

mandante Dora Maria, Minister of Health and member of the Sandinista Assembly, and with Patricia Alvir, head of Nicaragua's Solidarity, Knowledge and Friendship Committee.

The delegation met with representatives of liberation movements in Central and Latin America. The most distinguished meeting was with Shafiq Handal, one of the leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador. The delegation presented a full review of the latest developments on the Arab and Palestinian levels.

The Palestinian community in Nicaragua celebrated the delegation's visit with a dinner party in their honor, attended by the PLO's representative. Comrade Quba'ah spoke about the latest developments concerning the Palestinian situation.

VISITS TO DEMOCRATIC GERMANY AND CUBA

En route to Nicaragua, the delegation stopped in Democratic Germany where a meeting was held with comrades Krause and Zimmerfield of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. The talks concentrated on the war waged by Amal against the Palestinian camps, and the latest efforts to restore the PLO's unity.

The delegation also visited Havana where a meeting was held with comrades Eloy, deputy secretary of the international relations committee of the Communist Party's Central Committee; Abscal, head of the Central Committee's Middle East department; and Gueyard, head of the department for Palestine. The talks focused on developments concerning the Palestinian cause and the imperialist-Zionist-Arab reactionary conspiracies directed against it. Also discussed was the continuous siege and war waged by Amal against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the heroic struggle of the Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine, and the dangers of the Jordanian regime's division of functions plan. The latest efforts to restore the PLO's unity were reviewed. The two parties reaffirmed the necessity of consolidating and developing the bilateral relations between the PFLP and the Cuban Communist Party. ●

El Salvador

Approaching A Decisive Time

While in Nicaragua, the PFLP delegation had the opportunity to meet with comrade Shafiq Handal, Secretary General of the Communist Party of El Salvador, a main component of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front/Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN/FDR). The following is based on his assessment of the struggle in El Salvador today.

Over the last two years, great developments have taken place in the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador, after the lull in the mass movement of 1981-83. At that time, the confrontation took the form of military operations in the countryside, while the revolutionary movement was not firmly based in the urban areas. The changes of the last few years have marked a great advance for the mass struggle in the cities as well as in the countryside.

The Salvadorean liberation struggle has been faced by a sophisticated counterinsurgency drive worked out by US imperialism in the wake of its failure to head off the Sandinistas' victory in neighboring Nicaragua. While promoting President Duarte as a 'reform-minded liberal', the Reagan Administration has pumped in massive aid to the army's brutal campaign against the Salvadorean revolutionaries and the population at large. To deprive the reactionary government forces of

the initiative, the FMLN revised its military tactics while undertaking new political action.

On the military level, the FMLN organized its fighting forces into smaller units and spread them throughout the country, covering areas where the war had been non-existent. The FMLN's forces are now operating in all 14 provinces of the country, including the outskirts of San Salvador and other major cities. Guerrilla units were formed not only for military actions, but for political/mass actions as well. The revolutionaries refined their ability to carry out locally based operations with explosives and land mines against government troops. Their success with land mines has been particularly prominent, to the point that these gained a status equal to that of the government's murderous air raids. Duarte's government has officially demanded that the FMLN stop the land mines. The revolutionaries in turn demanded that the government cease the air raids. This had an immensely positive effect on the masses' morale.

The FMLN's revised tactics thwarted the US-directed effort to transform the Salvadorean army from a conventional force, relying on large troop concentrations and fixed positions, to a dynamic, instrument for counterinsurgency, operating via mobile units and air raids. The army's new tactics have not stopped the spread of the revolution. Meanwhile, the FMLN has developed its own ability to concentrate its forces when it determines to launch major operations. The Pentagon has expressed worry about the revolutionary escalation.

The revolutionaries' success in the battlefield was compounded by a rise in

Comrade Shafiq Handal-center, with PFLP delegation.

