

NIGHT AND FOG IN ARGENTINA

"AS MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE IN ARGENTINA AS NECESSARY TO RESTORE ORDER"
GENERAL VIDELA IN MONTEVIDEO, OCTOBER 1975

Since General Jorge Rafael Videla led the military takeover on March 24th, 1976 over 8,000 Argentines have been killed, 10,000 imprisoned, some 20,000 have disappeared and are still missing. An estimated half a million have gone into exile. For four years now Videla hides himself behind a 'moderate' face supposedly fighting terrorism and corruption on all sides, but has in fact installed a dictatorship based on exploitation and terror. Some 8 million workers are being reduced to starvation living, their labor organizations destroyed while they are sacrificed to a huge, militarised and totalitarian state. There are forced mass deportations of Latin American migrants and poor Argentines out of Buenos Aires city into specially designated zones or back to their own countries which uproots near to one million people. The local Jewish community, one of the largest in the Hemisphere is the target for continuous anti-Semitic attacks.



"A TERRORIST IS NOT JUST SOMEONE WITH A GUN OR A BOMB BUT ALSO ANY ONE WHO SPREADS IDEAS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO WESTERN AND CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION"

GENERAL VIDELA IN AN INTERVIEW, JANUARY 4, 1978

The plight of the disappeared is trully dramatic. They account for most of those arrested for political reasons. They include old and young, professionals and workers, children and pregnant mothers - any one who could be connected to somebody who disagrees with the regime. Local military bases are filled with small concentration camps where the disappeared are held. Recent reports by Amnesty International show that the majority of disappeared are sistematically 'transferred' - a euphemism for mass murder. They are drugged, loaded on Air Force planes and pitched into the south Atlantic ocean. Other testimonies estimate that at least 10,000 disappeared have already been 'annihilated' in that way. Reports now claim that many of the camps have been dismantled destroying all possible evidence. This modern holocaust was legalised by Videla himself last September in a law modeled on the infamous 'Night and Fog' decree of Hitler which was used to erase millions of people forever from the pages of history. 'Ninety days afterwards, if all investigation is negative the judge will proceed to declare the disappeared person dead. The day of the disappearance will be henceforth recognised as the day of death' (Art. 6, Law No. 22.068, Buenos Aires September 12th 1979).

"I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FINALLY ARGENTINA HAS A REGIME WHICH UNDERSTANDS THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. NOT SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR HAS ARGENTINA BEEN PRESENTED WITH A COMBINATION OF ADVANTAGEOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AS IT HAS NOW"

DAVID ROCKEFELLER, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 1977.

This Argentine white-gloved dictatorship has been backed from its first days by international finance. Even before receiving full diplomatic recognition the International Monetary Fund had offered its first of many loans. Argentine workers now join with those of Brazil, Chile and Uruguay as the direct victims of the free plunder by multinational corporations in a manner Hitler's own financier Alfred Krupp would have been proud to encourage.

"THE PENTAGON IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE SPECIAL RELATION WE HAVE WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES"

US MILITARY OFFICIAL, FEBRUARY, 1977

President Carter's human rights criticism of the regime has been a total sham and the Pentagon has always applauded Videla's 'final solution' policies. US General Goodpastor, former NATO commander led a recent 'good will' mission to Buenos Aires to clear up any possible disagreements and expressed the US Government's support for the Junta. The architects themselves of the repressive operations are openly welcomed in Washington. Retired Admiral Massera, who organised several concentration camps one of which had eliminated 4,726 people alone by December, 1978 comes here regularly to give conferences on politics. The recently retired military attaché here, General Santiago Omar Riveros himself commanded a camp which by the end of 1977 had assassinated 3,500 people. The present attaché Brigadier Aldo Barbuy was commander of operations in the Air Force which has airlifted thousands of disappeared to be lost forever in the night and fog of the south Atlantic.

ON THIS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP WE CALL ON YOU:

- To actively support the struggle of the relatives of the disappeared to get information about their loved ones.
- To protest the Law on disappeared which the Junta has decreed to whitewash the situation.
- To demand that the US Government and Congress support the Argentine people in their struggle against Videla's Nazi-ism.
- to request that all US military advisors be withdrawn from Argentina .
- to protest the presence of Argentine military personnel who have participated directly in repressive operations and are presently in the US.

ONCE AGAIN WE APPEAL TO THE PRESENT ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES:

- to assume full responsibility for their actions and to hand the power they are usurping back to the people so that all Argentines can build their history in JUSTICE AND PEACE.