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EL SALVADOR

**Platform for the Democratic
Revolutionary Government
Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR)**



PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

The economic and social structures of our country, which have guaranteed the boundless enrichment of an oligarchical minority and the exploitation of our people by U.S. imperialism, are today in a profound and insoluble crisis. The military dictatorship, the entire legal system and the ideology which defends oligarchic interests and North American imperialists, oppressing and subjugating the Salvadorean people, are also in crisis. The ranks of these ruling classes have fallen apart and the fascist and reformist attempts to overcome the crisis have failed, victims of their own internal contradictions and battered by the decisive and heroic actions of the popular movement. This failure was unavoidable despite even the most shameless North American intervention in support of those anti-popular projects.

The revolutionary organizations' loyalty to the interests and aspirations of the Salvadorean people has enabled them to root themselves firmly among the great majority of workers and the middle class. Today the revolutionary movement, because of its firm base, is indestructible and constitutes the only alternative for the Salvadorean people, who cannot be stopped nor swayed in their struggle to win a free homeland in which their most heartfelt wishes will be realized.

The economic and political crisis of the ruling classes on the one hand, and the vigor of the popular movement (which constitutes the decisive political power in our country) on the other, have engendered a revolutionary process and the conditions under which the people can assume power.

The revolutionary transformation of our society, until now subjected to injustice, submission and plunder, is today a near and possible reality. Only through such a transformation will the people be able to win and ensure the freedom and democratic rights denied to them. Only revolution will solve the agrarian problem, generating favorable material and spiritual conditions for the benefit of the rural people and farmworkers, and thus also for the majority of the Salvadorean people, who are today poor, culturally backward and marginalized. Revolution will win the true political independence of our country, giving the Salvadorean people the right to determine their future freely, and the right to true economic independence.

This revolution is therefore popular, democratic, anti-oligarchical and seeks to win real and effective national independence. Only revolutionary victory will stop this criminal repression and enable the people to win the peace that they do not enjoy today; a real peace, based on freedom, social justice and national independence.

The revolution now underway is not—nor will ever be—the work of a group of conspirators; on the contrary, it is the fruit of the struggle of the entire people, that is to say, the workers, peasants, middle class in general, and all truly democratic and patriotic sectors and persons.

The most highly conscious and organized ranks of the Salvadorean people, which today are multitudinous, now fight in an even broader and more unified manner. Because of their fighting disposition, high consciousness, temperament and organization, and spirit of sacrifice toward the popular victory, the workers' and peasants' alliance has proven to be the most firm leadership for the guarantee of a consequential and unwavering liberation movement, in which—as an expression of the unity of the

people—the revolutionary and democratic forces are united, like two great torrents pouring from the long struggle of the people.

The decisive task of the revolution, on which the completion of its goals and objectives depends, is the conquest of power and the establishment of a Democratic Revolutionary Government which will undertake, at the head of the people, the construction of a new society.



Mass demonstration celebrating the unity of the popular forces January 22, 1980.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REVOLUTION

The goals and objectives of the revolution in El Salvador are the following:

- 1) Over throw the reactionary military dictatorship put into power by the oligarchy and U.S. imperialism, imposed and sustained against the will of the Salvadorean people for fifty years; destroy its criminal politico-military machine and establish a Democratic Revolutionary Government, grounded in the unity of the revolutionary and democratic forces, in the Popular Army and the Salvadorean people.
- 2) End the power and the political, economic and social domination of large capitalists and landholders.
- 3) Completely liquidate the economic, political and military dependence of our country with respect to U.S. imperialism.
- 4) Ensure democratic rights and freedoms for all the people, particularly for the working masses, who have enjoyed them the least.
- 5) Turn over to the people, by means of nationalizations and the creation of collective and social enterprises, the basic means of production and distribution, which are today owned and controlled by the oligarchy and U.S. monopolies: the land of the great landholders, companies which produce and distribute electricity, oil refineries, the industrial, commercial and service monopolies, foreign commerce, banks, the large transportation enterprises. This will take place without affecting the small and medium private businesspeople, who will receive economic stimulation and support in every sense, through the various branches of the national economy.
- 6) Raise the material and cultural standard of living of the population.
- 7) Create a new army in our country, which will grow out of the popular army being built during the revolutionary process, and which those non-corrupt, patriotic and worthy elements of the present army may join.
- 8) Encourage organizations of the people at all levels, sectors and in all forms, to guarantee their most active, creative and democratic participation in the revolutionary process and to obtain the closest identification between the people and the government.
- 9) Base the foreign policy and international relations of our country upon the principles of independence and self-determination, solidarity, peaceful coexistence, equality of rights and mutual respect among states.
- 10) Along with this, ensure peace, freedom, well-being of the people and the social progress in our country which will ensue.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, ITS COMPOSITION AND PLATFORM OF POLITICAL, STRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

