

# Correspondence

From page 7

difference between Somoza and Castro or the Sandinista Tomas Borge? In 22 years of his regime Castro did not even bother with the comedy of the "free" elections in the USSR. His reign is supreme.

Communism and fascism are similar in their ideologies and there is no difference Professor Simmons knows these things but avoids the questions. He, and the fellow travelers at York and elsewhere, are like the slaves in ancient Israel. The Old Testament tells us about the slave who could be freed after six years of service. But he loves his master and does not want to leave him. Then his master—according to the Bible—shall "bring him to the door, or unto the door post, and...shall bore his ear through with an aul, and he (the slave) shall serve him for ever".

It is sad to see Professor Simmons and his colleagues acting like slaves. After all, they live in a free country.

Isaac Bar-Lewaw

### Bar-Lewaw rebuked

I would like to comment on the article your paper carried on the Feb. 5th issue under the heading "Free Speech".

Dr. Bar-Lewaw deals with quite a few issues, but it seems to me he studiously avoids mentioning one basic thing. In the debate that took place in the campus on the occasion of the "Week of Solidarity with El Salvador", which side is he supporting? The military junta or the people of El Salvador? A second question, if he supports the same side as the U.S. government, could he please tell us how it is possible for a "great Democracy" likes the U.S. be actively aiding such a bloody regime? If it is the danger of the "Soviets" should the U.S.

government not be trying to outdo them in aiding a people that is fighting for principles which the Americans themselves fought for during the American Revolution? It seems to me that all the democratic people should do their best to help the heroic people of El Salvador, and not attack others who have the courage to do it! One would expect at least that from an educated person!

Stathis Stathopoulos

### Bar-Lewaw rebuffed

In reply to Dr. Isaac Bar-Lewaw's recent article in your column "Free Speech", which was addressed to the Latin American and Caribbean Studies and other participating concerned students and staff during the week of solidarity with the underprivileged of El Salvador, I would like to state that he does not redress any imbalance. He listed a familiar set of assertions about Poland, Cuba and Afghanistan which have served as the centerpiece in articles in the *Globe*, *Star* and *Sun*. His conclusion pointed out that, "Some members of the York community feel they can take advantage of the free Canadian democratic and cynically abuse the right of speech...and preach 'revolutionary' struggle, terror, violence...With their nice academic salaries they can afford communist theories and dreams."

The professor must be reminded that in Canada, the U.S.A. and Britain, both newspaper chains and wire services are businessman oligopolies. Tens of thousands of peasants and workers have been gunned down in Central America in the past few years by U.S. trained and equipped military and paramilitary organizations for such dreadful crimes as trying to form unions, political parties or protest marches. Their story is not told, their side is not represented justly in a businessman's press. As a result, many conscientious and

concerned students and staff here at York from a broad spectrum of political-social positions attempted through the solidarity week to voice the view of those who are almost never heard from in the world. The professor has the nerve to say he is addressing an imbalance in the press and this university. He says those participating in solidarity week are "cynically abusing the right of speech." When 95 per cent of the press coverage is stacked against what we were saying, I would have to assert the cynical abuse is on the professor's side since his side gets all the coverage.

Surely a professor who has published so widely understands that revolutions such as that of Nicaragua or El Salvador come about not because anyone wishes it but because large segments of those societies' populations, when prevented from having their limited needs met by legitimate political processes which don't exist, finally loose all belief in any peaceful road to redressing grievances. None of us participating in solidarity week preach as universals 'terror' or 'violence' as the professor so falsely asserts, but rather, we are aware of the causes of the problems in Central America and only wish to see these causes eliminated. This desire on our part is not due to "communist theories and dreams" because we have "nice academic salaries," (most participants are students), but rather because we are aware of the reality producing an intolerable situation, a reality the professor will always ignore since he is so prone to a balanced 'FREE PRESS!'

James D. Scoyne

### Bar-Lewaw revisited

Besides having a simplistic view of what consists of "Marxist" regimes, Isaac Bar-Lewaw

completely distorts the reality of the struggle in El Salvador. Firstly the people of El Salvador are fighting as a united coalition under the leadership of the FDR (Democratic Revolutionary Front), made up of not only the organized left and progressive forces, but also large sections of the trade unions, mass organizations, and most of the Christian Democrats. Thus an alliance of workers, peasants, professionals and small business owners are fighting to rid the country of American imperialism (economic, political and social) as well as of the tiny minority that dominates the economic life (90 per cent of the land, and the major industries not owned by foreign interests) and the political life (a military dictatorship that eliminates any opposition, be it religious, labour, peasant or political). The Ad Hoc Committee of Support to the People of El Salvador was formed with one aim: To support the Salvadorian people in their revolutionary struggle to free their land from foreign domination. The Committee is made up of a cross-section of the York student body, and not a small group that "espouses every cause favoured by the Soviet Union and its satellites". The purpose of the support week for El Salvador was to draw people's attention to the situation there, something that the media, which Mr. Bar-Lewaw moonlights for, has failed to do, either by omission or distortion of facts.

However, it should be pointed out, that the participating groups and individuals differ with one another on many other questions. For instance, some might defend the imperialist actions of the USSR. Our organization on the other hand, clearly condemns the USSR as being a social imperialist state, and not at all progressive. In our press and meetings we have condemned the Soviet invasion of

Afghanistan and given support to the struggles of the Polish workers for democratic rights, all the while supporting the struggle of the people of El Salvador. We have condemned the Soviet and Cuban aid to Ethiopia in its attempt to crush the struggle for self-determination of the Eritrean people.

The main menace for the people of Latin America is American imperialism. It's not a question of where they their guns from (in fact, most of the weapons are American made, captured from the Junta), but the fight for freedom from foreign interference and economic exploitation by the 14 families of El Salvador. Mr. Bar-Lewaw uses the legitimate condemnation of Soviet aggression to justify the equally condemnable, and in the case of Latin America, far greater, aggression of US imperialism.

Today we must stand united to support and aid the Salvadorean people in their fight for freedom. We will continue here in Canada to fight for socialism. At the same time, we will work with all people who are united against all imperialisms, thus preparing the road for basic democratic freedom and socialism throughout the world.

Wendy Seale  
The Marxist-Leninist Organization  
of Canada  
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