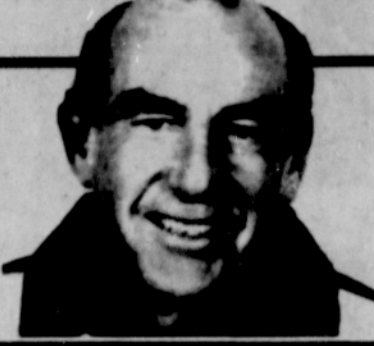


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Reagan gives military aid to impoverished nations



Ronald Reagan embraces El Salvador's interim president, Luis Alberto Monge.

Ronald Reagan took a quick public relations swing through Latin America last week. Billed as a mission of peace and friendship, Reagan's major theme was opposition to "counterfeit revolutionaries" and "aggressors."

Brazil
First stop was Brazil. Currently under an elected President but frequently the target of U.S. backed coups, Brazil has had one of the world's fastest growing economies and has been viewed as a Third World country building its way out of underdevelopment. The current worldwide recession, however, has brought economic crisis to Brazil.

The great decline in coffee prices has seriously damaged Brazil's balance of trade, caused a 6 percent drop in production, and a shortage of dollars with which to pay its \$80

billion external debt. Brazil is on the verge of default. Brazil has appealed to the International Monetary Fund for \$6 billion to enable it to meet its immediate loan payments but this will take some time to process and approve.

Reagan promised \$1.23 billion in emergency credit. The U.S. loan is designed only as a holdover until Brazil can obtain IMF money. It protects the U.S. banks, since the default of a major borrower like Brazil or Mexico could bankrupt major U.S. banks and throw the U.S. into a major financial crisis.

Although Reagan offered a short term loan his real message was for a "free enterprise" answer to the financial crisis. He told Brazil's leadership that there are tight limits on what the U.S. is willing to do for developing countries which "can't

come at the expense of the developed." His prescription for economic expansion in underdeveloped countries, including Brazil, is the same as for the U.S.: income tax breaks for high-income individuals and corporations, reduction of non-military budgets, and reliance on investment of multi-national corporations. In the meantime, 1,000 people die each day in Brazil of diseases that could be prevented or cured and 40 million Brazilians have never seen a doctor.

Columbia
Columbia is a nation caught in two civil wars. Throughout 1981 the marginal life led by most of the people and the unjust distribution of material goods fueled the efforts of the M-19 guerrilla movement. Failing to involve the government in

talks to return the country to normal activity, the M-19 turned to rural guerilla warfare. The country was hit with nationwide strikes; the government closed the universities; unions were outlawed. More than 70,000 were unemployed; millions were potentially employed. Government oppression included murder and imprisonment.

Simultaneous with government oppression was brutality of the drug mafia, fighting to retain control of a large segment of Colombia's economy.

When President Belisario Betancour took over as President this year he offered amnesty to guerilla and political prisoners—hoping to cool off the civil war and make some accommodation with the aspirations of the people. Whether the government can make necessary changes to

avoid revolution remains to be seen.

Reagan's visit to Colombia required extensive military security with an air force helicopter hovering only 25 feet away when he placed a wreath at the Bolivar monument. Betancour warned Reagan to end the U.S. policy of attempting to isolate Cuba and Nicaragua. Betancour also warned against outside (i.e. U.S.) interference in the affairs of Central America.

Costa Rica
Costa Rica is among the most successful of the Latin American nations. A democracy with no standing army, Costa Rica has had little internal strife. Costa Rica is on the verge of bankruptcy with 100 percent inflation, unemployment, a growing trade imbalance and an internal debt of \$1.8 billion. A 500 (Please turn to page 2 column 1)

House rejects MX

President Reagan's military program suffered a major setback Tuesday when the House of Representatives voted 245-176 to kill the MX missile program.

The MX missile was part of a \$180 billion plan to modernize the U.S. war machine. This is the first time since World War II that either House of Congress has turned down a President's request for a major weapons system.

Reagan responded belligerently: "I had hoped that most of the members in the House had awakened to the threat facing the United States. That hope was apparently unfounded. A majority chose to go sleep-walking into the future."

Reagan also threatened to take his case to the people. Many opponents of the MX believe the people have already spoken—through the No-

vember 2nd election, by defeating many representatives who support Reagan's position.

The House voted to delete from the budget the \$988 million that was earmarked for MX procurement.

The Senate will vote on the issue within the next week or two and Senators Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon) and Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) are leading the opposition. If the Senate approves the missile program the House-Senate Conference Committee will reconcile the budget differences.

Some opponents oppose the "dense pack" theory which assumes that incoming missiles would blow themselves up rather than destroy the MX missiles. Others believe the missiles are not necessary because the U.S. has an adequate nuclear and conventional force.

Tubman parents discuss staff complaints

Parents of Tubman Middle School voted not to invite an outside committee to investigate problems between Principal Herman Washington and some members of the staff. The problems were made public through an Oregonian article in which teachers were quoted as saying that Washington is an authoritarian and that the morale of the staff is deteriorating.

Based on remarks made by staff at previous meetings and the statements in the article, Jackie Lynch, a parent, expressed the opinion that the only grievance is that "a black man is in charge. Racism is what we're dealing with."

Asked why the teachers who took their grievance to the press were still at the school, Bernard Farrell from the Area Office, indicated that this

was an "unprofessional act" but they might not be subject to discharge. That decision is left to the principal and if disciplinary action is taken the teachers have access to the grievance procedure. He questioned whether the teachers' statements were racist since "there are different perceptions of what is racist."

