MIT El Salvador rally held

By Lawrence Chiu

Between 150 and 200 participants attended a rally against US involvement in El Salvador, sponsored by the MIT Committee on Central America and held in front of the Student Center building last Friday. The main speakers were Noam Chomsky, MIT Institute Professor of Linguistics, Bill Holman, an MIT electrical engineering graduate student on the committee, and Sister Jeanne Gallo, of the Order of Notre Dame in Boston.

The speakers at the rally emphasized that no military aid should be provided to El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras, and no support should be given to the Salvadoran junta.

The rally began when Cathy McGill of the Committee on Central America stepped up to the microphone and reported to the crowd that about 1,500 El Salvadoran refugees fleeing toward the border of Honduras in Montesano El Salvador were reported recently to have been going into Mexico. She then directed the rally to the memory of those refugees. The crowd cheered in reply.

The first speaker, Noam Chomsky, described the situation in El Salvador as "dramatic, clear, and obvious" and the source of atrocity in massive scale lies directly in Washington.

The speaker went on to blame the US government for giving aid to El Salvador military junta and then called on the government to be like giving aid to Hitler's regime.

Chomsky further criticized the US State Department for trying to give false impressions that the troubles in El Salvador are caused by the huge scale of international terrorism organized by the US or Soviets. He noted that the true cause of the chaos is the cruel social injustice of the government to the people of El Salvador. The Reagan Administration is using the killings of El Salvador to continue the American public of imminent danger of an international confrontation in a false way and to rationalize increased military spending, claimed Chomsky.

Holman urged other MIT students to be conscious of research work which might be directed toward military purposes and to stop their work if such intentions do exist. He also urged the crowd to take an active interest in the plight of El Salvadorans and to communicate to other people the real situation.

The last speaker was Jeanne Gallo. She asked the crowd to join her in fighting for the people of El Salvador, "people who have been expendable and are more so today." She explained, "People in El Salvador said that "We have had enough. We have nothing else to lose. We cannot run anymore. We will die if we don't, and that's what they are doing." She called for radical transformation in El Salvador as well as the US, although she did not specify what the meaning specifically by the phrase "radical transformation of structures." She explained that the agricultural reforms had not succeeded before and would not succeed in El Salvador.

Gallo ended her speech by saying, "To stop the US government's policy toward El Salvador, massive mobilization of people in the US is needed to let it be known that people object to the

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By Kent C. Massey

Cape Canaveral —

It began with an orange flame which protruded from the base of the shuttle. Suddenly, white smoke that reached back into the launch pad and the ground shook underneath as a mounting roar overwhelmed the onlookers. A gentle earthquake spread all over Cape Canaveral and images among those left behind. As a mass, the hundreds of thousands of watchers strained to view. As the delay, there was only elation and images among those left behind. The mission proceeded perfectly until after the cargo bay doors were closed, the intuitive and self-correcting control system of the orbiter would not make the shuttle climb up on and the jumble of emotions noise slowly subsided and then responded by shouting back. The loss of a single critical tile on re-entry, and there are more than 10,000 such critical tiles. As we approach 66 nautical miles altitude, 66 nautical miles downward. Our sense of wonderment increased. The Columbia was not 600 miles away, but the flame and white smoke could still be clearly seen in the blinding light. It was a minute more before it could no longer be seen. Finally, all that was left was the column of white that faded into the jumble of emotions and images among those left behind.

And so it was for those who had traveled to the Cape to see the launch. After the blast disappointment on Friday when a timing problem between the primary and backup computers had forced the delay, there was only stationery waiting.

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The mission proceeded perfectly until after the cargo bay doors were opened and thirteen heat shield tiles were discovered to be missing. The tiles are all on the Orbital Monitoring System Pod satellite, who are saying 'We've had enough.'

A passer-by get information from one of the protestors at Friday's rally. (photo by Kevin Osborn)

On TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1981, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm in 10-250.

Are you considering a transfer from your current dorm to 500 Memorial Drive? Perhaps you're interested in the development of the new dormitory? Come to an open meeting!