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COMITÉ DES MÈRES ET DES FAMILLES DES PRISONNIERS,
DES DISPARUS ET DES ASSASSINÉS POLITIQUES
DU SALVADOR, MONSEIGNEUR OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO

COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS AND FAMILIES OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS, DISAPPEARED AND ASSASSINATED
FROM EL SALVADOR, MONSEIGNEUR OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO

2a. Av. Nte y 17 calle Ote. #1003
San Salvador, EL Salvador, C.A. Pho. 71-1639

The organizations in defence of human rights declare before the Salvadorean people and the people of the world:

THAT since the beginning of the armed conflict in our country we have been denouncing the interference of the United States government. We denounce for its intervention, which hurts our people and their sovereignty and right to self-determination, rights which have been eroded by the ruling government because of their training and aid to the armed forces in their fight versus the insurgent forces of the FMLN but this irresponsibility which has produced more than half a million displaced people, 60,000 non-combatant, civilian deaths and thousands of detained, disappeared, and hundreds of political prisoners unjustly incarcerated. This does not include the number of wounded, orphans, etc., this epidemic continues and ratifies the system of military aid by the U.S. in our country and this is a violation of international treaties because, we repeat, it violates our sovereignty and permits the continuation of the profound violation of human rights. It is in this context that Ambassador Pickering called for in the American Congress the approval of \$70 million in U.S. funds for the purchase of military equipment, including the C47, which would end, he said, to quote, "the C47 is going to take back the guerilla-controlled areas without burning the towns and houses because it can stay in the air a long time, it can shoot really fast and has the ability to operate at night." It was reported in local periodicals that the Air Force had received the C47 on the 11th of January when they announced that they had exterminated in combat at various times on the night of January 7th in the following three locations: Cerros de Campana, Buena Vistas and to the south of San Vicente. The C47 is a smaller version of the AC37 used by the Americans in the Viet Nam war and costs \$1.5 m. U.S.

The organizations in defence of human rights in El Salvador view with consternation the introduction and escalation of the war by the introduction of an object so highly sophisticated as the C47. We fear that the use of this in the conflict will increase the number of civilian casualties. We are humanitarian and pacifist organizations and reject the tactics of war no more or less than we are against the combination of arms upgrading by the Reagan government that are more sophisticated for which our people are shedding their blood on the battlefield in the wish to obtain a military victory. Because they have introduced the C47, the war in our country has reached the mark of vietnamization of the conflict and this is very problematical for the Salvadorean people. It accelerates the cost of living, unemployment and lack of medicine, etc.. It is alarming that they are not looking after our basic necessities and their priority is the escalation of the war since to get this airplane costs \$1.5 m.

At the same time as the introduction of the aircraft the market was flooded with many popular consumer products. For this reason we ask Mr. Duarte, who are you serving?, the Salvadorean people or Mr. Reagan? Finally, we have to ask all the organizations and humanitarian institutions, national and international, the churches and the democratic governments of the world:

1. To have solidarity with the Salvadorean people in the face of this increase of personnel and war material.
2. To insist the Duarte government and the FDR-FMLN continue the peace talks as an alternative to the war and the use of sophisticated means only to effect the large majority that fervently has pronounced in favour of peace, justice and liberty.

This is a communiqué of the following four organizations:

1. The Committee of Mothers Monsinor Romero.
2. The Committee for freedom Marianella Garcia Villas.
3. The Committee of Political Prisoners (COPPES).
4. The Christian Committee of the Displaced



SAN SALVADOR, 24 .JANUARY 1985.