

and inspect, and to really make these free elections."

As I said recently before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, if requested, and if we believed we could be of assistance, we would certainly be prepared to consider participating in such a mission.

In our view, Duarte has earned the right to be given a chance to bring about a political solution in the most democratic of manners — through free elections. A founder of the Christian Democratic Party, he has fought all of his life for democracy. Together with the present leader of the FDR, Guillermo Ungo, he waged and won the 1972 election campaign in his country. This victory was blocked by the military and Duarte was jailed, beaten and tortured. Exiled to Venezuela, he was one of the leaders of the opposition movement whose efforts eventually led to the overthrow of President Romero in October 1979. He returned to his native land only 13 days after the revolution and was appointed to government in March 1980, becoming President in December, assuming the position he had rightfully won in 1972.

It is ironic that the FDR is pressing Duarte to negotiate with them, presumably to enter into a form of power-sharing in advance of the people's support in the election, all in the name of democracy.

It is my belief that many men and women of goodwill made a tragic miscalculation in late 1979 and early 1980. They thought that the same circumstances prevailed in El Salvador as had prevailed in Nicaragua before the overthrow of Somoza. They gambled that the armed leftist groups would win, ignoring the fact that the repressive regime of General Romero had already been overthrown. These men and women of essentially moderate persuasion, many of whom are represented in the FDR — people who, as the leader of the NDP said earlier, would be members of all political parties in Canada if they were here — are now stranded with their extremist bedfellows.

The FDR, if it is really interested in seeing democracy introduced into El Salvador and is not just a front for armed Marxist revolutionary groups, has a responsibility to join with the Duarte government to ensure that the elections scheduled to be held in a scant nine months are a success.

The leader of the NDP, Mr. Broadbent, has also, I believe, a responsibility in this regard. Most of his proposed courses of action are based on a negotiated settlement, which is the cause of the revolutionaries. By supporting the revolutionary forces in their desire to share power before the holding of elections, he could contribute to the prolongation of the suffering in that country and thereby impede the political solution which all members in this House support. To use his own words, he adds a "veneer of respectability" to the rebel position.

Finally, what is our responsibility as the government? It is not to attempt to arrogate to ourselves, from the outside, the right to resolve El Salvador's problems and, even more, the form of their resolution. It is rather to be modest enough to allow the people of El Salvador to decide their own future through the processes of the ballot box. That may not lead to political power for the socialist opposition in El Salvador,

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