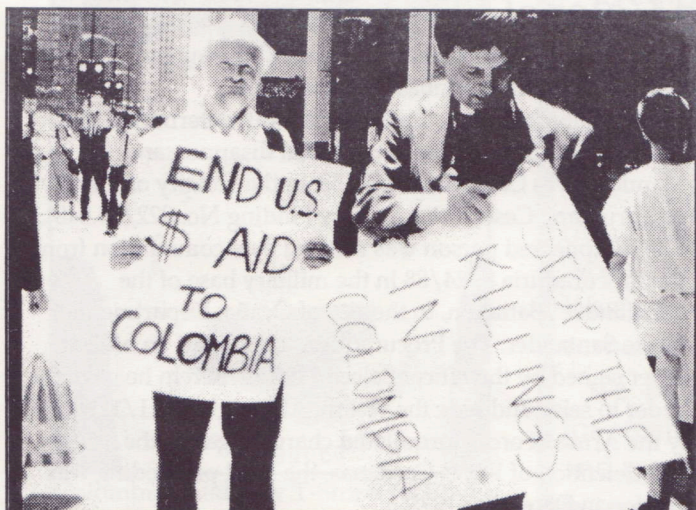
Colombian Political Prisoner Speaking Tour Schedule

Oct 3-7 Washington, DC
Oct 8 Virginia
Oct 9-11 New York
Oct 12-13 Boston
Oct 14-16 Providence
Oct 17-19 Chicago
Oct 20-22 Wisconsin
Oct 23 Iowa
Oct 24-26 TX? NM? AZ?
Oct 27-29 San Francisco
Oct 30-Nov 1 Miami

Any efforts that you could mobilize of different international organizations in our behalf, would be very positive. It is clear that the Colombian State only rectifies such matters when international pressure is exercised.

With a very large embrace
s/ Jose Antonio Lopez Bula
s/ Nelson Campo Nuñez
High Security Wing, Modelo Prison,

June 14: Actions Against Paramilitary Violence in Colombia



Vigil outside the Colombian Consulate in Chicago, June 14. The great fear of the Colombian establishment is for North Americans to start linking human rights violations with foreign aid and trade.

June 14, North Americans and Colombians showed their concern about the escalation of paramilitary violence in Colombia by coordinated actions in Washington, DC, New York, and Chicago. In New York, a demonstration was held in front of the Colombian Consulate; in Chicago, there was a vigil in front of the Colombian Consulate, with a 2 hour meeting with the Consul inside. In Washington, a group from several human rights/solidarity groups meet with representatives of the Embassy.

In coordination with these actions, an Open Letter to Presidents Clinton and Samper was released, signed by Noam Chomsky, Roy Bourgeois, Blase Bonpane and others (see right). An article on it was published in Bogota's *El Espectador* June 17.

Despite the short planning time and the small size of the events, June 14 was an important step in the efforts for peace and justice in Colombia. In New York, people going into the Consulate commented that they had no idea that such activity was going on in the States. In Chicago, there was a warm reception by passers-by to the flyer. And at the Colombian Embassy, while the delegation was meeting, the staff was rather upset to receive (via fax from the Consulate) the flyer being distributed simultaneously in New York -- they just had not gotten the message that folks in the U.S. do give a damn about Colombia -- and were starting to talk about linking U.S. foreign aid and trade to Colombian human rights abuses by Colombian state security forces, ¡que horror!

Planned U.S. Government

"Foreign Aid" for FY95:

**55% for Foreign Military Financing
(\$3.2 billion out of total \$5.7 billion)**

At the same time, there are crippling cuts in development assistance and for the Peace Corps. Please contact your Senators and Representatives in DC to express your concern about the outrageousness of this.

Open Letter to Presidents Clinton and Samper:

We are highly alarmed and deeply grieved by the recent escalation of violence, gruesome mutilations and political assassinations being carried out by paramilitary groups in Colombia, particularly in the regions of Urabá, Magdalena Medio, and Meta.

Since U.S. tax money seems to be filtering into the hands of these murderous thugs, we appeal to you to stop all military aid to Colombia until the killings cease.

Colombia is becoming the Bosnia of the Americas as these marauding death squads seek to "cleanse" it of members of many grassroots movements seeking to better their lot...

Meanwhile, the police and the military simply turn their backs on these atrocities or willingly comply in committing them. ...

Colombia is one of the largest recipients of U.S. foreign and military aid in the Western hemisphere. It is also the nation in which 20,000 Colombian citizens have been killed for political reasons between 1986 and '93, according to A.I....

Just last month (May 14) eleven innocent civilians were savagely murdered by paramilitaries in Carepa right in front of the police station with the gunmen living in the same hotel as the police. Likewise, eight people were assassinated in Turbo on May 21.... No one is being prosecuted...This killing must stop!

