

area.

British control over the Miskitos continues today. A network of British-trained anthropologists associated with the Society for Endangered Peoples, a European-based group headed by former Nazis, organized the flight of the Miskitos into Honduras over a year ago as a defense of "Indian rights." Once in Honduras, the Miskitos were herded into refugee camps. Access to these camps, the anthropologists report, is controlled by Diana Villiers, the former British Conservative Party leader now married to U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte. Negroponte has been called more Commander in Chief of the Honduran Armed Forces than President Suazo, because of his close relationship with Army Chief General Alvaréz.

What next?

Not since the United States supported the British in the Malvinas War against Argentina has a U.S. policy threatened such a rupture with its southern neighbors.

In speech after speech at the United Nations during the recent Security Council debate on Central America, Ibero-American governments tried to steer the United States off the Kirkpatrick line, warning that U.S. arms shipments and backing for the insurgents would only make matters worse. This is a "conflict which, if sharpened, could have...extra-continental implications," Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations stated.

Support for the standing offer by Mexico and Venezuela to provide their good offices as mediators of the Honduran-Nicaraguan dispute has come from most governments in the region. During a visit to the United States at the beginning of April, Brazilian Air Force Minister Jardim de Mattos told the press Brazil backs Mexico and Venezuela's initiatives for a peace, adding that Brazil will not enter the Central American conflict in support of the United States. Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, Victor Tinoco, likewise issued an urgent appeal for a heads of state meeting to take place between Honduras and Nicaragua, with the Mexican and Venezuelan presidents present as "witnesses of good faith."

If a political approach is not adopted, the most radical faction inside Nicaragua, which argues that Nicaragua should stop negotiations and turn to "friends" like Libya, Bulgaria, and South Yemen for defense, may increase its power. On March 28, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi announced that he has offered Nicaragua the Libyan armed forces to help them fight "imperialism."

The Kirkpatrick group is attempting to use the crisis to restore the old pattern of brinkmanship-cum-crisis-management between the superpowers which President Reagan superseded as of his March 23 defense policy speech. The recently formed Linowitz Commission on "Latin American-U.S. dialogue," which includes Cyrus Vance and Robert McNamara, just issued a 82-page report demanding that the United States and the Soviet Union jointly negotiate over Central America in a crisis-management mode, "similar to

the agreement ending the Cuban missile crisis of 1962."

Though paying lip service to bringing other regional powers such as Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia into the discussions, the report insists on a basic East-West confrontation mode in which, according to a summary printed in the *Journal of Commerce*, "both the American and the Soviet-Cuban sides would have to give up something in any such accommodation for long-range stability."

Colombia's Betancur on emergency mission

Colombian President Belisario Betancur will undertake an emergency tour to stabilize the Central American region, it was announced simultaneously April 5 in Bogotá, Caracas, Panama City, and Mexico City. Betancur will confer with Venezuelan President Herrera Campins; continue to the Mexican resort of Cancún on April 9, where Betancur will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid; and conclude on April 10 in Panama, in a meeting with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella, Costa Rican President Alberto Monge, and perhaps Herrera Campins as well. According to press reports, Betancur will also discuss urgent economic issues.

The Betancur initiative raises to the level of presidents the coordination among Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama that began at the foreign minister level in early January. At that time the four foreign ministers constituted themselves as a body to assume responsibility for keeping the lid on the Central American conflicts, and urged all major powers, including the United States, to stay out.

EIR has recommended that during these consultations, two urgent steps be taken to open the maneuvering room for further reduction of tension:

- 1) that the Israeli involvement in the region be eliminated, including Ariel Sharon's arms- and gun-running operations in Honduras and Guatemala, the Sharon faction's work with the controllers of Ríos Montt on the Temple Mount Project, and the substantial Israeli control over Costa Rican President Monge;

- 2) that the presidents of the region extend overtures, privately and publicly, for consultations with the White House that would give Reagan room to act "in concert with other presidents" and thus have an insurance policy against the Watergating operations now in motion against him on the issue of Central America.

These measures would not eliminate the conflicts in the region, but would go a long way to beginning to solve them.