

January 25 through February 3, 1988

### WHY ARE WE FASTING AND VIGILING?

Three of the hundred or more fasters on the Capitol steps - Brian Willson, Charlie Liteky and Duncan Murphy - were participants in the Veterans Fast for Life of September/October 1986. Their fast, which lasted 47 days, awakened a new spirit of nonviolent resistance to U.S. intervention in Central America.

The Veterans Peace Action Teams (VPAT) grew out of this fast. This group involves veterans in rebuilding areas in Nicaragua that the contras have destroyed, as well as actions in this country. One such U. S. action is the 24-hour vigil and blockade that takes place at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in Clyde, California. Since Brian Willson had his legs cut off by a weapons train that failed to stop on September 1, people have been coming from all over the country to participate in this protest. Millions of our tax dollars pay for the weapons that are stored and go through this Weapons Station. These weapons target civilian populations, including children, in El Salvador.

The U. S. has been condemned internationally for its inhumane practices in Central America. Recently, a New York Times article reports that the Reagan Administration is supportive of the death squads in Honduras that are on trial in Costa Rica. Such killings of community leaders as Moises Cordoba (killed September 7, 1987) while on missions of amnesty are not isolated incidents.

Nicaragua has agreed to negotiate with the Contras as well as grant amnesty to Contra rebels. They do not want to continue spending over 50% of their resources in defending their democratically-elected government from attack by the Contras. The Arias Peace Plan, which is supported by the majority of Central American countries, outlines specifics for this move to peace.

Meanwhile, it is our duty as citizens of a free country to invoke the Nuremberg Principles by protesting the crimes against humanity that our government commits in our names. Thousands of citizens nation-wide are prepared to support or participate in civil disobedience, if this latest request for Contra funds is passed by Congress.

Join us in our local protest in solidarity with the fasters in Washington, DC. Notify Congress of your opinion by calling Speaker of the House, Jim Wright, or Democratic Majority Whip, Tony Coelho, at (202) 224-3121.