In accordance with int'l law on human rights, we urge you to take immediate action...

Further, we -- call upon you as the Presidents of the U.S. and Colombia to publicly denounce all paramilitary activity and encourage the congress of your respective countries to hold hearings regarding the escalating paramilitary violence, with special emphasis given to their sources of funding ...

-- demand that the Colombian military and police fulfill their constitutional responsibility to protect the lives of innocent civilians....

-- ask the U.S. to cut off all aid to Colombia until this violence is ended,

-- call upon you to support the appointment of a United Nations Rapporteur on human rights for Colombia.

Endorsed by:

Richard Phelps, Dane County (Wisconsin) Executive
Tammy Baldwin, Representative to the WI State Assembly
Noam Chomsky, Author

Roy Bourgeois, Director, School of Americas Watch

Blase Bonpane, Director, Office of the Americas

Larry Birns, Director, Council on Hemispheric Affairs

Martin Sheen, Actor

Jean Gore, Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom, U.S. section

Marie Dennis, Maryknoll Society - Justice and Peace Office

Fred Rosen, Director, NACLA

Mark Pocan, Dane County (WI) Supervisor

Haskell Wexler, Cinematographer

David Newby, President, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Rev. Tim Kehl, Colombia Support Network

(Organizations listed for identification purposes only) 6/12/95

Continued from Page 1

rights violations and forced the Colombian authorities to rescind his appointment. **The Colombian authorities now have decided to name him Consul for San Francisco, California!**

These men are no strangers to the U.S. Government. In 1971, Salcedo Lora attended a mysterious School of the Americas course entitled "Special Maintenance Orientation" which many of the hemisphere's worst human rights violators attended. In 1979, he was an "invited instructor" at the School of the Americas. Plazas Vega attended the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth Kansas from 1983 to 1984. Both have used their high positions to escape legal proceedings initiated in Colombia.

It is an outrage that U.S. taxpayers pay for criminals like these to come to U.S. institutions, receive all kinds of benefits and then gain, de facto, the "seal of the approval" from the U.S. for their command of subsequent disappearances and murders of "opponents" in Colombia! Labor activists, critical journalists, community activists, third party candidates -- are being murdered in Colombia at a rate of 8 a day under the orders of military officers like Salcedo Lora and Plazas Vega. The U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, Myles Frechette, must be called to answer for failing to adequately screen out these two human rights violators.

We call on all people of conscience to protest the granting of diplomatic and consular status to these two and demand their removal. Short letters or faxes from scores to hundreds of people will make a difference. The heat is on the Colombian government. Please write to:

- 1) U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher: 2201 C. St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; Fax: 202 647-7120
- 2) U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette: U.S. Embassy, Bogota, Colombia; Fax: 011 57 1 287 9397
- 3) U.S. President William Clinton: The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500
- 4) Colombian President Ernesto Samper: Palacio de Nariño, Bogota, Colombia; Fax: 011 571 2867434

(Please send copies to CSN)

In the Bay Area, contact: Colombia Human Rights Information Committee, 415 282-6941

Who are General Salcedo Lora and Colonel Plazas Vega?*

Major General Juan Salcedo Lora Salcedo Lora was named, starting January 1, 1995, as Military Attaché to the Colombian Embassy to the U.S.A.



The Colombian Procuraduria General determined that Salcedo Lora ordered the extrajudicial disappearance of Manuel Reyes Cardenas, 6/19/88, in the vicinity of the town of Curumaní, Cesar, (Disciplinary Finding No. 022/73.048). The disappeared person was rescued by a commission from the Procuraduria 8/24/88 in the military base of the "Santander" Battalion, in the city of Ocaña, Department of Norte Santander. The Procuraduria discovered an official letter signed by the officer Salcedo Lora wherein he gave the order to seize and hide the victim. Although on 11/1/89, the Procuraduria selected by the Armed Forces formulated charges against the officer Salcedo Lora for the illegal detention of Reyes Cardenas, the legal proceeding was shelved for disciplinary action in December 1993.

Colonel (retired) Luis Alfonso Plaza Vega has just been named Colombian Consul in the city of San Francisco. As shown by investigations done in 1982 by the Judge of the Juzgado 1 Superior of Villavicencio and the Procuraduria General of Colombia, concerning many assassinations of members of the political opposition between 1980-82 by the paramilitary group "M.A.S. - Muerte a Secuestradores", Plazas Vega was directly implicated in the creation and leadership of this paramilitary group. Plaza Vegas was never officially linked in any of these investigations, given the climate of fear and impunity afforded the military in Colombia.

