

U.S. tonguelashed

by Karen Kebarle
 "Down with Reagan!"
 So chanted the marching
 demonstrators at a rally last
 Saturday protesting US military
 intervention in El Salvador -

timed to coincide with the start of
 Ronald Reagan's inauguration
 ceremonies.
 Over 200 people participated
 in the march from Churchill
 Square to the Federal Bui-

lding. Five police cars escorted
 the block-long group of
 sign-waving demonstrators.

The marchers were of
 various ages, races, and political
 persuasions. Some appeared to be
 concerned about violations of
 human rights. Others carried
 signs sporting slogans such as
 "Revolution or Death!" All
 shouted that they wanted the US
 to "get out of El Salvador!"

The political situation in El
 Salvador became confused after a
 military junta seized power last
 year. Some say the junta is a
 moderate group trying to curtail
 violence between extreme
 rightists and leftists. Others, like
 the Latin American Solidarity
 Committee, say the junta and the
 rightists are being directed by a
 wealthy minority in El Salvador.

The Democratic
 Revolutionary Front (FDR), a
 leftist group which says it
 represents "the majority of the
 Salvadorean people... and all
 democratic forces within the
 country," has been struggling to
 overthrow the junta.

The FDR has met with
 violent opposition from the junta,
 which is reported to have
 murdered 12,000 people last year.
 Canada still officially recognizes
 the junta, even though it has
 withdrawn its financial support.
 The Americans continue to support
 the junta strongly, and it is
 likely Reagan will soon increase
 military aid.

Organizers of Saturday's rally
 said they want the Canadian
 government to recognize the FDR
 as the new provisional govern-
 ment in El Salvador.

Ray Martin, Alberta president
 of the NDP, called for withdrawal
 of Canada's recognition of the
 junta, and for food and funds for
 El Salvadorean refugees. "It's
 time for the Canadian govern-
 ment to get off the fence," Martin
 said at the rally.

Marguerite Sandbourne, a
 representative of the FDR, said
 the FDR is nearing victory in the
 revolution against the junta,
 although US intervention would
 be the one thing to prevent this.

Similar marches were held
 Saturday in Winnipeg, Toronto,
 and Montreal.



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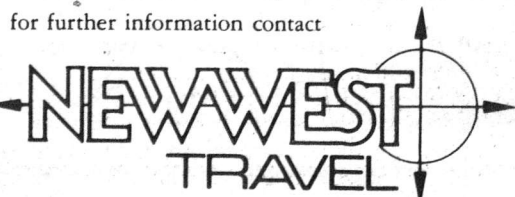


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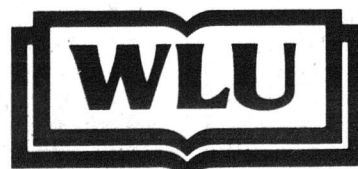
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