The Democratic Revolutionary Government will be made up of representatives from the popular and revolutionary movements, and those democratic parties, organizations, sectors and individuals who are disposed to participate in the carrying out of the present programmatic platform.

This government will stand on a broad social and political base formed primarily by the working class, peasantry and advanced middle sectors; closely tied to these will be

all the social strata agreeing to carry out this platform: small and medium industrial businesspeople, merchants, artisans, small farmers. It will also include those honest professionals, progressive clergy, democratic parties like the National Revolutionary Movement, advanced sectors of the Christian Democrats, and worthy and honest officers of the army who will agree to serve the interests of the people; and all other sectors, groups or individuals who will abide by a true democracy for the people, independent development, and popular liberation.

All these forces are presently becoming integrated into a democratic and revolutionary alliance in which the political and religious ideologies of each one are respected. The organic form of this voluntary alliance in the service of the Salvadorean people will be a result of the consensus of all those who make it up.

IMMEDIATE POLITICAL MEASURES

1) The end of repression against the people in all its forms, and freedom for political prisoners.

2) Clarification of the whereabouts of all prisoners and disappeared persons since 1972 and punishment of those responsible (civilian or military) for crimes against the people.

3) Disarmament and dissolution of the repressive forces: ANSESAL [secret police], ORDEN [rural paramilitary police force], National Police, Hacienda Police, Customs Police and their respective "Special Sections"; of the Gotera "Counter-Insurgency School" and the so-called "Armed Forces Engineering Instruction Center" in Zacatecoluca; of military patrols in the countryside and suburbs; of the oligarchy's private paramilitary bands and of all type of organization, real or nominal, dedicated to criminal actions against the people and their organizations. The misnamed Security Corps will be replaced by a civilian police force.



4) Dissolution of the actual powers of the state (executive, legislative and judicial), repeal of the constitution and all decrees which have modified it or substituted for it. The Democratic Revolutionary Government will write a constitutive law and will organize the state and its activities with the aim of guaranteeing the rights and liberties of the people and the achievements of the goals and objectives of the revolution. In this respect, the Democratic Revolutionary Government will adhere to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" of the United Nations. The aforementioned constitutive law will be in effect while the Salvadorean people are creating a new Constitution which faithfully reflects their interests.

5) The municipal structure of power will become an organ of full participation by the people in the running of the state, a true organ of the new power of the people.

6) The Democratic Revolutionary Government will carry out an intense program of liberating education, culture and organization among the broad masses of the people, in order to promote their conscious incorporation into the development, strengthening and defense of the revolutionary process.

7) Strengthen and develop the Popular Army, which will be joined by those troops, sub-officers and officers of the present army who maintain a clean conduct, repel foreign intervention in the revolutionary process and support the liberation struggle of our people. The new Army will be the true armed wing of the people, will be at their service, will be absolutely loyal to their interests and their revolution; will be an Armed Forces which truly and patriotically defends our sovereignty and self-determination and is a decided supporter of peaceful coexistence among peoples.

8) Our country will be withdrawn from CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], TIAR and any other military or police organism which is an instrument of intervention.