According to the testimony given to the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, by the retired Army official and former paramilitary member Oscar de Jesus Echandia Sanchez, the Commander of the Cavalry School created and directed, in 1985, a paramilitary structure in the northwest region of the Department of Cundinamarca, with the help of the Drug Trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias "el Mejicano". Plazas Vega was, in 1985, the Cavalry School Commander.

The same year, 11/6-7/85, the officer Plaza Vega took part in the bloody recovery of the Palace of Justice in Bogota, which had been taken over by an insurgent group (the Army knew in advance and let the guerrillas in!). According to legal findings, the officer Plazas Vega, who used the codename "Arcano 5" during the military operation, gave the order to disappear Irma Franco Pineda, a member of the guerrilla group. A legal charge was processed by military judges but nobody was found guilty--the standard operating procedure.

In August, 1986, the officer Plazas Vega ordered the capture of Alvaro Falla in the city of Bogota. On August 15 Mr. Falla was captured by a military patrol in a house at calle 67 No. 48-60 in Bogota. Alvaro Falla has been disappeared ever since.

In April 1993, the Government of Germany denied permission for a visit by Major General Juan Salcedo Lora when he attempted to visit Germany together with three other Colombian officials. The decision by the German government was due to the human rights violations of this officer.

In 1995, Colonel (retired) Luis Alfonso Plazas Vega was named honorary Consul in the city of Hamburg, Germany, by decree No. 585 of April 4. The German government expressed its unhappiness with this appointment to the Colombian government, because of Mr. Plaza Vega's human rights background. The Colombian authorities then decided to name him as Consul in San Francisco.

*From information received from N.C.O.S., Vlasfabriekstraat 11, 1060 Brussel, Belgium. Fax 322 539 1343. NCOS published the book *El Terrorismo de Estado en Colombia* in 1992 which exposed the Colombian military's horrendous record. Some info also from SOA Watch.





Colombia Solidarity T-Shirts (yellow, blue and red on white) are available in S, M, L and XL sizes. \$12 each plus \$1.50 postage each. Bulk quantities available. Contact CSN

1994-95 U.N. Special Rapporteur Wrap-Up

CSN helped generate support in the U.S. for the efforts of Colombian NGOs to have a Special Rapporteur for human rights issued for Colombia. The Clinton Administration refused to support this, which effectively killed it. However, the pressure was sufficiently strong, particularly in Europe, to force the Colombian government to "voluntarily" ask for continued monitoring by the U.N. of specific human rights violations. We will continue the demands at the 1996 U.N. Human Rights Commission next Winter. When you write to the State Department, please include a reference to that demand. Thanks.

Common Ground for Latin American Solidarity:

A Series of Fall Speakers in Madison, Sponsored by CALA
 Pastors For Peace Caravan to Chiapas...August 14
 Michael Parenti...September 28
 Rigoberta Menchu...October 5
 Jaime Prieto.....October 21
 Zapatista Rep.In November

Contact: Community Action On Latin America, CALA, 262-6824

Dear Friends of Colombia and human rights:

We hope that you find this newsletter to be informative and useful, and to give you hope for a brighter future for the beautiful but anguished land of Colombia.

We are a handful of volunteers doing our best with limited resources to raise these critical issues here in the U.S. and to "speak truth to power", particularly to our officials in Washington who always seem to find ways to misuse our hard-earned tax dollars.

We believe that our sister city effort contains great potential for creating a "window of opportunity" for the forces of peace and reconciliation in Colombia. *This is the only project of its kind between Colombia and the U.S.* We have been asked by the Bishop of Apartadó to become involved in a "Mesa de la Vida" peace plan, with someone from Dane County living in Apartadó for a period of time. We'd like to do this. We would like to assist health, sanitation and education projects also. And we urgently need to centralize our activities into an office, with a full-time staff, to coordinate and follow up on our projects (we have no office nor staff). We can only do it with your assistance.

We will be conducting a "phone-a-thon" in August to raise funds for these important projects.

We will be calling you during the second or third week of August, asking for your support. We hope you will be generous when one of us calls.

If you prefer for no one to call, please fill out and send the form below. Thanks.

Yes! I want to help stop the violence in Colombia.

Here is my contribution to the Colombia Support Network and the Dane County/Apartadó Sister Communities Project:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

I would like to get involved. Please contact me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Fax/email _____

Comments _____

Mail to: Colombia Support Network, P.O. Box 1505, Madison WI 53701 (608) 255-6554

Checks made out to WICOLA-Colombia Support are tax-deductible.

Book Reviews:

Two books dealing with Colombia have been published recently that many of you will want to check out.

