

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 good-will 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, to which the Socialist International and their distinguished investigator are committed, but regardless of the falling of political chips, I believe it is the right, and certainly it is the democratic, course.

El Salvador is a human tragedy. It is ours to express our fellow-feeling, to offer aid, to encourage a solution which corresponds to the wishes and needs of the people and to