

announcement that 'Israel' will provide military and security aid, estimated to run at \$81 million in this year, to the regime marks a renewal and escalation of Israeli intervention in El Salvador's civil war. Also, the Israeli embassy is scheduled to reopen in San Salvador, as the result of the August meeting in Jerusalem between Begin and a high-ranking Salvadorean delegation. The regime will reciprocate by moving its embassy to Jerusalem, in a clear sign of political support to the Zionist annexation. The Israeli embassy in San Salvador was closed in 1979, after an escalation of political violence in the country. Since the war in the country has only widened since that time, the explanation for the reopening is the new priority Zionism has assigned to El Salvador, in order to hold the reactionary forces in power against the steady advance of the Farabundo Marti revolutionaries. It is perhaps redundant to note that the increased Israeli focus on El Salvador comes at a time when the Reagan Administration is facing rising domestic opposition to its role there and to its once 'secret' war against Nicaragua.

When the thread of the Israeli arms industry that is woven between US foreign policy and Latin America is unraveled, the logic and true motives of imperialist policy world - wide become obvious. Israeli and US actions in Latin America exemplify the mechanism of expansion and intervention that are landmarks of imperialism and Zionism. Israeli arms trade in Latin America is but a modification of its aggression and expansion in the Middle East.

## US-Israeli cooperation in the arms market

Since 1971, 'Israel' has emerged as a major manufacturer and exporter of arms, not only to Latin America, but to other countries as well. According to statistics gathered by the CIA, 'Israel' placed first in arms exports to Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, and fifth in the world market in 1980 (ADC "Israel's Arms Exports" Background Paper no. 8, ADC Research Institute). This amazing growth was accomplished during the years 1970-80, when 'Israel' increasingly militarized and strengthened its economy by boosting its arms industry. Since the Likud took power in 1977, arms exports have seen a six - fold increase from \$425 million to nearly \$2 billion.

During a visit to Honduras in December 1982, then Defense Minister Sharon made a deal for the Israeli military industries that included 12 Kfir combat jets and 50 advisors, yielding \$25 million for the Israeli economy. In the same

period, Reagan chose Honduras as the base of intervention against the revolutionaries in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Within the realm of close US - Israeli cooperation, Israeli advisors will assist both US and Honduran troops in anti-insurgent warfare, and impart the tactics used in Lebanon against Palestinian and Lebanese fighters and civilians. Military strategy and 'secrets' are an integral part of the Israeli arms trade; like the weapons themselves, these are battle-tested, due to Zionism's long history of aggression.

Israeli expertise stands behind the May opening of a munitions factory in Guatemala under the auspices of the army there. As pointed out in *Gramma* newspaper, Havana, October 30th, "The Israeli presence as a regional arms manufacturer based in Guatemala serves to greatly shorten supply and communications lines along the puppet armies of the United States now coordinated in the Central America Defense Council (CONDECA). We must stress that one of the important decisions adopted by CONDECA military commanders at their recent meeting in Guatemala was to supply all Central American armies (with the exception of Nicaragua) with a single type of weapon and ammunition. The idea clearly hinges on supplies of Israeli weapons made in Guatemala".

'Israel' has made other deals that have helped the US implement its policy in Central America. When there was an apparent impasse in the US Congress about which regime should receive the "scarce" US allocations available, 'Israel' suggested that the US allow certain Latin American countries to spend part of their military credits with 'Israel', thus reducing the outright grants of military aid to 'Israel' at a time when public opinion was against the Israeli aggression in Lebanon. As reported by the Israeli daily *Davar* in March 1982, 'Israel' had already allowed the US to divert \$21 million earmarked for the Zionist state to Salvador's army, thus bypassing Congressional attempts to limit military funding to this notoriously brutal army. The 'concession' on the part of the Zionists, however, was made on the condition that the funds would be 'repaid' at a later date. Repayment could come in the form of a larger share of the arms market in Latin America, less restrictions on arms trade generally, or outright military grants as in the past. Political repayment should not be ruled out either, using these arrangements to further annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Strategic alliance

The key to Israeli reliability as a US surrogate lies in the fact that Zionist interests in these endeavors are equal to those of the US. 'Israel' can be doubly efficient in the business of counterrevolution, because it is not a mere puppet, but a state whose very nature endows it with vital interests in ensuring imperialist domination around the globe.

The arms trade entails political as well as economic advantages for the Zionist state. In 1981, then Israeli Defense Minister Sharon outlined a policy aimed at using the demands for arms to secure not only dollars, but political and diplomatic advantage as well, for example, by getting countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem.

The economic advantages are, however, even more crucial. Moshe Mandelbaum, governor of the Bank of Israel, said: "Only one factor saved Israel from economic collapse, and that is its arms trade".

In this decade of militarization, 'Israel' gained new advantages for its marketing strategy, opened through the strategic cooperation with the US. The agreements with Liberia, reached in August of this year, are a recent example of this, as is the arms sale to Latin America dictatorships. In August 1981, the Israeli Minister Meridor outlined the relationship in market terms: "We say to the Americans,

## Liberals Exposed

The close cooperation between the US and 'Israel' on the arms market poses a dilemma for certain liberal US Congressmen who battle against US interventionism in Central America, yet whole heartedly embrace the Zionist state. The contradiction between posing as the champions of human rights on the one hand, yet supporting Israeli actions at all costs, should not escape the American public's attention for long. Unfortunately, up until recently, not enough opposition has been generated to this two - faced position taken by such Senators as Edward Kennedy and US Representative Steven Solarz. However, during the August 27th March on Washington to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the famous speech by Martin Luther King, Israeli involvement in arming Guatemala was given prominent attention by several speakers. It was notable also that the American Jewish Congress (which is Zionist - dominated) refused to be a part of the coalition that sponsored the march, giving the reason that the goals diverted too much from the goals in 1963.