Our Guerrillas, Our Sidewalks: A Journey into the Violence of Colombia, (Univ. of Colorado Press, 239 pp, \$17.50), written by Herbert Braun, came out last winter. It tells the riveting tale of Braun's brother-in-law, an independent oilman working in Sabana de Torres, who was kidnapped in 1988 by guerrillas, and of Braun's agonizing months as he waited from phone call to phone call, for contact with the kidnappers and the tenuous hope for negotiating Jake's release. Despite his horrible personal situation, Braun remains the objective social scientist.

"The civilian rulers in Bogota are not losing much sleep on accounts of the guerrillas. The leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties don't feel greatly threatened by them. They know that the guerrillas cannot come to national power, for they won't be able to take over the cities. Bogota is beyond their reach. I've long believed that the politicians don't really want to get rid of the guerrillas because this way they can always ask the people whether they prefer the current system or a nation ruled by the guerrillas, knowing full well that most Colombians will take the politicians as the better of the two alternatives. The vague possibility of a guerrilla takeover actually serves to bolster the politicians."

This June, a blockbuster of a book came out-- ***Thy Will Be Done: The Conquest of the Amazon: Nelson Rockefeller and Evangelism in the Age of Oil***. (HarperCollins, 960 pp, \$35) We were fortunate to have the authors for an evening at Pres House June 2. Gerard Colby and Charlotte Dennett have done a fantastic job in both researching (17 years worth) and presenting the damning evidence for hitherto hidden U.S. corporate-military interference in South America: e.g., Nelson Rockefeller's efforts to develop a virtual empire in Latin America, using WWII's U.S. resource limitations as his impetus to tracking down and positioning himself to control them in the later decades; and his use of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) "Bible translators" as tools for counter-insurgency in the many remote areas of the Amazon.

The 1940's, 50's and 60's were seminal years in Colombia, and Colby and Dennett have stripped away many covers from secrets hidden from the people by both U.S. and Colombian ruling elites: take, for example, Alberto Lleras Camargo — the first president of the National Front — who appears to have been a bosom buddy of Nelson— and effectively his agent in the Hemisphere. The U.S. military and missionaries' role in Colombia is shown for what it is.

"The Colombian air force's General Armando Urrego Bernal provided Cam [William Cameron Townsend, founder of the ultraconservative Wycliffe Bible Translators -SIL] with land for SIL's base near the town of Puerto Lleras in Meta Dept., south of Villavicencio. The base was called Lomalinda.

Shortly after Cam signed the contract and General Yarborough's [Green Beret commander who made a secret counterinsurgency inspection tour of Colombia in 2/62] report was read at a March meeting of the Special Group in Washington, Colombians near Villavicencio watched a long column of army trucks bearing U.S. insignias pass through. The column headed south, toward the Macarena Mountains, just east of where SIL's base would be located. No troops ever came out, they claimed. Explosions were heard rumbling from the Macarena Mtns, however. Soon afterward, the Colombian military ruled that airspace over the mountains was off-limits for all commercial airplanes. Over the years, reports would appear sporadically of planes being lost. Some pilots who strayed overhead and did come out reported seeing air runways and telecommunications antennas. In the early 1970s, the Colombian military would deny any foreign base or presence in the Macarena. Only U.S. stockholders of the Loeb family-owned APCO Oil company and those who read APCO's annual reports knew better. APCO entered the Macarena in 1967. In 1976, an APCO map showed the Macarena had been honeycombed with clandestine runways.With SIL's entry into Colombia, the final assault on the Amazon -- and the Indians--had begun."

Special Offer: Order your copies of these books from CSN, mention this offer, and we will pay the postage on these books!

Literature Available From CSN:

Thy Will Be Done by G. Colby and C. Dennett (1995) \$35

Our Guerrillas, Our Sidewalks by Herbert Braun (1994) \$17.50

The Palace of Justice by Ana Carrigan (1993) \$22.95

Political Violence in Colombia by Amnesty Int'l (1994) \$8

Children and Violence in Colombia by Human Rights Watch (1994) \$12

Feeding the Tiger: Colombia's Internally Displaced People by U.S. Comm. for Refugees (1993) \$3

Colombia: Inside the Labyrinth by Jenny Pearce (1990) \$18

Please add \$1 for postage for each book. Send your requests to CSN: PO Box 1505, Madison WI 53701; for more details, call (608) 274-2245

Upcoming Delegations to Colombia:

CSN will be organizing delegations to Apartadó; one in September and one in December or January (estimated cost of \$1300). If you are interested, please contact CSN as soon as possible.

Colombia Support Network Report to Members for 1994-1995

Some highlights of CSN for the period from 1/94 thru 7/95 include :

- **Communication:** CSN initiated this newsletter (with RESIST's aid) to communicate primarily to our Wisconsin constituency about our sister community as well as the overall situation in Colombia; this is our fourth issue. We now have a mailing list of approximately 1900 Wisconsinites, and ~200 in other states.

