

Montreal International Service in Spanish, 2300 GMT 13 August 1983

(Interview with employee of Salvadoran rebel "Radio Venceremos")

Question: You have said that the official reports differ from the truth or from the information released by Radio Venceremos. Could you tell us briefly your viewpoint on the real situation now in El Salvador and Central America?

Answer: The situation is characterized first by the fact that the army has lost the military initiative in El Salvador. We believe that since June 1982, after a military campaign which we named "Commandate Gonzalo, the army lost the initiative, and now it is the FMLN which sets the pace of the fighting. This is due not to a technical weakness of the national army, which obviously has better weapons, a greater number of troops, and better training than our forces, but basically to the troops' demoralization. We have seen, for instance, that there is now a high proportion of national army troops who surrender during the fighting, leave their positions, put down their arms and stop fighting, because they do not see any sense in dying for something that is not theirs.

For us, that is a factor that stirs optimism. However, there is another factor that must be considered: the increasing intervention of the United States. The main element is the fact that the strategic phase of the war in El Salvador is now in the hands of U.S. officers, who are the advisers to the Salvadoran Army.

Another element is the decision of the U.S. Government to send a fleet to the Central American area, which represents a serious menace to us and to Nicaragua, where a popular government is in power. Still another element of that intervention in Central America is Honduras' dangerous transformation into a military base. A few years ago, when the last military government fell in Honduras, the people hoped for a democratization of the country under a democratic regime. Unfortunately, the situation has now changed as power in Honduras is concentrated in the hands of general Alvarez, chief of the army, and U.S. Ambassador Negroponete. The president no longer has any effective power.

In addition, bands organized in Honduras are attacking the Nicaraguan population and the Sandinist army, and now Honduran troops are even participating in actions against El Salvador and Nicaragua. We consider Honduras' transformation into a U.S. military and paramilitary base very dangerous.

Still another element is the situation in Guatemala, where the incumbent government is conducting a genocidal war against the native population, already claiming an impressive number of victims.

Montreal International Service in Spanish, 2330 GMT 19 August 1983

(Recorded interview by Hector Gutierrez Ovalle of Radio Canada with Manuel de la Fuente, chief Latin American and Hispanic representative at the 5-12 August World Community Radio Congress in Montreal)

Question: Tell us about the conclusions, the proposals that came out of the congress.

Answer: I think there were basically three important proposals discussed in the final plenary assembly on the last day of the congress. . . . The last proposal, which was adopted, was to condemn the overall U.S. policy in Central America, particularly in three specific areas: first, U.S. jamming of Salvadoran radio stations--Radio Venceremos, Radio Farabundo Marti, and Radio Guazapa; the second, U.S. aggression toward Nicaragua, since this jeopardizes and endangers the community radios in Nicaragua; and third, the plans to establish Radio Marti, which, although directed at Cuba, is also directed at Mexico and the Central American countries. One of the plans for the radio station could involve having the United States control a very extensive range of frequencies, which would prevent other community radios in the Latin American countries from using those frequencies. Thus, the assembly condemned the possible creation of Radio Marti.