

Kissinger Watch by M. T. Upharsin

Making Central America a 'geopolitical' issue

Whatever else it's designed for, the "National Bipartisan Commission on Central America," which released its 132-page report to the President and the press the second week in January, appears to be implementing its principal purpose: the elevation of Commission chairman Henry A. Kissinger to the status of adviser to the President and (some say) secretary of state. Even before its release, speculation and leaks of the contents had dominated the headlines for days.

The draft of the Commission's recommendations, under the guise of countering a Soviet-Cuban threat in the region, proposes a massive arms buildup in a region riddled with Jesuits, Moonies and other cults.

Kissinger focuses much of his report on warning against the threat of "a strategic coup of major proportions" by the Soviets in Central America if the United States does not boost the Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran militaries with infusions of funds, training, and war materiel.

The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* played up the so-called objections to Kissinger's "militarist" hard line from liberal Commission participants Robert Strauss, Henry Cisneros, and Carlos Diaz Alejandro, the better to sell the Henry the "conservative" to President Reagan.

The President would do well to draw some conclusions from the close resemblance of Kissinger's geopoliti-

cal analysis to that of his "New Yalta" partner Yuri Andropov. Defining Central America as the United States' "strategic rear," the Kissinger report declares, "A critical factor in the ability of the United States to sustain a tolerable balance of power on the global scene at a manageable cost has been the inherent security of its land borders. . . . The advance of Soviet and Cuban power on the American mainland threatens this balance."

In April 1983, Soviet President Yuri Andropov told the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, "We have a long common border and it does make a difference to us what kind of Afghanistan it will be. To make this better understood, let us put it this way, for example: as if it would not make any difference to the United States what kind of government Nicaragua would have."

Strip the doublespeak away from both Kissinger's and Andropov's statements and the message is clear: You carry out genocide in your part of the world and we'll do it in ours!

As a "Democratic member of the Commission" cited by the *New York Times* notes in speaking of President Reagan, "You give him the [anti-Soviet] garbage and we change the policy." The "policy change" referred to is the Commission's effort to force a return to Carter's "human rights" linkage to financial aid, specifically the use of food-warfare and population-control conditionalities, while continuing the arms buildup. According to the Kissinger report, a new international body—a Central American Development Organization (CADO)—should be created to oversee doling out aid to Central America based on such linkages.

To be blunt, under all the anti-Soviet wrappings, this is an escalation of the plan to sink Central America into a dragged-out, fratricidal war. Such a war, State Department functionaries in the Kissinger-created Office of

Population Affairs have admitted, is designed to cut population—by killing not only soldiers but civilian women of child-bearing age.

Sabotaging Contadora

Moreover, in the orchestrated controversy around the Kissinger document in the Washington "Pravda" and New York "Tass," hardly anyone took note of the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora group of nations—Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama—whose foreign ministers were meeting in Panama City the weekend before the Kissinger report came out. Those regional powers are trying to formulate a positive counterproposal to the U.S. State Department's "Thirty Years War" scenario.

According to Mexican press reports on the deliberations, all the Central American nations have apparently signed a new Contadora-formulated declaration which: 1) supports making an inventory of all existing arsenals and military personnel, 2) reiterates the goal of withdrawing all foreign advisers, 3) denounces and rejects official support for death squads and other paramilitary formations, 4) calls for elections in which "all political currents" are allowed to participate, 5) emphasizes "full cooperation with Cadesca," the Central American economic entity set up under the aegis of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) now meeting in Quito.

But the Kissinger Commission, by drawing all attention to itself through a series of staged "differences" and "reconciliations," succeeded in minimizing Contadora's own quite distinct policy considerations. In short, the report's claim that "The United States has a strong interest in encouraging the nations of Central America to assume greater responsibility for regional arrangements," is one of those egregiously blatant lies that Henry thinks only he can get away with.