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incoming  
general  
correspondence

February 1, 1984

Dear Friends,

The Coalition Against the Kissinger Visit is asking your assistance in publicizing the protest against the scheduled visit of Dr. Henry Kissinger to Vancouver this month.

As you may be aware, Kissinger is to address a \$150-per-plate "World Affairs Dinner" at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on February 22nd, under the joint sponsorship of the Junior League of Vancouver and the Arts, Sciences and Technology Centre.

Our Coalition, comprising numerous peace, international support and other democratic organizations, strongly feels that the visit of Dr. Kissinger to Canada and to Vancouver should not be allowed to pass without vigorous opposition and protest by concerned Canadians.

Kissinger most recently served as the head of a Reagan administration - appointed commission on U.S. policy in Central America. The Commission's report urges the U.S. government to increase financial and military aid to prop up the brutal military dictatorships in El Salvador and Guatemala and to step up covert aid to the notorious Somozista bands which are presently terrorizing the border villages of Nicaragua. Furthermore, the Kissinger Commission attempts to legitimize the use of direct U.S. military aggression against Nicaragua, in defiance of all international law.

These dangerous policies conflict totally with the efforts of the Mexican and other governments in this hemisphere to achieve a peaceful political settlement to the problems of the region without the use of foreign intervention of any kind. Such policies also frustrate the private efforts of thousands of Canadian organizations and individuals including churches, trade unions and other groups to provide material assistance to the people of Nicaragua for the peaceful reconstruction of their country.

Kissinger's past actions as Secretary of State during the Nixon years, when he co-ordinated the secret bombing of Cambodia and orchestrated the destabilization and overthrow of the democratically-elected Allende government in Chile, have been condemned by world public opinion.

We say, and we think you will agree, that Dr. Kissinger and the policies he represents should not be made welcome in our city, our province, our country.

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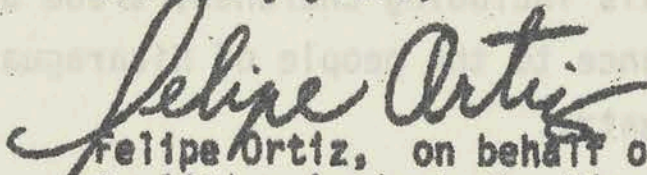
Our protest has a twofold purpose: first, to build opposition to the visit through letters to the sponsors, to newspapers and through a public campaign involving the distribution of leaflets and posters. Second, to organize a large demonstration in the event the Kissinger visit goes ahead as scheduled.

Accordingly, we ask the assistance of yourself and/or your organization by providing any or all of the following:

- your endorsement of the Coalition in its opposition to the Kissinger visit;
- your participation in the work of the Coalition, and in helping to mobilize for the demonstration. The next meeting of the Coalition will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the First United Church, 330 East Hastings St. Plans for the February 22nd demonstration itself include a mass picketline outside of the Hyatt Regency beginning at 6:00 p.m., with a program of music and speakers at 7:00 p.m.
- letters from yourself and/or your organization to editors and to the sponsoring organizations urging the cancellation of the Kissinger engagement. The Arts, Sciences and Technology Centre address is 600 Granville St., Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1Y9, phone 687-8414. Barbara Brink, chair of the World Affairs Dinner, can be reached care of the Centre. The Address of the Junior League of Vancouver is 246 E. Broadway, Vanc. V5T 1W5, phone 872-7942.
- financial assistance to help defray costs of printing and mailing. Please make cheques payable to: Central American Solidarity Network of B.C., c/o 2524 Cypress St., Vancouver, V6J 3N2.

Hoping for your support, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Felipe Ortiz, on behalf of the  
Coalition Against the Kissinger Visit.

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