

## Medical Mission to El Salvador

general health conditions in El Salvador. Prior to traveling to El Salvador, mission participants and their organizations compiled a list of medical cases. The list included 16 cases of "disappeared" medical personnel and four cases of Salvadoran university professors whose cases were of interest to the scientific

sponsors. To document the disappearances of

doctors and other health workers, members of the medical mission conferred with many groups and individuals in San Salvador. The International Committee of the Red Cross agreed to check the mission's list against their archives on political detainees in El Salvador's prisons systems. At the U.S. Embassy, human rights personnel agreed to add some 13 additional medical cases to their active files. The Socorro Juridico, an independent human rights monitoring group, and the Tutela Legal, the legal arm of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archbishopric of San Salvador, provided documentation on 20 additional new cases.

Biomedical Education; Robert Lawrence, director, Division of Primary Care, Harvard Medical School, and director, Department of Medicine, Cambridge Hospital; Nina Shea, International League for Human Rights; and Kathie McCleskey, AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights. The full mission was in El Salvador from 11 to 16 January.

Human rights violations directed at medical personnel in El Salvador in 1982 were much higher than reported previously by human rights and scientific organizations in the United States according to a human rights medical mission sent to El Salvador in January. The medical mission was sponsored by the AAAS, the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the International League for Human Rights. Mission participants were Alfred Gellhorn, visiting professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and professor at City College of New York School for



Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows on the steps of the U.S. Capitol during their 2-week orientation last September. A list of current Fellows is available on request from AAAS.

es of human rights violations directed at medical personnel. (The majority of these cases involved medical personnel killed during 1982.)

Determining who is to blame for the abductions of medical personnel is very complex. Families of "disappeared" doctors claim that several doctors are held in government facilities outside of San Salvador. Government officials say that some doctors have been kidnapped by guerrillas who are short of medical personnel. Ministry of Defense officials have reportedly said that many doctors have been released by the government and later joined the guerrillas. Families of these doctors as well as church authorities, however, emphatically deny that the doctors have joined the guerrillas or been kidnapped by them.

In order to clarify the whereabouts of some medical cases, the mission participants discussed the cases with the heads of two Salvadoran security forces, Colonel Francisco Moran, chief of the Treasury Police, and Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Niula, chief of the National Police. Some individuals are alleged to have been held in the Treasury Police headquarters following their abductions, while the National Police is reported to be holding some of the medical workers named on the mission's list. While Moran said that he knew nothing about the cases, Niula volunteered to provide the mission sponsors with any information he might have on the cases.

In addition to the 20 new cases of medical personnel reported by the Salvadoran human rights organizations, the Ministry of Public Health reported that 40 of its personnel had been killed during the current hostilities.

With the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Salvadoran human rights organizations, the mission was able to locate a few individuals on its original list of 20 "disappeared." Two doctors detained in early September by the National Police have been released. Two medical students and one medical worker on the list remain in detention in Mariona prison. One professor of chemistry named on the list was released in September 1982, while two other professors remain in indefinite detention in Mariona prison.

A review of the information and docu-

mentation received during the visit by the mission delegates allowed them to compile an extensive picture of the human rights violations directed at the medical community in El Salvador. A final report of the mission, with documentation of the three principal areas of investigation and recommendations for response by scientific and medical organizations to the situation in El Salvador, will be available in March from the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005; telephone 202-467-5237.

KATHIE MCCLESKEY  
*Clearinghouse on Science and  
Human Rights*

## Guide to Research Activities Available

The 1983 *Reporters' Guide to Key Research Activities in Science and Engineering* is now available. This *Guide*, which is prepared annually by the AAAS Office of Communications, includes descriptions of five major research projects currently under way at some 125 key research institutions across the country.

Copies are for sale at \$5 each (prepaid only) through the Office of Communications at the AAAS address.

## Plea for Soviet Scientists Lodged

William D. Carey, AAAS executive officer, has written Yuri V. Andropov, Soviet secretary general, expressing grave concern over the health of four distinguished Soviet scientists.

Physiologist Sergei Kovalev is in internal exile and suffers from scurvy and hypertension. Cornell University has offered him a post as a visiting scholar in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior. Yuri Orlov (nuclear physicist) is in a corrective labor camp where harsh prison conditions and inadequate medical facilities have aggravated his health. Andrei Sakharov (physicist) is in internal exile and suffers from a recurrent heart

ailment. Anatoly Shcharansky (computer scientist) has been hospitalized as a result of a hunger strike.

In his letter of 20 December 1982, Carey requested that Kovalev be permitted to accept the position at Cornell University and urged that Orlov be given proper medical care. He also requested that Shcharansky be permitted to emigrate and that Sakharov be permitted to return to Moscow to resume his scientific research.

## 50-Year Members Acknowledged

Each year the AAAS expresses its appreciation to those members who have paid dues for 50 years. Upon reaching this anniversary, members receive a certificate of recognition and are exempt from further payment of dues.

AAAS members reaching the 50-year mark in 1983 are Leonard J. Alexander of Gainesville, Florida; Joseph G. Baier of Phoenix, Arizona; Robert W. Bates of Nogales, Arizona; Enrique Beltran of Mexico City, Mexico; Johan Bjorksten of Madison, Wisconsin; Carlton E. Brown of Frederick, Maryland; L. S. Cressman of Eugene, Oregon; S. E. Kamerling of Brunswick, Maine; Margaret E. Long of New York, New York; John F. Lontz of Wilmington, Delaware; Richard P. McKeon of Chicago, Illinois; Joseph A. Miller of Rockville, Maryland; Oscar E. Monnig of Fort Worth, Texas; Harry E. Morton of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania; Jermain D. Porter of Honolulu, Hawaii; Leo Shapovalov of Sacramento, California; Robert D. Stiehler of Washington, D. C.; Armor H. Taylor of Louisville, Kentucky; Clifford J. B. Thor of Sun City, Arizona; Edward M. Thorndike of Montrose, New York; and Mark W. Woods of Sun City, Arizona.

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