- **Local outreach:** We set up tables at the Madison Farmers Market; provided speakers to schools and colleges in Madison and Milwaukee; organized to get local press coverage

1994 176 Trade Unionists Murdered in Colombia

Last year, 176 trade unionists were murdered in Colombia, according to a survey by the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, released June 14. A "typical" case was that of Jorge Rodriguez, killed by "7 armed and hooded men last April, just after his union had presented claims to the management".

According to the Unified Workers Central, which represents about 60% of Colombia's unionized workers, 3 of every 5 union workers killed for political reasons in the world last year were Colombian. Since 1986, there have been 1800 political killings of Colombian unionists, according to Human Rights Watch.

On June 14, Human Rights Watch and the International Labor Rights Education and Research Fund filed petitions with the US Trade Representative, calling for a second review in three years of labor practices in Colombia. The petitions charge that hundreds of unionists have been killed, assaulted, or threatened for belonging to a union, participating in negotiations or trying to form locals.

In 1994, more than a quarter of Colombia's exports to the US entered duty-free under the Generalized System of Preferences program -- which could be denied if President Clinton were to show some backbone and cut off Colombia due to the abuse of labor rights. A petition to Clinton in 1993 was, for all practical pur-

poses, ignored. The current petition cited "abundant and convincing evidence linking state agents and the paramilitary death squads often working as their allies or associated to the killings of trade unionists".

Protect Oil Workers in Colombia Threatened by Death Squads

The Regional Corporation for Human Rights (CREDHOS) and the Worker's Union (USO) in Barrancabermeja, Colombia, are receiving anonymous death threats signed by various "self-defense" groups operating in the city.

The threats and harassments include the following:

1. On 30th June 1995 a CREDHOS worker was threatened at the CREDHOS headquarters by a man dressed in civilian clothing and carrying a gun.

2. Death threats have been received by telephone at the CREDHOS headquarters. "You don't say anything when one of us dies, but we are going to make you say something,..." "Your last quarter of an hour is nearly up, you smell of formaldehyde"

3. Members of CREDHOS have been harassed and followed by unknown men in cars or on motorcycles, some without number plates. In one case a worker was followed by men who were identified as being members of the National Army.

4. 21 oil workers, USO members, have

received threats by telephone and in writing signed by 'The urban self-defense groups of Magdalena Medio' and 'The Extermination group of Barranca and Yondo'. Three of the men threatened have already been forced to move away from the area.

Please Send A Fax/Telex/Letter to:

-- Presidente de la Republica, Ernesto Samper, Palacio de Nariño, Santa fe de Bogota, Colombia, Telex: 44281 PALP CO, Fax: +57 1 284 0472

-- Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Dr. Fernando Botero Zea, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Avenida Eldorado CAN-Carrera 52, Santa fe de Bogota, Colombia, Telex:42411 INPRE CO; 44561 CFAC CO Fax: +57 1 288 4906/2221874

--- Or send a precomposed telex by calling Worldlink at 1-800-357-0326: Refer to PBI message #1 to the President, #2 to the Min. of Defense and #3 to the Min. of the Interior. Worldlink charges \$6 (Billed) / \$4 (Visa/MC) per Telex or Fax.

TELEX MESSAGE: I am extremely concerned about the threats received by CREDHOS and 21 USO oil workers in Barrancabermeja as well as the continuing human rights violations in Colombia. I request your cooperation in ensuring investigations into these threats and guarantying the security of CREDHOS and USO members.

For more information contact Peace Brigades International: 2642 College Ave., Berkeley CA 94704 510-540-0749 or pbicolusa@igc.apc.org

CSN Report to Members - Continued
(*Isthmus*, Wisconsin Public Radio, WORT) on Colombia.

• Broad national outreach: Initiated two national mailings to raise the issue of Colombia to a broader audience (Special Rapporteur; Para-military Violence); actively lobbied for and got coverage of Colombia in national publications (*Z Magazine*, *The Progressive*, *Report on the Americas*, *The Nation*, *Nat'l Catholic Reporter* plus several others). CSN members have spoken on Colombia in numerous cities outside of Wisconsin.

• Delegations: organized one delegation to Apartadó, and one visit from Apartadó to Wisconsin. We are currently planning two delegations to

Colombia. CSN assisted with two Witness for Peace delegations to Colombia.

• Organizational Development: We held a retreat for the CSN Board of Directors in January at Edgewood College. At our Annual Meeting April 2, 1995, CSN officers and board of directors were elected.

