

I.S. members should be strongly encouraged to become active members and builders of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).. CISPES will play a central role in mobilizing a mass anti-war movement against the rapid drift toward a major war in Central America and the Caribbean. In addition there are several features of CISPES, and specific contributions the I.S. can make to it, which motivate our involvement:

1) Its growth and dynamism. For many young people coming into politics for the first time, CISPES represents their first movement experience. This gives the group a very healthy and non-sectarian dynamic. It is a place where socialists can both raise political ideas which develop the movement's consciousness, and build an ongoing struggle, without feeling any conflict between the two.

2) Its potential. CISPES chapters already exist in hundreds of places. But new ones can be built quickly even where they don't exist. This is especially true on campuses, but not exclusively so (see point 3). Furthermore, if there happens to be a problem of your local CISPES chapter being run by some narrow sectarian clique (it is not our impression this is a serious problem), it would be easy to overcome this by bringing in new forces and demonstrating how to build something real.

3) Labor potential. Building labor support for El Salvador solidarity is only in the beginning stages. Comrades with trade union experience and connections, even if they aren't currently working and don't have much current trade union activity, could play instrumental roles in building labor opposition to U.S. intervention.

4) Long-term importance and internationalism. There is no question that the issue of Central America will be around for years to come. The movement in solidarity will develop a core of dedicated, skilled activists; indeed those of us active in CISPES can see it happening already.

We should be part of this process, both as an internationalist obligation and as an opportunity for the I.S. to overcome some of its isolation. We made a similar commitment some years ago to southern Africa solidarity work during the Angolan and Zimbabwean liberation struggles. That commitment generated excellent work for the I.S. and helped in the development of our politics. It did not, of course, serve as a "full perspective" for the I.S. or overcome the difficulties of the perspective we were operating on at that time. Nor can we expect Central America solidarity work to solve all our current serious political and organizational problems, and we do not propose it in that sense. Rather, an active commitment to this work, to be implemented wherever comrades are available for it, is proposed as one component for revitalizing the I.S.

Briefly, choosing a commitment to CISPES does not mean we consider the anti-nuclear weapons movement or the anti-draft movement to be unimportant. Indeed, we are in full solidarity with these movements. However, the anti-intervention movement is more political than the anti-draft movement in that it both opposes U.S. militarism (as does anti-draft) and supports a popular revolutionary movement, the FDR/FILN. And in comparison to the anti-nuclear weapons movement, CISPES' growth and political potential is enhanced by the real urgency of the rapid U.S. moves toward war in Central America.

Given this, and the limited resources we have to commit to the anti-war movements, we feel that CISPES is where we can most effectively make an I.S. contribution to the anti-war movements and, at the same time, help to overcome our isolation through a movement where we will come in contact with new political activists.