

Arias Solution

by Maggie Brown

Roland Gutierrez, a political opposition member from El Salvador, was in Halifax last week to give Maritimers a better picture of what's going on in Central America. The visit was sponsored by the Latin America Information Group and DEVERIC.

El Salvador is one of five Central American countries to have signed the Arias Plan, a peace initiative sponsored by the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. The agreement includes such aspects as dialogue, amnesty, democratization, and a general cease-fire.

Gutierrez is a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FMLN-FDR).

The FMLN is a military front. It is made up of five revolutionary organizations, such as the Marxist and Socialist parties. The FDR consists of the Social Christian popular movement and the National Revolutionary movement, a member of the Social Democrat internationals.

Both fronts compose quite a broad umbrella of all popular

organizations in our country," says Gutierrez.

"The FMLN-FDR sees the plan as a very positive step, but at the same time we consider that it has some shortcomings," Gutierrez says. The situation in each country in Central America is quite different."

Gutierrez says the Duarte government "sees the plan as a way to get our surrender and is insisting that we lay down our guns. But that means Mr. Duarte is not seeing the plan as a tool for a political solution, but for a surrender."

"We will never do that," he says.

The FMLN-FDR has submitted their own peace initiative to the Duarte government that addresses the specific problems of El Salvador. They propose two steps toward a political solution to the national conflict.

These include "an agreement to humanize the war and reduce its economic, social, and political impact" and "a proposal to reopen the dialogue toward the global political solution," which would bring the U.S. into the discussions.

This dialogue was disrupted after the assassination, two



Rolando Gutierrez (left) and Mario Carranza

months ago, of human rights leader Herbert Anayas, allegedly by a right-wing death squad.

"You cannot keep talking of peace and at the same time kill the leaders of popular organizations," says Gutierrez.

He says the Duarte government doesn't have the capability to stop the death squads, although he thinks the president does know who killed him. "Duarte doesn't control the army

and the death squads, although he doesn't do anything to stop their activities."

The Salvadorean people are optimistic about the peace plans. However, Gutierrez says, "they have the feeling that any plan they sign is not going to work out unless to conditions are met. First, that the U.S. stop interfering in our conflict, and second, that the FMLN-FDR have to be taken into account."

When does Gutierrez see a peaceful solution to the conflict in Central America?

"Instead of speaking in terms of time, I will speak in terms of political attitudes. Any defeat by a revolutionary military movement will be the solution for less than a year, maybe. If you don't solve the economic and human rights problems, the issue of independence will be put on hold."

READ THIS

by Geoff Stone

No new journals will be ordered by Dalhousie libraries unless other subscriptions are cancelled, according to Bill Birdsall, University librarian.

Birdsall said the libraries have had annual budget increases by the university, but they are not keeping up with the inflation on periodicals and books. "Price increases are much higher than they should be," Birdsall said.

Birdsall blamed the problem on journal publishers, who increase their prices on required journals in order to make higher profits. He said the library has gone through a number of major cancellations of periodicals, including 250 a few years ago.

The library currently has had a 1.8 per cent decrease in the number of acquisitions, while the expenditure has increased by 11.5 per cent. "We have spent 23 per cent more (over two years), but the additions are declining. Journals are so much more