• Advisory Board: During the Spring of 1995, CSN developed an Advisory Board with the following initial members: Noam Chomsky, Roy Bourgeois (SOA Watch), Matt Rothschild (*The Progressive*), Leslie Wirpsa (*National Catholic Reporter*), Fred Rosen (NACLA), Tammy Baldwin (WI State Representative), and Mark Pocan (Dane County Supervisor)

• Fundraising: CSN's 8/94 phone-athon raised \$1710 from 90 supporters; our Spring 1995 mail appeal brought in \$2145 from 62 people. Since 3/94, we have received \$7200 in grants, plus \$4500 from University Depts for speakers. All our money goes to delegations, education and outreach; CSN has neither office nor paid staff. We currently are trying to get funding for both an office and a fulltime organizer, to increase our effectiveness both locally and regionally.

• National meetings: We organized and fundraised for two national meetings that provided information from Colombia, and opportunities for various regional committees to meet and discuss common plans (3/94, 11/94).

Letters to Box 1505
Email to csn@igc.org

1-25-95

Thank you for your letter and information. I heard about you through Amnesty Int'l, and have since spread the word about the rapporteur campaign to people here in Mississippi, among them a few Colombian paisanos who are quite incredulous. I want to learn more about Colombia and what we can do to make a small dent, or at least to stop the export of violencia to the US and other countries... The Sun. *New York Times* book review reviewed several recent books about the problems of democracy and the writer, John Gray, concluded "we may even glimpse a sort of Colombianization of the United States" -- Kay, Jackson, MS

1-27-95

Because I know people who are in Colombia at present and have heard accounts of visits there, I want to do what I can. I am sending a check for \$15 to cover some of your mailing expenses and membership.

For Justice, Catherine, Melbourne, KY
2-3-95

I am in my first year at Kent Univ. I got your address from the notice in the current issue of Z magazine and I am interested in your organization. I would appreciate it if you can send me some information about your organization and some ways in which I could get involved. -- Ted, Kent, OH

2-10-95

I just read in the february issue of Z magazine a little article about the situation in Colombia in relation with Human Rights. It couldn't be more accurate. The situation is terrible, the media won't say anything about that, the government has a strong censorship on everything that has a massive coverage, they say it is not allowed to transmit any subversive information on the media, and, of course, any kind of serious analysis of our situation with a different point of view of that of the establishment is considered subversive information, so we only hear the "official" version of the facts. I'm glad somebody cares here in the States. Definitely,

I will send the letters (for Special Rapporteur) you suggest and I will be happy to cooperate in any aspect I can. I would like to get more information about Human Rights in Colombia and in general in The Americas.

I am from Santa fe de Bogota Coming from a very poor neighborhood in Bogota, I am aware of the general situation of poor people in my city. - For Colombian guys: Si hay algun compatriota por aqui en el autoexilio me gustaria entrar en contacto, de pronto hasta nos podemos tomar una pola por e-mail, ahi nos vemos. [CSN will forward messages] --un saludo, N. , Austin, TX

2-25-95

Our family has been very involved in the East Timor cause. Originally, my 16 year old got active after reading and viewing material created by Dr. N. Chomsky. Since then he has been non-stop. He has written many letters to newspapers that have been published, plus letters to business firms supporting or active in Indonesia. .As important, he has got me involved. Now I have read in Z magazine about your organization and want to know more. What is going on in Colombia? What can we do to help? Sincerely, R. P., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada

3-2-95

Thanks for sending your newsletter to me. I've heard on and off about your work.... I fondly remember my years in Madison. I'll send a check tomorrow, and will send the enclosed notice to the Charlottesville Latin America Solidarity Committee here in town. Un abrazo, Tico -- Charlottesville, VA

3-3-95

In response to a short article in this weeks CITY newspaper, would you please send me more info about the

good work your group is doing? I'm glad I live in the US, but there are some things it has done, especially in South and Central America, that are far from perfect! -- Andrea, Rochester, NY

3-11-95

I am law student intern at Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, in their immigration department. I read about your organization in Z Magazine. I write to find what materials you have on the social cleansing human rights violations practices in Colombia specifically targeted to gays and lesbians and people with HIV. Our office is currently preparing the political asylum claim for a Colombian gay man threatened with deportation who is HIV+ who fears persecution due to sexual orientation and HIV status. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely, Chris, New York, NY
3-17-95

Enclosed please find a contribution to the Colombia Support Network. Having only heard of this network recently, I would appreciate an update on current activities and news from Colombia. You have my gratitude.