Parents Gerry Abram and Herb Cawthorne said the numerous problems in other schools had never been aired in the press this way. "It's more than a matter of perception," Cawthorne said.

Ronnie Herndon spoke against requesting a committee of inquiry. "It is more than a hot issue now. When you talk about going outside the normal channels you have trouble. Those teachers made a horrible

mistake. I hope we don't do anything to make it worse."

Washington agreed that the usual grievance procedure should be used. "One person who spoke in the article never had spoken to me even one time." He stated that the District has an option to evaluate him and the school. "Everyone has the right to the grievance procedure if they don't like what happens." He said that the procedure had not been used prior to the newspaper article.

When the article was published Washington had already set up a process to attempt to improve communication and thought the process was beginning to work.

"There are staff here who have difficulty taking orders. That is why they are upset. The article misrepre-

sents—they had more correct information than what they gave the press. It was most unorthodox and uncalled for; teachers have a procedure to use.

"I came to Tubman to try to make a difference. I have ideas about working with children. If there are persons who find it extremely difficult to work in the school they have options to leave.

"My job is to work with people ... As long as I'm the principal, people have to work with me and through the system."

Cawthorne added that the school has had four principals, each with a different style. "The school will not run without a leader. The teachers cannot run the school, but the principal has to have support."

Hays, Richardson vie for NAACP presidency



Hazel G. Hays

"Let's face it. I got a personal high from my NAACP activity and I want that involvement again," said Hazel G. Hays, who is a candidate for President of the NAACP, Portland Branch.

"The NAACP must be brought back to life again. I must say that I have been shocked to see that the NAACP is never mentioned—it plays no role in the serious problems that affect black people. The Portland Branch is atrophied—it isn't

being used, it is never mentioned. The fight at the legislature for redistricting, the problems with the school district and the police—these problems were not attacked by the NAACP, yet they should be the ones to identify problems, not react after other organizations take up the cause."

Although she has not been active in the Portland Branch recently, Mrs. Hays' service has been extensive. An active member since age 17, she was a member of the Portland Branch Executive Committee for 15 years. She also was elected Secretary of the Western Region.

Mrs. Hays was chairman of the Labor and Industries Committee during the four-year administration of Thomas R. Vickers. A discrimination complaint filed against the Postal Service brought changes in hiring and promotion nationally as well as the first promotion of black people to non-entry-level positions in the Portland Post Office. This brought the branch the Thalheimer Award, the NAACP's highest award.

Other activities included obtaining employment for blacks in the construction of the Albina Human Resources Center; obtaining subcontracts for black construction companies; establishing the Albina Contractors Association; helping ini-

tiate the discrimination suit against the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

An often heard reason for current NAACP inactivity is lack of enthusiasm by board members or lack of help for volunteers. "As I look back, I believe Tommy Vickers was the best president this branch has had since I've been in Portland," Mrs. Hays said, "and many times there were only three or four of us to do all the work. That showed that a few people can get a lot done—lack of members is no excuse."

The NAACP must be returned to the people, Mrs. Hays said. In the past, the branch was financed through memberships. If the black community is supporting the branch—buying memberships—then they are going to ask what the branch is doing.

She does not agree with the current national and local emphasis on corporate memberships and corporate donations. "If I am elected president I will not go to the corporations for memberships; I don't believe they have the same goals as the NAACP. I wonder what interest the nuclear power industry has in the NAACP. If the corporations want to buy a membership, fine; but if they really want to help black folks they can provide jobs for young (Please turn to page 8 column 1)



Bernard Richardson

by Lanita Duke

Richardson told the Observer. "I worked on the ACT-SO program. The Portland chapter has been involved in ACT-SO for five years and we had four national winners. This speaks very highly of our youth. When I became involved in ACT-SO I started out in the fund-raising department and the highlight came a couple of years ago when we had a matching grant from the U.S. Bank of \$3,000. The community came through with \$4,300 and that was a very heart-warming experience—to have the community open up and show their money support."

Richardson was also involved in bringing Rosa Parks, Margaret Bush Wilson and Benjamin Hooks to Portland.

"Another project that's dear to my heart is P.O.I.C., which works with basic skills to upgrade those skills."

In 1910 the NAACP was formed out of the talented ten which was the brainchild of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois. Yet with the passage of time the Pan-Africanist foresight of DuBois was lost. As a member and possible president of the Portland Branch, Richardson gave his views on African affairs in general and South Africa in particular:

"I would have to go back to the constitution of the NAACP. It calls for a number of things regarding ci-

vil rights. The National Association has passed several resolutions in regards to South Africa and we will follow the dictate of the national office."

The NAACP was a prime factor in the desegregation of public schools. I asked Richardson how he felt about desegregation as it was applied in Portland:

"Well, I'm a product of Texas and there we had many role models for black children. This is one element that is lacking for our children in the Portland area. When you take a black student out of his own environment as was done earlier this created a host of problems that we had to deal with and rid the system of. The Black United Front was unique in solving this problem. I found nothing wrong with the community's decision to solve this problem. I think in a couple of years we would have to go back and look over this period to see what was right and what was wrong."

Why does Bernard Richardson want to become the president of the NAACP's Portland Branch? "I think every individual brings something unique to the office. I believe it would be a challenge more than anything else."

One observation of the NAACP in terms of black organization in (Please turn to page 12 column 1)