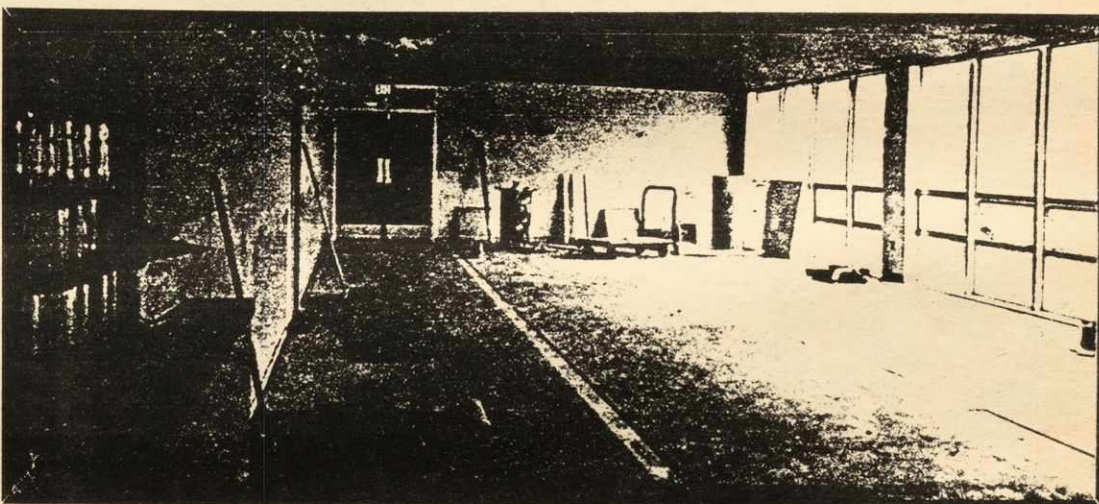
expensive," said Birdsall.

He said the university administration is currently looking into ways of preserving Dalhousie's current collections from inflation, including a set procedure for providing money for inflation increases.

The libraries currently have a written collection policy that defines which collections Dalhousie should acquire. "This takes into account what might be available elsewhere", including other Halifax libraries, Birdsall said.

He said the science libraries will be the most affected. "The journals are higher-priced, and prices are increasing faster," he said. 80 to 90 per cent of the Kellogg and MacDonald library budgets go towards journals. Birdsall said the books at these two libraries are just the bare minimum of what they could have.

"When you cut journals, it hits the sciences and health sciences particularly hard," he said.



Before or after?

Mega \$ Facelift

by Ian Johnston

Major changes to the Dalhousie Student Union Building, including the addition of a new student bar, are continuing on schedule, with the completion date for the renovations set for this fall.

Student Union Vice-President Ian McCarthy, a member of the SUB Operations Committee, says the renovations are a way of "bringing the SUB out of the '60s and making it more responsible to students."

"Renovations must be done on a large scale because nothing's been done on a year-to-year basis up to now," says McCarthy.

The Renovations are expected to cost more than \$350,000 and are being financed by a \$500,000 loan from the university. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring.

McCarthy says the changes will alter all five levels of the building with the purpose of "making better use of the space available."

The biggest change will see the replacement of the Grawood with a new bar on the lower level at the present site of the Games Room.

McCarthy says the new bar would offer the students "a pub atmosphere" and would include a fully serviced kitchen, a dance floor, and the capacity for live bands to play there."

McCarthy was blunt in assessing the Grawood's appeal to Dalhousie students.

"It's really out of step with the times," he says, criticizing the old decor, the lack of a dance floor, and the small size.

"You can't even get decent TV reception in there."

McCarthy says the new bar

will give Dal students a "central focus, a meeting place on campus".

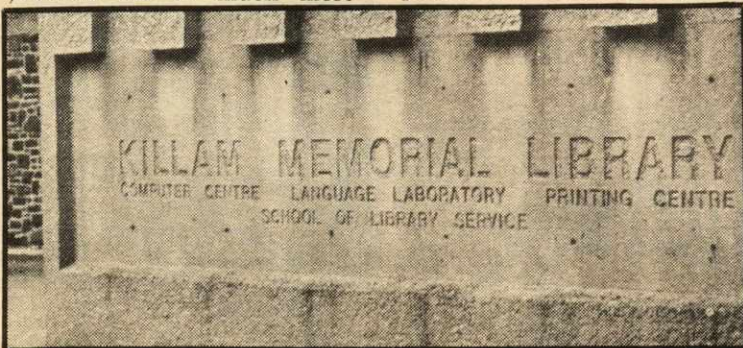
Other proposed renovations include a reorganization of office space on all floor, and the addition of several new student services.

McCarthy says increased photocopying services and a small auditorium for lectures and meetings are two ideas being analyzed.

He says the renovation plans have been in the works for four years and have proceeded "relatively smoothly".

A student forum on the planned changes held last March "received a generally positive response," says Andrew Beckett, SUB manager and member of the Operations Committee.

"We received several new ideas for renovations," says Beckett.



Budget increases to R.I.P.?

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