--Cristina, Milwaukee, WI

4-2-95

Please send me information on the struggle of the Andoke, Huitoto, Muinane, Nunuya and Yukuna to get their land back stolen from them by the U.S. and Colombian governments. I read about it in *The Progressive* magazine. Thank you. -- W. S., St. Pete, FL
4-7-95

Please send me info re your organization etc. I've read articles in *The Progressive* and commend you on the direction of your outreach so far.-- Sincerely, Tony, Corpus Christi, TX

5-1-95

Hi - I love the way you connect so

THE SALSA THREAT IS ONLY 90 MILES AWAY!

The US embargo of Cuba has put the US in a virtual music blackout while the rest of the world is *gettin' down* on sizzling sounds of Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Stop the deprivation and help the COLOMBIA SUPPORT

NETWORK earn contributions! CSN will receive 10% of your **first order!**

Send this coupon to Siboney Music for a catalog and mention CSN!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: Siboney Music Company, PO Box 6674, Beaverton, OR 97007

RE:20001

many issues. Enclosed is a contribution. Thank you. -- Steve, Madison, WI 5-3-95

Please accept this gift towards the good work you are doing.

Easter blessings, Holy Family Congregation, Milwaukee, WI 7-13-95

Muchas gracias for the great T-shirt. And just the right size. All goes well in the trenches of Georgia as we move ahead in our efforts to close down the School of the Americas. Lots of work ahead but we know of all you are doing at the Colombia Support Network that gives us much hope in the struggle.

-- Roy Bourgeois, Columbus, GA

The Deadly Mathematics of the Cocaine Equation

The key to the horror of drug trafficking can be found in the following figures, as they were given out by the former Colombian *Fiscal* Gustavo de Greiff: a kilo of processed cocaine fetches about \$2000 in Colombia whilst in the US it sells for \$60,000.

From \$2,000 to \$60,000 is an incredible profit margin, but between these two figures is hidden the biggest surprise: how is this windfall shared? Crossing the US border, bribing customs, sea and airport, and other officials costs \$3500 per kilo of cocaine—cocaine recently arrived in the US costs some \$5500 per kilo.

You have noticed that the North American authorities denounce as forcefully as they can the numerous sorties of small planes which leave from the clandestine airports in San Andres, Mexico, Panama, etc. What they don't—or at least badly—detect are the landings made by these same planes inside the U.S. borders.

A part of this \$3500 transportation cost is obviously used to blind radar systems and to get information about U.S. spy plane movement and to pay customs people on the US border to see, hear and say nothing. So let's say we now have our \$5500 kilo of cocaine in the US. This same kilo will fetch usually \$20,000 in the U.S. Such a splendid profit margin we can suppose, in many cases, ends up in the pockets of Colombian, Mexican or other foreign drug traffickers.

Up to this point the DEA has got things right: the big Colombian drug barons, and others, are doing big business producing and transporting white powder from the impoverished South of the continent to the rich paradise in the North.

But the next stage in the deal is so surprising that it should lead the DEA and other anti-Colombian hawks to hold their tongues in check. This stage is where the North Americans, having bought their \$20,000 kilo of cocaine, set in train the business of selling it via a chain of intermediaries for the phenomenal sum of \$60,000.

A kilo of cocaine leaves \$40,000 in the pockets of the North American dealers and only \$20,000 go to those abominable Latin drug barons. What a surprise. These figures, which are only statistical approximations and cannot be applied to each and every transaction reveal the horror of it all: the big share of drug trafficking is North American and by extension, for sure, the big drug barons are North American.

And where are they? You may ask yourself if there have been any stories of any big North American drug traffickers being arrested. Where are the Al Capones of the New York, Chicago and Bronx drug scenes? Where are today's incorruptibles? Silence.

The U.S. prisons are seething with hundreds of thousands of blacks, latinos and other rejects, arrested for selling a few grams in bars and alleyways. But the gringo barons: where are they?

If these statistics come near the reality—and they do—in the U.S. they have their own Escobares and Orejueles -- and they go unpunished.

And as you know impunity costs money (remember Al Capone) and this impunity is bought with some of the \$40,000 per kilo profit which the North Americans get. That is to say hundreds or thousands of millions of dollars must, in the U.S., end up in the pockets of a multitude of officials on the dole who are paid to shut up. Al Capone multiplied by a thousand.

So, when we are castigated with the news that some small amounts of drugs have found their way to one or another political candidate, we can sleep easy.

If we have a few skeletons in our closets to be aware of, our neighbor in the North, the big Colombia-badmouth, is up to his eyeballs in it. Hypocrisy. And a hypocrisy which we pay for in blood whilst they pick up the dollars.

