

TOWARD THE SANTIAGO SUMMIT:

Vancouver Consultation

(October 21, 1997)

No consensus emerged from the consultation that took place in Vancouver on October 21, 1997, as to either, on the one hand, the viability of neoliberalism as a model of economic development or as an economic system compatible with achieving democracy and protecting human rights or, on the other, as to the measures that might be taken to ensure that human rights, poverty, and education, among other issues, receive equal or greater treatment than economic integration at the Santiago Summit. Therefore, rather than arguing for a specific point of view, this paper attempts to represent the diversity of opinion expressed at the consultation as well as to present the sum total of recommendations that were made, regardless of whether they were agreed upon by a single delegate, a handful of people, or the entire group (although, when possible, an attempt will be made to assess the degree of support each recommendation received). The aim of the author of this report, then, is to represent as accurately as possible the viewpoints expressed.

To begin with, participants were divided as to whether including the eradication of poverty, education, and preserving and strengthening democracy and human rights as part of a discussion of