9) The Democratic Revolutionary Government will establish diplomatic and commercial relations with other countries, without discriminating because of different social systems, but based on equality of rights, coexistence and respect for self-determination.

Special attention will be paid to the development of friendly relations with the other Central American countries (including Panama and Belize), to uphold peace and the principle of non-intervention. In particular, fraternal relations with Nicaragua will be cultivated, as an expression of a community of ideals and interests between our revolution and the Sandinista revolution.

Our country will join the movement of nonaligned states and will develop policies invariably affiliated with the defense of world peace and in favor of detente.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES

The Democratic Revolutionary Government will proceed to:

1) Nationalize the entire banking and financial system. This measure will not affect the deposits and other interests of the public.

2) Nationalize foreign commerce.

3) Nationalize the industries, now in private hands, which produce and distribute electricity.

6 4) Nationalize the petroleum refineries.

5) Expropriate, conformant with national interest, monopolized businesses in industry, commerce and the services.

6) Carry out a deep agrarian reform which will put the land, now in the hands of the large landholders, at the disposal of the great masses of the people who work it, conformant with an effective plan which will benefit the great majority of poor and middle peasants and agricultural salaried workers, and which will promote the development of agriculture and livestock. The agrarian reform will not affect the small and medium landowners, who will receive support and economic stimulus to improve their production.

7) Carry out an urban reform which will benefit the great majority, without affecting the small and medium proprietors.

8) Fundamentally transform the tax system, so that the burden of taxes will not fall on the workers. Indirect taxes on articles and services of general consumption will be reduced. This will be possible not only through a reform of the tax system, but also because the state will receive a large income from its activities in the nationalized sector of the economy.

9) Establish effective mechanisms of credit and technical and economic loans for small and medium private enterprises in all branches of the economy.

10) Establish an effective planning system for the national economy which will permit balanced development.

SOCIAL MEASURES

The Democratic Revolutionary Government will orient its work in the social sphere toward the following achievements:

- 1) Create enough jobs to absorb unemployment in the shortest possible time.
- 2) Effect a just salary policy based on:
 - a) regulation of salaries, taking into account the cost of living;
 - b) an energetic policy of control and reduction of the prices of necessary articles and services;
 - c) substantial increase in social services for the masses of the people (Social Security, education, recreation, health, etc.).
- 3) Undertake a massive plan to construct housing for the people.
- 4) Create a national health system, which will guarantee efficient medical service, primarily preventative, to the entire population (urban and rural).
- 5) Carry out a massive literacy campaign which will eliminate the social blemish of



"Let's struggle combatively to win dignified housing—organize into the UPT (Union of Slumdweller)." *UPT*

illiteracy in the shortest possible time.

6) Develop a national education system, which will ensure primary education for the entire population of school age, and which will substantially broaden secondary and university education, raising the quality and diversity of scientific and technical education at all levels and progressively eliminating its cost to the people.

7) Promotion and dissemination of cultural activity on a large scale, effectively stimulating and supporting national artists and writers, reviving and developing the cultural heritage of the nation, incorporating the best of universal culture into that of the people and organizing access by the people to all manifestations of culture.

It is the unanimous opinion of the popular and democratic forces that only with the realization of the measures contained in this platform can the profound structural and political crisis of our country be resolved for the benefit of the Salvadorean people.

Only the oligarchy, North American imperialism and those who serve anti-patriotic interests are opposed to and conspire against these changes. Since October 15, 1979, various parties and sectors contained in the government have tried in vain to put into practice a large part of the measures that we propose, without first overthrowing the old reactionary and repressive power and establishing a truly revolutionary and popular power. This experience clearly confirmed that this work of transformation can only be carried out by the united revolutionary movement, in an alliance with all the democratic forces.

The hour of this historical liberation victory, for which the Salvadorean people has struggled and heroically shed so much of its blood, is arriving. Nothing nor anyone can prevent it.

**FOR THE UNITY OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES!
TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT!**

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