-- From an Op Ed article in *El Tiempo* (Bogota) by Juan Salas

Listen To WORT-FM 89.9

Your Community Radio in South Central Wisconsin

Monday to Friday:

- 8 AM: The Buzz, community access
- noon: A Public Affair (interviews)
- 5 to 7 PM: Pacifica, BBC and Local News

Saturday:

- 6 AM: Los Madrugadores
- noon: Tropical Rhythms
- 4 PM: La Junta

Sunday:

- 5 PM: Third World View
- & All kinds of other great programs

Make a Pledge During the September On Air Fundraiser!

A Big Thank You To the Following Supporters:

- The Robert and Eunice Wagner Foundation for their grant of \$1000
- The 62 CSN members and supporters who responded to our Spring mail drive with \$2145
- RESIST for their grant in May of \$1000
- Wisconsin Community Fund for their grant in July of \$2000
- and the many supporters who made possible the visit in April by Apartadó's Mayor and CINEP's Francisco de Roux: UW's Eugene Havens Center, Nave Committee, Global Studies Program, and Land Tenure Center; Loretto Community; A.J. Muste Memorial Institute; Dane County and CSN members.

CSN is currently seeking moderate to large grants to enable us to hire a full time organizer/coordinator and set up an office. If you know of any foundations, religious communities, or other groups that might be interested in funding our vital human rights and solidarity work, please contact CSN. Thanks

Recommended Newsletters with Information on Colombia:

Colombia Update: CHRC, PO Box 3130, Washington, DC 20010 (\$15/yr)

La Lagartija (Newsletter of School of Americas Watch): PO Box 86, Gilbert, IA 50105 (\$15 subscription)

Weekly News Update on the Americas: Nica Solidarity Net, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012 (\$25/year; free 1 month trial sub)

Latin America News Update: PO Box 257247, Chicago, IL 60625 (\$35/yr)

Support the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Reconciliation Park

U.S. and Vietnamese Veterans are raising funds to build a Peace Park in Vietnam. During the Peace Park groundbreaking ceremony in May 1995, a former Commander said "the park will change the tradition of building war memorials to building peace parks."

The vision of creating a Peace Park in Vietnam began at the Highground, a Viet Vets Memorial Park near Neillsville, Wisc. which includes a large dove-shaped effigy mound.

Funds are needed! Contact Mike Boehm, 4035 Ryan Road, Blue Mounds, WI 53517; phone (608) 767 3399

Letter From Apartadó July 11, 1995

Dear Friends:

There has been a sharp increase of violence, in the month of June and up to the present in July, focused in the neighboring municipalities of Carepa - Chigorodó - Turbo. Apartadó has not escaped the violence, with 89 people killed in the last 6 weeks.

The peace-making commission set up by the Governor of Antioquia continues its efforts (via written communiques) to bring closer together the armed participants in the conflict, to reach a truce which would permit solutions to our crisis.

The verification commission has now produced a report about the armed participants who were involved in the violence, and will make the report public next week.

The Consensus Peace Process has made an ongoing appeal to the civilian population not to become involved in the armed conflict, since the strategy of war has had repercussions among the civic leaders, the grassroots labor organizations, and political figures, of all political sectors, and in particular the UP (Patriotic Union) - PCC (Colombian Communist Party) and Esperanza, Paz y Libertad (Hope, Peace and Liberty political movement).

The Consensus requests that the government's agencies for security, vigilance and justice issue their plan for operation to the Urabá community, and coordinate their activities, to successfully complete the mission that the national constitution sets out for them.

Sincerely,

Gloria Isabel Cuartas Montoya, Apartadó Mayor



Apartadó Mayor Gloria Cuartas was proud to see Apartadó's bananas on sale at Woodman's. But as her letter states, the situation back in Apartadó is nothing to smile about. Paramilitary gunmen -- with Colombian military support -- are on the loose. The workers producing the bananas that we eat daily are among those targeted for death. We are determined to continue our efforts to assist the Consensus Peace Process in Apartadó and ask your support.

Fall 1995 National Speaking Tour: Political Prisoners and the Criminalization of Social Protest in Colombia: October 3 - November 1

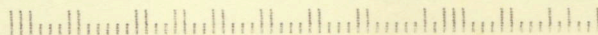
Colombia Support Network
P.O. Box 1505
Madison, WI 53701

Non Profit Org.

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed,
Address Correction Requested

KREI666 598072010 3196 02/05/96
RETURN TO SENDER

KREISBERG
BOX CLOSED
UNABLE TO FORWARD
RETURN TO SENDER FEE DUE = \$ 1.36



KREISBERG

~~Missouri WI 53707~~
~~Friends of Rivas~~
~~P.O. Box 7666~~
~~Missouri WI 53707~~

Publication
Date:
7/25/95



printed on recycled paper



Chomsky, Bourgeois, Rothschild, Wirpsa, Rosen and others form CSN Advisory Board -- See p. 9